



ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

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

Annotated Agenda

The Economic and Social Council will convene a meeting with the Chairs of ECOSOC's Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies on 31 January 2020. The meeting will be open to all Member States. The objective of the meeting is to:

- guide and coordinate the work of the ECOSOC system (ensuring that it is coherent, avoids overlap and adequately covers the 2030 Agenda)
- explore how the Subsidiary Bodies can contribute to the 2020 theme of ECOSOC and the high-level political forum (HLPF).
- review how subsidiary bodies have been implementing General Assembly resolution 72/305 on ECOSOC Strengthening and discuss possible proposals for reinvigorating ECOSOC and its relationship with its subsidiary bodies.

1. Contributions by Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies to the 2020 theme of ECOSOC and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

A principal means for ECOSOC to fulfil its function to coordinate the UN system and its subsidiary bodies is through its main theme. The theme shapes its annual programme of work and that of its subsidiary bodies. Through the main theme, it can promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development; provide guidance to the work of the entire ECOSOC system while respecting the agenda, diversity of mandates and specialized expertise of each subsidiary body; and ensure that the ECOSOC system assists the Council to in its policy making and role.

The theme for ECOSOC and the HLPF for 2020, adopted on 22 November 2019, is “*Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”. This theme echoes the Political Declaration of the first HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2019. The declaration proclaimed 2020-2030 as a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development. The theme is sufficiently broad to benefit from the input of all functional commissions and expert bodies. It also provides scope for joint work on cross cutting and emerging issues.

Suggested questions

- How will functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies contribute to the HLPF review of the theme for 2020 and to ECOSOC?
- What initial key policy messages can be offered on the 2020 theme, based on the work of the functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies thus far?
- What key initiatives will the subsidiary bodies take to realize the Decade of Action?
- What are some of the implementation gaps of the 2030 Agenda that subsidiary bodies aim to address?

- How can the contributions of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to the HLPF thematic review and the work of ECOSOC be better utilized?

2. Responding to GA resolution 72/305 on Review of the implementation of GA resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of ECOSOC

In resolution 72/305, the General Assembly asked ECOSOC to: (i) ensure a division of labour among its subsidiary bodies, while ensuring that the principles, critical aspects and implementation gaps of the 2030 Agenda are addressed;(ii) improve its outcomes and the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies; and (iii) discuss and consolidate all the inputs of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, the UN system and other relevant stakeholders during the integration segment.

The resolution also called for ECOSOC to (i) ensure that the subsidiary bodies produce technical and expert analysis, assessments and policy recommendations based on a solid review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and other conferences; (iii) ensure that outcomes are effective and action-oriented; (iv) consider whether there is a continued need for annual negotiated outcomes from its subsidiary bodies.

In October 2018, the former ECOSOC President held a meeting with the Chairs of subsidiary bodies to discuss the follow-up to GA resolution 72/305 and encourage follow up actions. In July 2019, she requested the Chairs to provide an update on actions taken in response to GA resolution 72/305, in their own capacity. Responses highlighted subsidiary bodies' efforts to align their themes with the work of the Council and HLPF and contribute to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

The arrangements contained in resolution 72/305 will be reviewed alongside the resolutions on the HLPF at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

Suggested questions

- What are some good practices in implementing the provisions of General Assembly resolution 72/305?
- How can subsidiary bodies further enhance their working methods and outcomes in response to resolution 72/305?
- In which area could the division of labour and cooperation among subsidiary bodies be improved?
- How can ECOSOC best support enhanced work of subsidiary bodies?

3. Themes for ECOSOC and HLPF

GA resolution 72/305 decided that the Integration Segment of ECOSOC would notably consolidate the inputs of the subsidiary bodies on the main theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF, make action-oriented recommendations and feed into the HLPF. The GA also decided that the segment would coordinate the work of the subsidiary bodies and the UN system. It would be important to discuss how the segment can best deliver these roles given that it only lasts for one day and has not adopted resolutions in the past.

Suggested question

- How can the Integration Segment deliver on its mandates, guide the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and consolidate their key messages on the HLPF and ECOSOC theme?
- In view of the Decade of Action and the work of subsidiary bodies, what are your recommendations for possible future themes for the ECOSOC substantive session and the HLPF?