

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**2023 session**

**27th plenary meeting**

**Management segment**

**8 June 2023**

**Thursday, 10 a.m.**

**ECOSOC Chamber**

**H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez**

**Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council**

**Introductory remarks: "Transformation is possible: Actions  
from the ECOSOC system"**

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**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Participants and Delegates,**

**I am pleased to welcome you to this round-table discussion. I wish to recall that the General Assembly in its resolution 75/290A mandated that, during the management segment in June, the Economic and Social Council will hold a discussion to integrate the key messages from the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the United Nations system on the main theme, develop action-oriented recommendations for follow-up and feed into the high-level political forum on sustainable development.**

**As we move towards the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July and the SDG Summit in September, this discussion provides an important opportunity to highlight transformative policies and initiatives undertaken by the ECOSOC system that can accelerate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

**Before introducing our speakers, I would like to share with you some highlights from this year's Coordination Segment of the ECOSOC that took place on 1-2 February and was chaired by ECOSOC Vice-President, Ambassador Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir of Indonesia. These highlights hopefully can help us to maintain consistency in our discussion, pursuing optimal work of the ECOSOC and the United Nations system.**

**I recall what Ambassador Nasir highlighted during the Coordination Segment that this year's SDGs Summit would be a "judgement day" on our commitment to achieve the SDGs. Time is ticking, yet immense challenges remain. We must therefore carry our work beyond business as usual, through concerted efforts and transformative actions.**

**There was great emphasis during the discussions that the 2030 Agenda must continue to serve as the guiding framework to overcome the crises, address the lingering**

**impacts of the pandemic, and achieve the transformations needed to realize the SDGs. In this context, the Coordination Segment brought together Member States, ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies, UN regional commissions, specialized agencies and UN funds and programs to promote accelerated recovery and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

**The Segment highlighted the immense wealth of knowledge and expertise of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN system entities. At the same time, there was a strong aspiration that more needs to be done by the ECOSOC and UN entities to assist member states in their development priorities and to reach the furthest behind.**

**By the end of the Coordination Segment three key messages were summed up, namely, “interlinkages, self-evaluation, and concreteness”**

**On interlinkages, we realized that, while challenges are intertwined with one another, the solutions, tools, and initiatives to face those challenges are also intertwined.**

**□ We must thus break down persistent silos and fragmentation that prevent established tools and emerging transformative initiatives to reach their full potential**

**We must also resolve critical bottlenecks around key enabling areas that have great potential to multiply efforts to advance implementation in all the Goals.**

**These relate to data and digital technologies, effective institutions, and financing for sustainable development.**

**Greater international cooperation is needed to make that happen.**

**Stronger coherence and coordination between the ECOSOC and the UN system with the international financial institutions also needs to be pursued.**

**On self-evaluation, the Segment was made to realize that it is time for us to revisit if the current global development policies have provided enabling and conducive environment.**

**Among others, have we shown sufficient agility and resilience to continue pursue the achievement of SDGs post-pandemic?**

**Have we built an inclusive, just, resilient and responsive institutional framework that is essential to foster trust and enable effective development policy?**

**Have we integrated emerging challenges and opportunities, such as climate change and digital transformation, into policy design, decision making, and concrete action? And is support available to countries who need it?**

**Or are we still in need to further align efforts, such as financing, to ensure necessary transformation and implementation of bold and ambitious action in achieving the SDGs by 2030?**

**People-centred policy design and decision-making across the board are proven to be important, supported by an inclusive, coherent and coordinated multilateralism, and effective global partnership.**

**On concreteness, the Segment underlined that accelerating SDGs implementation would only be possible by scaling up concrete, transformative actions.**

**This is instrumental for the recovery from the pandemic, responding to other crises, and bringing the 2030 Agenda back on track.**

**In this context, to highlight the concrete and tangible works of the ECOSOC and the UN system, an annex listing transformative policies and initiatives of the UN system has been launched as one of the outcomes of the Coordination**

**Segment. With the annex, it is hoped that countries and UN system and entities can enhance collaboration in the implementation of SDG.**

**As of now, this annex includes more than 105 policies and initiatives from 50 bodies and entities. This annex document will be presented together with the Summary of the ECOSOC President at the HLPF.**

**Excellencies,**

**Following the Coordination Segment, many functional commissions and expert bodies convened their sessions and further elaborated on issues pertinent to the main theme of ECOSOC and HLPF. Today, we have an opportunity to build on the Coordination Segment discussions and engage to consolidate the key messages on the main theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF.**

**We have distinguished speakers who will share, from the perspective of the work of their entities and bodies, transformative policies and initiatives that can accelerate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the lead up to the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) in July and the SDG Summit in September. Our discussion will focus on the following cross-cutting areas:**

- **People-centred, resilient institutions and risk-informed policies**
- **Climate action and its interrelations with environmental protection**
- **Data and inclusive digital transformation, and**
- **Financing and renewed multilateralism for sustainable development.**

**I look forward to a fruitful discussion.**

**Thank you.**