



**Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council  
ECOSOC Partnership Forum and ECOSOC Coordination Segment  
(31 January and 1-2 February 2023)**

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) convened its annual Partnership Forum, chaired by the President of the Council, H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva (Bulgaria), on 31 January 2023 and the Coordination Segment, chaired by H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir (Indonesia), Vice-President of ECOSOC, on 1-2 February 2023.

The Partnership Forum and the Coordination Segment, held back-to-back, constitute the first group of ECOSOC segments and forums of the ECOSOC cycle. They aim to inform and inspire the meetings of ECOSOC, its subsidiary bodies and the HLPF in the coming years. Both meetings addressed the theme of ECOSOC and the high-level political forum for 2023: *“Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.”*

The present factual summary has been prepared by the ECOSOC President in consultation with the Bureau of the Council to reflect discussions during the partnership forum and the coordination segment and the strategic proposals made during the coordination segment, as mandated by the General Assembly [resolution 75/290 A](#).

### **ECOSOC PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

The 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum brought together Member States, UN system representatives and over 3,500 registered stakeholder participants to discuss innovative SDG-responsive actions and contributions that partnerships can make in this regard. The event was an important first stepping stone for raising collective ambition and rallying all stakeholders towards the July HLPF and the SDG Summit in September. The programme of the Partnership Forum was co-designed in collaboration with a multi-stakeholder advisory group established by the President of ECOSOC. The event was also informed by the outcomes of an online global consultation conducted by Division for Sustainable Development Goals of Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSDG-DESA), which received over 700 inputs from stakeholders across all sectors and regions (summary report [here](#)).

In their plenary statements, 45 representatives of Member States and stakeholders spoke to outline their priorities and recommendations. The day-long programme also featured six informal Spotlight Sessions organized by UN system, Permanent Missions and stakeholder partners on topics ranging from financing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); local SDG delivery; mobilization of national-level stakeholders around the SDG Summit; youth engagement; partnerships in support of science and technology; and ensuring accountability of partnerships including to leave no one behind. Participants also had the opportunity to hear from one of the Co-chairs of Independent Group of Scientists, who



are currently preparing the 2023 edition of the Global Sustainable Development Report with DESA's support, on how to leverage interlinkages among the SDGs through more synergistic partnerships. The day before the Partnership Forum, on 30 January, DSDG-DESA also organized an informal Partnership Exchange to bring together experts and partnership practitioners.

### **COVID-19 Recovery and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

In the context of ongoing multiple, inter-connected global crises, participants recognized the multi-dimensional challenges facing the SDGs. 2023 was viewed as a **breakthrough year with multiple milestone high-level meetings**, including the UN 2023 Water Conference; the LDC5 Conference; the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework; the July 2023 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of the ECOSOC; and the September 2023 SDG Summit under the auspices of the General Assembly; the Climate Ambition Summit, the Ministerial Meeting for the Summit of the Future; and the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Sustainable Development. Speakers noted the need to **leverage linkages and build synergies between these interconnected agendas**, while emphasizing the critical role of ECOSOC in fostering a renewed commitment to international solidarity and cooperation, along with better coordinated efforts. Participants considered the **ECOSOC Partnership Forum as a key opportunity** to clarify priorities, address the needs of the least visible and build political momentum towards the SDG Summit.

Many speakers emphasized the crucial importance of **robust, revitalized global partnership** for sustainable development that is **aligned with national priorities** and plans, respects **national ownership** and is **in line with SDG 17**. Participants highlighted the need for enhancing international solidarity to address the **inequalities** both among and within countries and to ensure that necessary **financial and capacity support is provided for the least developed countries (LDCs) and countries in special situations**. Some speakers called for follow-up on the Secretary-General's proposal for **SDG stimulus** to boost sustainable development for developing countries.

A number of both developing and developed countries acknowledged the urgent need to address the issues of external debt challenges and vulnerabilities as well as the importance of **strengthening the debt architecture**, including by developing a more comprehensive, inclusive and effective debt solution framework. Underscoring the importance of development assistance in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, many participants stressed the need for **increases in Official Development Assistance (ODA), concessional finance, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and voluntary rechanneling of SDRs** to the developing countries. Several countries also noted the importance of **South-South Cooperation as a guide for partnerships within financing frameworks** to make the most of the economic, social, technical and other knowledge resources from developing countries. Many highlighted the need for reforming international financial architecture to **strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making processes**. Countries also underscored that urgent actions are needed for **in-depth reforms in trade systems** to promote more equitable sustainable development, leaving no one behind.



A few participants noted the role of **innovative, adaptive aid architecture to catalyze investment from the private sector** including in the form of public-private partnership (PPPs), while underlining the need to create an enabling environment for the private sector by promoting more stable, predictable policy environment; enhancing access to finance and information; and building greater capacities among private sector actors. Some speakers underlined the need for promoting integrated joint programmes in generating and directing more investment and capacity, both domestic and international, while noting the importance of **human-centered approaches for fostering inclusive business models and practices** in support of sustainable development for all, including the Least Developed Countries and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).”

Calling for more inclusive, equitable social development, many highlighted the need for **strengthening public institutions to enhance the public access** to education, health care, water, energy and sanitation including through building more sustainable cities and infrastructures. Participants highlighted the critical role of **social dialogue** in fostering partnerships between governments and stakeholders and in safeguarding the public service delivery; moreover, the need for enhancing **financial and human resources capacities of local and regional governments** and for **protecting public workers** was stressed to ensure the resilient delivery of public services. Many underscored the importance of **people-centered solutions that prioritize and protect the vulnerable**, to be incorporated into public policies, including those related to social justice and decent work. Some countries noted the need for **universal health coverage**, including through building resilient, affordable health care systems and providing access to COVID-19 therapeutics, diagnostics and other health tools, vaccines and treatments. Noting the recent Transforming Education Summit, a few speakers highlighted the need for more **investments in human capital, skills-development, life-long and innovative learning and relevant infrastructures** that facilitate quality education. Some participants discussed that partnerships around higher education institutions (HEIs) could encourage open scientific cooperation across borders and build an open SDG knowledge commons that enhances science-policy interface (SPI).

Participants called for all actors to address the **planetary concerns** including through mobilizing investment for sustainable infrastructure, **focusing on the needs of developing countries and countries in special situations, hit hardest by climate disasters**. Some speakers called for developed countries to raise their targets for emission reduction and to galvanize the mobilization of climate finance for developing and vulnerable countries. Countries brought attention to the upcoming **UN 2023 Water Conference**, encouraging all Member states and stakeholders to fully utilize the opportunity offered by the Water Action Decade to promote the timely implementation of the SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets. One country brought to light the issues of change in hydrological cycle which leads to severe floods and droughts and has negative impacts on glaciers.

A number of countries re-affirmed the important roles of **multi-stakeholder engagements and partnerships** in pursuing sustainable recovery and development and in carrying out all spheres of the work of the ECOSOC. Noting the vital role of partnerships in the context of achieving successful multilateralism in line with Our Common Agenda report, some countries acknowledged that collaborating with partners had allowed them to implement projects and to reach regions and peoples



in otherwise inaccessible contexts (e.g. fragile and conflict-affected countries). Some speakers underlined the need to reflect on **multistakeholder perspectives in the SDG Summit and its outcome** and to elevate multistakeholder partnerships that produce concrete solutions for the SDGs.

A number of countries highlighted the need for **deliberate policy strategies for strengthening partnerships, mobilizing stakeholders and creating linkages**, including through knowledge-building and sharing efforts. Many participants called for **inclusive, meaningful participation of all marginalized groups**, including women and girls, youth, older people, indigenous people, persons with disabilities and migrants, among others, to **leave no one behind**. Some speakers pointed out the crucial role of civil society in filling the existing accountability gaps in partnerships at all levels. Some acknowledged the need for enhanced **intergenerational collaborations and partnerships** towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the importance of supporting **youth-led organizations, movements and networks** to unlock their potentials and to create lasting positive impacts on societies at large. One speaker called for all Member States to create and use high-quality disaggregated data, including citizen-generated data, to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Some countries called for overarching **principles for partnerships** to guide further discussions.

Delegations noted the need for the **UN-associated partnerships to improve their transparency, accountability and inclusiveness**; in this regard, some participants called for a **clear division of labour among UN entities dealing with partnerships** according to their respective mandates. One speaker requested the UN agencies to refrain from taking finance from industries responsible for planetary destruction.

A number of countries viewed the **genuine, durable partnerships at all levels as a main tool for delivering the SAMOA Pathway** and implementing the SDGs in the context of small island developing states (SIDS), while underlining the need for robust mechanisms to deliver tangible support to SIDS. One country called for the implementation of **Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)** to improve the access to financing for SIDS.

### Recommendations for the ECOSOC / UN system

Participants shared a range of concrete proposals for enhancing inclusive multi-stakeholder engagements and partnerships to advance a more sustainable recovery and development. The following recommendations can be considered, in particular, by the UN / ECOSOC system:

- **ECOSOC, as the main coordinating organ for partnerships, should play a significant role** in the following to ensure that multi-stakeholder partnerships associated with the UN are based on transparency, accountability, engagement and commitment. More specifically, the Council is:
  - (i) To help define a set of goals and objectives to guide the formulation of partnerships and to establish measurable indicators to track progress.
  - (ii) To set up a system for regular monitoring and evaluation of partnerships to identify any challenges or areas for improvement.



- (iii) To support fulfillment of transparency requirements, ensuring that all partners have access to relevant information.
  - (iv) To promote shared decision-making among partners to ensure that all voices are heard and that the UN-associated partnerships are responsive to the needs of all stakeholders.
  - (v) To promote the accountability of all partners in achieving the goals of the UN-associated partnerships and to ensure that any issues are addressed in a timely and effective manner.
  - (vi) To encourage participation and inclusiveness as an important criterion in the design and governance of partnerships, ensuring that local contexts and specific sustainability priorities are taken into account.
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- ECOSOC/UN to declare 2025 as the **International Year of Glacier Preservation**; to determine the **International Day of Glacier Preservation**; and to establish a special **international fund for glacier preservation**.
  - ECOSOC/UN to **establish multilateral mechanisms for sustainable management of debt**.
  - ECOSOC/UN to engage **Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)** in the national development goals, UN Common Country Analysis (CCA), Cooperation Frameworks and Voluntary National Reviews (VNR), linking the planning process of governments with the needs and aspirations of MSMEs where possible.
  - ECOSOC/UN to elaborate a **legally-binding international instrument to regulate the activities of transnational corporations and business**, based on international human rights law.
  - UN and all stakeholders to **engage youth, including young women and girls, in decision-making processes** and to promote their meaningful participation and representation, including in relation to science and technology.



## ECOSOC COORDINATION SEGMENT<sup>1</sup>

The 2023 [Coordination Segment was held on 1 – 2 February 2023 and chaired by](#) H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir (Indonesia), Vice President of ECOSOC. At the opening of the Segment both the President of the Economic and Social Council, H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva (Bulgaria) and Ambassador Nasir underlined the important role of the ECOSOC system in rescuing the SDGs that is currently off-track and the need to work coherently to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda of sustainable development. Ambassador Nasir also stressed out that the SDG Summit 2023 is a judgement day for global commitment on sustainable development and that the work of ECOSOC system through its transformative policies and initiatives are instrumental in assisting member states in achieving the Goals.

The Coordination Segment highlighted the immense wealth of knowledge and expertise of the **ECOSOC subsidiary bodies** and the **UN system entities** in relation to COVID-19 recovery and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Council addressed ways to respond to the impacts of the multiple crises on the SDGs through risk-informed integrated transformative policies and actions promoting food security and integrated food system, clean water and sanitation; energy access and transition and digital transformation. Dedicated sessions reflected on the work of the UN regional commissions and ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies. Participants shared lessons on transformative policies, concrete actions and new initiatives that can be instrumental for the recovery from the pandemic, responding to other crises, and accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The importance of identifying and incorporating interlinkages among the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in all actions was underscored. The principle to leave no one behind featured prominently in the discussions.

**There was great emphasis on the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the guiding framework** to overcome the crises, address the lingering impacts of the pandemic and achieve the transformations needed to realize the SDGs. Crisis response and long-term development are increasingly interlinked. The 2030 Agenda pledged to reach the furthest behind first, but actions have not been consistent with this commitment. The impact of the pandemic on the loss of lives, jobs and livelihoods, exacerbated income insecurity, which is jeopardizing the SDGs. There has been an increase in financing needs to guarantee basic income security and access to essential healthcare services since the pandemic. Affordable and equitable access to vaccines for all remains a challenge.

### SDG 6 on water and sanitation:

**In underscoring the need for policies to harness the interlinkages among the SDGs**, participants highlighted the **interlinkages and attainment of SDG 6 to achieving other SDGs**. Participants shared how **science, technology and innovation (STI)** could help advance SDG6. Effective integrated water resource management (IWRM) systems and smarter agricultural practices were considered instrumental in addressing water scarcity. Frontier technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), big data and Internet of things could be catalysts in monitoring water and sanitation. Moreover, better

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<sup>1</sup> The background information for the [2023 Coordination Segment](#) include the detailed [programme](#) and the [informal note](#) prepared by the Secretariat and its [key messages](#), the [infographics](#) on the latest sessions of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the preliminary [annex of transformative policies and initiatives](#).



forecasting and early warning systems are crucial to prepare responses for floods and droughts. To that end, more comprehensive, connected, and harmonized water resources data and information are urgently needed to support decision-making related to climate change and other environmental and societal changes.

The **linkages between SDG 6 and SDG 13 on climate action** were another recurring theme. Climate change and water issues need to be addressed together. The increase in the world's population, climate change, and poor environmental management are complicating the availability, quality, and quantity of water. The **Water and Climate Coalition** continues to support the implementation of the *SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework* with a focus on data and information; capacity development; financing; innovation and good governance. The **Early Warning System for All Initiative** aims to provide access to early warning systems against multi-hazards, including extreme and dangerous weather conditions, leaving no one behind, by 2027.

**Building resilience through risk-informed policies and decisions, based on science and reliable data, was also discussed in this context.** There is no “one size fits all” solution as each country has unique vulnerabilities. Solutions need to be locally owned to be sustainable. Building resilience to current and future shocks requires putting disaster risk reduction at the core of policies which is key to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Data and geospatial information are also essential in this regard. The **UN Plan of Action and Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience**, the UN Secretary-General's **Early Warnings System for All initiative**, **Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative (MCR 2030)**, and the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** were provided as transformative actions for reducing risks. Such initiatives could be examined during the midterm review process of the Sendai framework and be showcased at the 2023 SDG Summit.

Many participants agreed with the view that the **2023 UN Water conference<sup>2</sup>** needed to be a “Paris Moment” for water management and a catalyst for progress on sustainable water management. They emphasized the need for a **human rights-based approach** to water and sanitation and called for the promotion of a UN system wide approach to water. Proposals included the creation of an **ECOSOC global platform on water** and the nomination of **Special Envoy on Water**.

#### Interactions between SDGs and gender quality:

The **pivotal role of women and gender equality in the context of SDG 6 as well as all other SDGs** and the need for transformative policies to be gender-responsive were underscored. Unpaid care and domestic work continue to fall disproportionately on women and girls. Governments must do more to reduce barriers for women, including through the provision of quality and affordable childcare and removing legal barriers. Women are disproportionately affected by the socioeconomic fallout of the pandemic, climate-related disasters and conflict. It was further highlighted that women and girls are not equally represented in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) related decision-making while these strongly impact their wellbeing and prosperity. To be transformative, all processes, from decision making phase, policy actions, and financing need to be inclusive, **gender-responsive and human-rights-based**. Gender-responsive water and sanitation was considered crucial for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

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<sup>2</sup> The [UN Water Conference](#) will take place on 22–24 March 2023 in New York.

**SDG 7 on clean and affordable energy:**

**Inequalities also remain a challenge in access to clean energy and to means for realizing energy transition and achieving SDG7.** Calls were made to increase energy security, transform clean energy access and **ensure adequate financing to developing countries.** On energy transitions, discussions highlighted the stark contrast between developed countries versus developing countries. It was noted that developing countries need support for their energy transitions as they lack the fiscal space to invest or secure investment from external sources. This condition was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic due to more resources were allocated for pandemic response and socio-economic protection. Some were concerned that global policy debates continued to be dominated by priorities more relevant to the Global North. Participants noted that Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Middle-Income Countries (MICs) face additional challenges towards **energy transition.** Those include higher costs and limited access to capital, constrained institutional capacity, limited fiscal space and greater vulnerability to external shocks. The discussion also underlined the crucial role of the international financial institutions (IFIs) in assisting LDCs and MICs to address the current crisis, promote resilience to better prepare for future shocks as well as provide financial support in their green energy transition. Securing safe, affordable, reliable, and modern energy for all and enabling energy consumption commensurate with development needs was considered to be as important for developing countries as moving away from fossil fuels. Basic energy availability and electricity access remained a challenge in rural areas.

**Green transition strategies worldwide should be formulated in a way that do not increase inequality by pushing some countries further behind.** Instead, low carbon transition needs to be accompanied with **structural transformation** and broader **human development** goals. **Taxation** as a policy instrument can help countries achieve their goals on clean energy. Public sector and multilateral development banks can explore avenues for better public-private risk sharing investment tools. The need to collaborate with the **financial sector** on aligning business objectives with the SDGs was underscored. So was the role of **industry**, a major consumer of energy, as a provider of innovation and solutions for energy transition. **Public-private partnerships** and **multistakeholder collaboration** for **SDG 7** need to be accelerated. Decoupling of industry from environmental effects could not be achieved without addressing of **interlinkages** between **SDGs 7 and 9.** UNIDO's **Knowledge Hub, the Industrial Decoupling Accelerator**, which includes tools and training materials for policymakers and practitioners, was highlighted as a valuable resource.

**Universal access to clean energy is key to a resilient future.** Examples of best practices in pursuing transformative solutions included a new map on cooling in a warmed-up world and a project on district heating in cities of 14 countries. Sourcing of minerals required for emerging technologies need to adhere to low-carbon emission goals. Their impacts on biodiversity should be assessed, to avoid new social and environmental externalities. Proposals were made to translate the global roadmap for **Accelerated SDG7 Action** in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change into concrete actions and partnerships, including through Energy Compacts. The need to encourage and promote innovative ideas for collaboration and peer-learning for **energy transition** was underscored. Examples of initiatives included the **African Carbon Market Initiative, Power in Africa, Net Zero World, Green Belt and Road,** and **Clean Energy Asia.**





The discussions highlighted how today's challenges know no border. Participants called for close **regional collaboration** to advance the SDGs – reinforcing global action and coordination. The UN regional commissions proposed innovative policy options. They offered platforms for dialogue. They promoted regional partnerships, including the five **Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCP)**, to support national and regional solutions. The Chairs of **ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies** and Executive Secretaries of **Regional Commissions** shared highlights of their work in support of the 2030 Agenda. They outlined the way forward for implementing comprehensive and integrated policies to implement the SDGs. They emphasized in particular the need for:

- people-centered policy design and decision-making across the board, including by adopting top-down, cross-cutting human rights approaches and adopting an inclusive, coherent and coordinated multilateralism;
- building an inclusive, just, resilient and responsive institutional framework, essential to foster trust, in the context of implementation of SDG 16;
- rethinking implementation strategies to break down persistent silos and fragmentation that are preventing established tools and emerging transformative initiatives to reach their full potential;
- integrating the disruptive shifts caused by climate change and digitalization in policy design and decision-making. Enabling access science, technology and innovation in an integral part of this effort. So are collaborations to support the adaptation to the evolving landscape of statistics and data and the nurturing of related human resources capacity; and
- aligning financing with the necessary transformation and bold and ambitious action, as a decisive factor in our ultimate success in achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Member States underscored the importance of the work of the UN regional commission and ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies in pursuing solutions, including through building on the interlinkages among the SDGs, to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While underlining that no one policy is suitable for all, member states also acknowledged the importance of sharing of best practices among regional commission in addressing the challenges to achieving the SDGs.

**Transformative solutions** have the potential to create multiple benefits across several SDGs. Throughout the discussions, **integrated approaches** were considered key to maximize synergies across SDGs and targets. The enormous enabling potential of **data**, **institutions**, and **financing** was also strongly emphasized, as was their ability to create grave, cross-cutting bottlenecks when not properly implemented.

**Digital technologies have immense potential** to achieve prosperity for people and planet. They can be key enablers in leveling the playing field, reducing economic inequalities, increasing inclusivity and transparency, and reducing corruption. Participants stressed the need for more and better data and trained data scientists. Frontier technologies, such as artificial intelligence and big data, could act as catalysts for advancing SDGs. **Data**, **digitalization**, and **digital technologies** can help increase farmers' crop yields, improve their water use. They can also help farmers to better manage their fertilizer use with less inputs and less environmental impacts. Participants further highlighted the importance of **digital technology and science to build resilience** for future crises. **Digital tools** can also improve the availability and accessibility of statistical data, knowledge and information to support more targeted



and impactful policy interventions. The need for **accurate, high-quality, disaggregated, timely and representative data** is crucial to advancing the 2030 Agenda, achieving the SDGs and identifying challenge areas and those most in need. Digital tools also help increase access of farmers and other small-scale entrepreneurs, many of whom are women, as well as underserved groups of society, to markets and finance. Good practices and initiatives shared included FAO's **1000 digital villages** initiative, **hand-in-hand** initiative and the **farmer field school structure** initiative description and use as well as soil mapping. All are promoting access to digital public goods and the provision of a dashboard on fertilizer

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated governments' digitalization, with implications for data and information sharing and public service delivery. Effective **digital governance** could support governments and other stakeholders in building forward better, by increasing inclusivity and transparency as well as reducing corruption. Reinforcing **trust** in governments, supporting **institutions and infrastructure-building** is necessary. So are building **greater synergies between digital government reforms and anti-corruption strategies** and addressing **cyber security** risks. More efforts to scaling up technology transformation is necessary, that includes more **investments in data** collection, data management, data science, and analysis are crucial. Innovative solutions to **strengthen digital capacity and capabilities** are also needed, including through adequate remuneration and motivation of public sector workers as well as through investment in human capital in the digital field.

**Nonetheless, digital technologies have several challenges and risks that need to be addressed.** These include **disinformation and misuse of information**. During the pandemic, public health actions were undermined in some countries due to conspiracy theories that were amplified in the digital space. It is important to not only deliver equal and inclusive access to online health services but to also provide the option to receive these services in person, which requires further investments in analog systems. Digital gaps also persisted between developed and developing countries and across societies. Basic energy availability and electricity access remained a challenge in rural areas.

**The importance of capacity development was underscored. It requires building human capacities and infrastructure as well as adequate governance systems to advance the SDGs.** Capacity development in developing countries in particular, will be essential to harness the full potential of digital technologies and data. Training on digital applications and data-driven tools has become essential to provide the necessary skills for girls, boys, women and men to achieve sustainable prosperity everywhere. Initiatives such as **Gateways to Public Digital Learning**, by UNICEF and UNESCO, and **Learning Passport**, an initiative of UNICEF in collaboration with Microsoft, focus on closing the digital divide by providing children with quality, public digital learning platforms **Giga**, a collaborative effort from ITU and UNICEF, aims to connect every school to the internet. **Infrastructure** is also key in this regard, not only in the sense of connectivity but also to enable the provision of global public digital goods. Adequate infrastructure coupled with the right **governance** and regulatory frameworks are also integral to address privacy and security matters and ensure that human rights can be protected in the digital as well as in the analogue spheres.

The **Global Digital Compact**, proposed in "Our Common Agenda" report of the Secretary-General and envisioned to be adopted at the Summit of the Future in 2024, is considered an opportunity to update the normative approach. It will allow to agree on an action framework to maximize the potential of



digital technologies to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, while addressing their potential risks. Participants underscored the importance of the **Global Digital Compact** to ensure universal connectivity and digital education, in particular for the most vulnerable population. The **Global Digital Compact** should prioritize closing the digital gap between developed and developing countries. It is critical to ensure a just, inclusive, and people-centred digital transformation, so that it can effectively strengthen trust in institutions and in governments' capacity to deliver public services and manage people's data.

**Discussions emphasized the importance of financing for achieving all the SDGs.** Getting back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda and meet the SDGs require a global commitment to implement **financing solutions** to global challenges. New approaches and deep reforms are needed to lift the level of resources and gear investment towards the SDGs. Beyond official development assistance (ODA), financing for development needs to include other measures of innovative financing. Financing in silos should be avoided. Many delegations said that there was an urgent need for major reforms to the global taxation and sovereign debt restructuring systems in the context of an **overhaul of the international financial architecture**. Those should help address **inequalities** in the utilization of international public financing and in the capacity to leverage private capital, among other, particularly for low- to middle-income countries. The discussions on measures of progress **going beyond GDP** were considered fundamental to the reform of the financial system and key to unlock an inclusive approach. Emphasis was placed on access to financing as key to **promoting human rights** and shared responsibility for meeting the 2030 Agenda. References were made to the SG's call for an **SDG Stimulus Plan**, UN work on **Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF)** and the EU's **Global Gateway Initiative**. The collaboration between the **international financial institutions** and the other **UN system entities**, focusing on poverty eradication, sustainability and resilience, was highlighted. The **international financial institutions** and the other UN system entities were called on to act together in a more coordinated manner for recovery efforts in the context of food, energy and climate crises.

## **Recommendations**

Participants identified a range of issues that ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and the UN system should address. Sustainability, gender equality and leaving no one behind must be considered as cross-cutting issues and integrated in the work of all UN bodies. The following additional recommendations emerged from the discussions.

### **The ECOSOC system could:**

- promote synergy and deepen policy work in areas related to the SDGs and their interlinkages, while delivering on specific mandates
- promote and guide enhanced support and assistance to the most vulnerable countries and people
- promote specific tools for middle income countries
- mainstream water and sanitation across all thematical areas and in all intergovernmental processes as well as in reports of ECOSOC
- implement transformative solutions that tackle not only SDG7, but its interlinkages with other SDGs



- engage with the 2023 UN Water Conference to strengthen synergies among UN system entities
- address the financing gaps through ODA as well as multistakeholder engagement in the private sector, public finance, taxation reform, and debt restructuring
- scaling up the efforts to increase the capacity and capability in data collection and analysis and in digital technologies, ensuring fulfillment of the leave no one behind principle
- incorporate youth voices in policy debates

**The Economic and Social Council could:**

- contribute to the process of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review on the implementation of the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- encourage affiliated bodies to consider and announce voluntary commitments, either individually or collectively in the context of the upcoming UN Water Conference, and strengthen UN Water as the UN mechanism for interagency coordination
- advance the debate on integrated policies to achieve the SDGs in the lead up and after the SDG summit
- ensure that global policy debates on energy access and energy transition take into account the needs and priorities of the developing countries
- convene regular meetings with stakeholders on the connection between human rights and climate change, supporting meaningful and inclusive participation
- continuously focus on Means of Implementation including financial capacity building and greater interaction with the Board of Directors of International Financial Institutions
- bring together stakeholders to enhance knowledge-sharing, scale up good practices and find collective solutions to leverage science, technology and innovation for development

Overall, as key message was that as we reach halfway through the journey to achieve the 2030 Agenda, we find ourselves no way near halfway done. The discussion throughout the Segment gave a clear understanding that while the global challenges are interlinked, at the same time, it is also well understood that solutions are also intertwined. There was emphasis on the need to take decisive action to resolve critical bottlenecks around key enabling areas. These relate to data and digital technologies, effective institutions, and financing for sustainable development. All these areas have great potential to multiply efforts to advance implementation in all Goals. Greater international cooperation is needed to make that happen. The global, collaborative partnership that brought about the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals is the key to push forward and build up the momentum for bolder and transformative actions to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path and create peace and prosperity for people and planet. The **SDG Summit** offers a unique opportunity for strengthening this global partnership and turbocharging the SDGs.



### **Beyond ECOSOC and Next Steps**

Along with ECOSOC and the HLPF, the high-level meetings in 2023 (UN 2023 Water Conference, Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework, High-level Meetings on health and the Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment) offer opportunities to focus on key interlinkages among the SDGs to give a boost to their progress. The Special Edition of the SDG Progress Report and the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report will provide key inputs to elaborate on transformative policies and actions in the lead up to the SDG Summit.

As one of the innovative outcomes of the 2023 Coordination Segment, this summary includes the [annex of transformative policies and initiatives](#) from the ECOSOC system as a reference to advance the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It is envisioned that these policies and initiatives will inspire implementation at all levels to accelerate the progress following the multiple and intersecting crises from which most countries are yet to recover

The ECOSOC Coordination Segment and Partnership Forum demonstrated the role of ECOSOC in mobilizing all countries and stakeholders to implement the 2030 Agenda amidst a confluence of crises, insecurities, and inequalities. The Coordination Segment brought together the ECOSOC system as well as relevant stakeholders and provided an opportunity for the Council to leverage their work to promote policy coherence and coordination in the work of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the United Nations system entities. The Council looked beyond emergency actions and discussed transformative policies, innovative partnerships and actions, initiatives and emerging ideas to advance the SDGs, bringing together not only countries and the UN system, but also a rich array of stakeholders. Moving forward, ECOSOC Coordination Segment could also invite the participation of Executive Directors of the World Bank, IMF and other Multilateral Development Banks, to better promote policy coherence and coordination.

Building on the 2023 Coordination Segment, the Economic and Social Council will convene a discussion to integrate key messages from ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN system on the Council's main theme. It will develop action-oriented recommendations for follow-up and feed into the HLPF, during the ECOSOC Management Segment in June 2023 (as mandated by GA resolution 75/290 A).





**ANNEX 1: [Programme of the Partnership Forum](#)**

**ANNEX 2: [Programme of the Coordination Segment](#)**

**ANNEX 3: [Transformative Policies and Actions](#)**