



2023 ECOSOC Coordination Segment

1 February 2023

OPENING REMARKS

by

H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva

President of the Economic and Social Council

Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council,
Under-Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

I am pleased to join you at the opening of the 2023 Coordination Segment.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies, the regional commissions and the UN system entities that are joining us today. Your valuable work continues to inform and inspire our work in this Council. You provide us the tools and analysis to unlock transformative solutions to address today's global challenges and to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

2023 will be a demanding and significant year for the Economic and Social Council, as we continue to be challenged by the multiple and interlocking crises around the world. Through its segments and forums, the Council will be addressing the theme "*Accelerating the Recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels*". And all this work will pave the way to the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), convened under the auspices of ECOSOC in July, and the SDG Summit in September.

The ECOSOC Partnership Forum held yesterday was an important first stepping stone to rally stakeholders and other actors in this journey to the SDG Summit.



There were repeated calls for stronger political commitment and international cooperation, given that the SDGs are at a real risk of failure.

Today's uncertain, crises-ridden world calls for more broad-based, transparent, inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships that effectively engage a diversity of stakeholders beyond national governments, leaving no one behind.

Many called for robust SDG-responsive global partnerships to drive sustainable recovery and development. Across all our efforts, civil society should be our key allies in advocating for those left furthest behind. It is crucial to fully engage all stakeholders, including local and regional governments as front-line responders; academia and scientific community through effective science-policy interface; and a broader range of businesses through their SDG-responsive business models. Youth should be meaningfully engaged in decision-making processes.

We need to close our capital, capacity, data and development opportunity gaps through a revitalized global partnership. There was a renewed sense of urgency for more capacity building support to enable the meaningful participation of everyone, including the Least Developed Countries, noting that those who are left the furthest behind are often the ones who have the weakest capacities to engage and partner effectively.

A prerequisite for meaningful stakeholder engagement is an enabling environment which provides ample civic spaces for all stakeholders and promotes tailored approach to partnerships.

The litmus test for a successful SDG Summit is effective and inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement which can build a lasting momentum in support of sustainable development.

Excellencies,

The Coordination Segment has demonstrated the ability of the Council to step up to deliver on its key role as a central mechanism for coordination of the UN development system to ensure coherence and coordination for UN system's support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Over the next two days, I encourage you



and the ECOSOC system to work together to identify transformative policies and actions to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, with a focus on leaving no one behind.

Thank you.