



7 November 2025

2026 ECOSOC Coordination Segment

*Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the
2030 Agenda and its SDGs for a sustainable future for all
28-29 January 2026, UNHQ*

Draft concept note

Background

As a UN Charter body, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is at the heart of the United Nations system's efforts to advance sustainable development. It also serves as a gateway for Member States, the UN system and stakeholders to advance innovations and new thinking on frontier issues that can guide and support further action.

In addition to the 54-member Council, the wider ECOSOC system consists of a diverse ecosystem of bodies and entities in the economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields. This includes the Council's subsidiary bodies — regional commissions, functional commissions and expert and related bodies — and United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies.

This ecosystem brings a significant depth of expertise, evidence-based analysis, international normative standards, technical cooperation, and impact.

In 2026, ECOSOC will commemorate its 80th anniversary as a pillar for advancing and strengthening multilateralism and global solidarity, even in the most challenging times. It is an important opportunity to enhance the work of ECOSOC and ensure it is agile and responsive to dynamic global challenges.

It will also be a moment to reflect, examine and hear from Member States on how the system can better coordinate and deliver needed transformative policy guidance, drawing on the wealth of expertise of UN agencies, funds and programmes and ECOSOC subsidiary bodies.

Objectives

In line with the mandates set out in GA resolution 75/290 A, dialogues at the 2026 Coordination Segment will aim to:

- **Reflect** on ECOSOC at 80, and the progress the ECOSOC system has made to deliver on sustainable development, while also looking ahead to ensure the Council is fit to tackle present and future challenges.
- **Examine** key policy issues, lessons learned, best practices and recommendations from ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and UN system entities, including the regional commissions, on



the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under in-depth review at the 2026 High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF)¹.

- **Explore** key innovations that have proven effective in promoting coordination and collaboration within a complex ecosystem to strengthen impact, enhance agility and build resilience, with a focus on the SDGs under review at the 2026 HLPF.
- **Review** the implementation of the 2025 Ministerial Declaration by ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, bearing in mind their respective mandates and functions, and UN system entities, and **discuss** follow-up to major conferences and summits such as FFD4, LLDC3 and WSSD2.
- **Identify** opportunities to deepen coherence, foresight, innovation and data-driven coordination across the ECOSOC system, grounded in its existing strengths and mandates, in order to reinforce integrated and impactful delivery for sustainable development.
- **Formulate** common action-oriented policy guidance requiring implementation or coordination efforts by its subsidiary bodies as well as UN system entities, to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.
- **Receive** guidance from Member States on how to improve ECOSOC's coordination role to advance sustainable development at all levels.

Format

The 2026 Coordination Segment will continue to serve as the key platform for the Council to deliver on its unique role as a Charter body entrusted with the coordination of the United Nations system and ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to ensure they contribute fully to delivering for sustainable development.

The Segment will be comprised of four in-person meetings over a two-day period, featuring a mix of panel discussions and interactive dialogues. It is envisaged that high-level participation by Chairs of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies, Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, and Heads of UN system entities, including specialized agencies, will enable Member States and other stakeholders to engage in a substantive and dynamic policy dialogue, leading to concrete recommendations.

Supporting documents and outcome

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#), an informal note will be prepared by the Secretariat to support the discussions at the Coordination Segment.

A non-negotiated factual summary will be prepared by the President of the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with the Bureau, in particular the Vice-President chairing the Coordination Segment, to reflect discussions and strategic proposals made during the Partnership Forum and the Coordination Segment as mandated by resolution [75/290 A](#).

¹ SDGs 6 (clean water and sanitation), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals).



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[Draft programme outline](#)

Wednesday, 28 January 2026

10:00-10:15 **Opening**

10:15-13:00 **ECOSOC at 80: Lessons and Strategic Imperatives for the Future**

As we approach to the 80th anniversary of ECOSOC, this session is an opportunity to bring together former ECOSOC Presidents and experts to reflect on ECOSOC leadership in shaping global economic and social cooperation, while identifying enduring strengths, persistent gaps, and structural reforms needed to enhance the Council's effectiveness and agility. We will explore the strategic directions required to reinforce its unique Charter-mandated role in coordinating the UN system for sustainable development.

15:00-18:00 **Keeping pace with a changing world and translating commitments into coordinated action**

This session will discuss how ECOSOC and its bodies are adapting to the current and emerging challenges. It will highlight collaboration and opportunities for embedding stronger coordination among the Council's subsidiary bodies. It will also discuss how the ECOSOC system is ensuring that global policy commitments are coherently translated into concrete, coordinated action across its diverse ecosystem, integrating recently adopted global outcomes — including the 2025 Ministerial Declaration, the Sevilla Commitment, the Awaza Programme of Action, and the Second World Summit for Social Development — into their ongoing and future work programmes.



Thursday, 29 January 2026

10:00-11:30 ECOSOC as the gateway to the UN for all stakeholders

One of ECOSOC's greatest strengths is its inclusivity. It serves as an entry point to all stakeholders to bring their expertise into intergovernmental discussions and ensure that global policy is rooted in realities on the ground. This session will highlight the value of stakeholder engagement in the work of ECOSOC and its ecosystem of bodies to ensure ECOSOC is meeting the moment,

11:30-13:00 The ECOSOC system at work: Steering the ECOSOC system towards an efficient and integrated workflow throughout the Council cycle leading up to the HLPF

The session will spotlight key policy issues, lessons learned, best practices and recommendations from ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and UN system entities to serve as contributions to the discussions on the SDGs for in-depth review at the 2026 HLPF. Emphasis will be placed on coordinated action on the interlinkages between the goals under review.¹

15:00-17:45 ECOSOC after 80

UN80 could be an opportunity to revitalize ECOSOC and enhance the understanding of the important role of ECOSOC in the coordination of the UN system and the overall pursuit of sustainable development. This session could take a forward-looking approach to identify ways to heighten the impact of ECOSOC and do some early thinking on the upcoming reviews of the HLPF/ECOSOC and subsidiary bodies.

17:45-18:00 Closing

¹ SDGs 6 (clean water and sanitation), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals).