



**The President  
of the  
Economic and Social Council**

18 January 2021

Excellency,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Chairs of the ECOSOC Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies, that will be held virtually on Monday, 25 January 2021, at 10:00am.

In its resolution 50/227, the General Assembly decided that “in the follow-up to United Nations conferences, the Council shall ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions by promoting a clearer division of labour among them and providing clear policy guidance to them. To this end, better preparation of the meetings of the Council should be ensured. The Council could periodically organize meetings on specific issues to allow for more dialogue with the chairpersons and the secretariats, as appropriate, of the functional commissions, other subsidiary and related bodies and the relevant executive boards.” (para. 39)

Traditionally, the ECOSOC Bureau has held annual meetings with the Chairs of its subsidiary bodies. It is our hope that, by giving the ECOSOC members as well as the entire membership of the United Nations the opportunity to participate in this annual meeting with the Chairs, participants will benefit from the vast expertise and acquire a deeper understanding of the important work of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies. This will also be an opportunity to discuss guidance and coordination in the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies.

The theme of the 2021 session of ECOSOC and the 2021 High-level political forum (HLPF) is “*Sustainable and resilient recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”. The meeting of ECOSOC with the Chairs of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies will provide an opportunity to discuss contributions by these bodies to the work of the Council and the HLPF, as well as the implementation of the outcome of GA resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of ECOSOC. This would be particularly important in view of the upcoming reviews of the ECOSOC (A/RES/72/305) and HLPF resolutions (A/RES/67/290 and A/RES/70/299).

For more information, your Office may wish to contact Ms. Filipa Correia (Email: [correiaf@un.org](mailto:correiaf@un.org)) in the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development (OISC) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA). Information on the link and related technical details will be communicated to you shortly.

I look forward to your personal participation at this meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Munir Akram

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers  
to the United Nations  
New York, NY