



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

3 February 2022

Dear Chairs,

I am writing to update you on the review of the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council mandated by resolution 75/290A of the General Assembly in June 2022. I thank you for the responses and feedback you shared with me following our meeting on 29 November 2021.

I appreciated the general support you expressed for the objective of this review and for the approach I proposed to conduct it. As you recommended, the review will take carefully into account the specific nature and composition of subsidiary bodies.

I took note that a few subsidiary bodies are in the process of reviewing their working methods or plan to do so at their coming session. We will need to work together to ensure that those processes feed into the review mandated by the General Assembly.

I also noted that some subsidiary bodies will meet after the start of the discussions on the results of the assessments of the subsidiary bodies' sessions in April. I would like to reassure your respective bureaux that their assessments will be taken into account as the discussions proceed.

I thank you for sharing the name of the Focal Point you designated for the review. I will be reaching out to them for an initial discussion in the near future.

I am also pleased to inform you that on 24 January 2022 I briefed United Nations Member States on the review process, as envisioned in General Assembly resolution 75/290A. I will continue to report back to the Bureau of ECOSOC on our discussions and the Vice Presidents will keep the members of their regional groups apprised of our progress.

Chairs of Functional Commissions
and Expert Bodies

I have amended the questions I shared with you earlier to guide your assessment of the work of the session of your respective subsidiary body, so as to reflect the comments I received. The questions are annexed to this letter.

I would like to invite you to send me your assessment of your respective session, based on those questions, no later than ten days after the end of the session. This assessment can be conducted in the manner decided by your bureau, be it discussions among bureau members or consultations with some Member States or any other way that you find appropriate for your subsidiary body. Please kindly bear in mind that this process will only be useful if it is led and owned by Member States, although your Secretariats will certainly be there to support you.

I am very much looking forward to the discussion in the upcoming Coordination Segment of ECOSOC. I believe that it will allow member states to see and appreciate the rich body of work that you are currently undertaking individually and jointly. It will also be an important opportunity to get feedback from the various delegations on some of the key questions which I hope you have already been reflecting on in preparation for the review.

I also note that many of the inputs for the Coordination Segment should be valuable for the review, including the Infographics and the SDG Mapping which can be found on the Coordination Segment's website. I am grateful to your Secretariats for doing this important work under time pressure. I understand that the SDG Mapping is work in progress and will be updated in the future as your work also evolves.

I very much look forward to receiving your assessment of your session as a contribution to this important review process. Please feel free to add any additional view or recommendation beyond the questions contained in the annex.

I look forward to my first meeting with the Focal Points and our ongoing dialogue as we proceed through the review.

Yours sincerely,



Lacherzera Stoeva

Vice-President, Economic and Social Council

ANNEX: Questions to support the review of the work of subsidiary bodies by the Chairs and Bureaux:

1. Does your functional commission/expert body effectively contribute to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to the Council's role in this regard? Does it produce technical and expert analysis, assessments and policy recommendations to this end? Do those outcomes support an integrated and action-oriented approach to the SDGs?
2. Is the work of your functional commission/expert body supported by the provision of a report or other document containing a solid, evidence-based review of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the outcomes of conferences and summits within its area on the theme under consideration? Are there gaps to be addressed to adequately cover the 2030 Agenda and conferences and summits within your subsidiary body's mandate?
3. What are some of the best practices you could share on the working methods of your functional commission/expert body, notably practices allowing it to work in an efficient, effective, transparent and inclusive manner?
4. What are the opportunities for joint work among the subsidiary bodies as well as with the UN system, and how can they be facilitated so as to promote integrated policy approaches?
5. Do you have recommendations on how the Economic and Social Council can best use the expertise and policy recommendations of your functional commission/expert body and on whether and how ECOSOC could strengthen its oversight and coordination of its subsidiary bodies?