

Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Chairs of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies

31 January 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
ECOSOC Chamber

CDP Secretariat Statement

The CDP will address the ECOSOC theme¹ during its plenary session of 24-27 February, with a focus on the elements of a “global transformation towards a green and equitable future”. Key messages from the CDP’s recent work on “leaving no one behind”, which was the main basis for its contributions to the ECOSOC theme in 2018 and 2019, are also relevant for this year’s theme. For instance:

- Leaving no one behind requires a transformation of deeply rooted systems — economic and political systems, governance structures and business models — that are often based on unequal distributions of wealth and of decision-making power. Models of growth that push people behind and thrive on their vulnerability must be delegitimized.

Aside from the CDP’s work on ECOSOC’s theme, a significant share of the work undertaken by the CDP and its Secretariat is on **Least Developed Countries**. During the decade to 2030, a number of countries are expected to graduate from the category. The CDP is working to ensure these countries are adequately supported in this transition and do not see any reversals of their development.

The CDP will also continue to address aspects of **multilateralism** and related issues that stand in the way of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Furthermore, since 2017 the CDP has analysed the **Voluntary National Reviews**, shedding light on some of the messages that arise from the reports. The CDP will continue to analyse the VNRs in order to promote their effectiveness in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In the view of the CDP, the work of the subsidiary bodies should be an integral **part of the HLPF**. Outputs of the different bodies should be the basis for the substantive background documents of sessions and in the formulation of the questions for discussion, and to the extent possible should be made available in a consolidated document to delegates before the negotiation of outcome documents, in addition to being presented at the Integration Segment. Whenever possible, Chairs or other members of subsidiary bodies should participate in the relevant panels. Relevant contributions from the subsidiary bodies on the theme should be made available to the UN Secretariat as references for the SG’s reports on the theme.

Regarding the **choice of ECOSOC’s annual theme**: It is important to reflect on the scope of ECOSOC’s action and ambition: What does ECOSOC expect to achieve and how can each of its bodies support its action? Is it seeking policy recommendations? Is it seeking to fill knowledge gaps? Is it seeking to map possible international agreements or programmes that could help collectively advance the implementation of the SDG or of a specific SDG? The theme should be defined so as to lead to the identification of concrete action to be taken by ECOSOC to advance towards the achievement of the SDGs. A clear theme with a clear and specific objective presented to subsidiary bodies with sufficient time would significantly support ECOSOC effectiveness. It would also make it possible for the different subsidiary bodies to engage with each other with purpose and to join efforts towards solutions to identified problems.

¹ *Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.*