



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

25 April 2022

Excellency,

I am pleased to invite you or a representative of your delegation to the second informal consultations on the review of the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council which will be held on Friday, 29 April 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the ECOSOC Chamber. I refer to my letters of [29 March 2022](#) and [19 April 2022](#).

I would like to thank delegations for the fruitful exchanges during our first consultations, held in the past Friday, 21 April 2022. I was pleased with the initial feedback received from Member States and I look forward to furthering our exchanges around the thematic clusters.

In the forthcoming consultations this Friday, we will consider the thematic cluster I, on “Aligning with the 2030 Agenda”, and the thematic cluster II, on “Working methods”, based on the corresponding sections of in my [non-paper](#) (both in the summary part and in the recommendations section)”. The non-paper as well as all other documentation related to the review process, including the compilation of the assessments by the Bureaux of the functional commissions and expert bodies, can be found on the [ECOSOC subsidiary bodies website](#).

I look forward to your active participation in the informal consultations. Please kindly approach me at any time to share your preliminary views or questions.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lachezara Stoeva".

Lachezara Stoeva  
Vice-President, Economic and Social Council

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

## Review of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies

### Draft Non-Paper by the Facilitator<sup>1</sup>

### Informal consultations of ECOSOC

## Introduction

#### Background:

The Economic and Social Council oversees a complex ecosystem of subsidiary bodies, composed of regional commissions, functional commissions and expert bodies, standing committees and ad hoc bodies.<sup>2</sup>

There are eight ECOSOC functional commissions. These are deliberative bodies whose role is to consider and make recommendations on issues in their respective areas of responsibility and expertise in the economic, social and related fields. Some are policy oriented and provide policy options, and carry out the detailed analysis of the economic and social issues needed to inform the substantive work of ECOSOC. Other are more technical in nature and help establish global norms and standards such as on statistics, drug control and crime prevention.

ECOSOC oversees, in addition, nine expert bodies. Four of them are composed of governmental experts and five are composed of members serving in their personal capacity. The Council's range of technical work through its expert bodies extends into areas that require international cooperation for the functioning of the global economy and for establishing norms and standards in specialized areas.

The Council is entrusted to oversee, guide and coordinate the work of its subsidiary bodies. General Assembly resolution 75/290 A aimed to strengthen this role.

#### Mandate for the conduct of the review:

The review of the work of the subsidiary bodies is mandated in [General Assembly resolution 75/290 A](#)<sup>3</sup>, which seeks to identify possible actions to implement the recommendations made by the General Assembly in resolution 72/305 for enhancing the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and their alignment with the 2030 Agenda. These recommendations are contained in paragraphs 28 and 29 of the Annex to resolution 72/305.

---

<sup>1</sup> Vice-President, Ambassador Lachezara Stoeva, was designated by Ambassador Collen Kelapile, President of ECOSOC to undertake the review of the subsidiary bodies, on behalf of the ECOSOC Bureau.

<sup>2</sup> Please refer to document [E/2019/INF/3](#) and the [ECOSOC subsidiary bodies website](#) for more information on these bodies.

<sup>3</sup> paragraph 33 of the annex

According to paragraph 28, the Economic and Social Council should strengthen its oversight and coordination role of its subsidiary bodies. It should review their work with a view to ensuring their continued relevance. It will also ensure that they produce technical and expert analysis, assessments and policy recommendations to inform the integrated view of the Council and inform efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. It should effectively integrate the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies into its own work.

Paragraph 29 states that the Economic and Social Council should request its subsidiary bodies to ensure that they best support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the work of the Council. Their work should reflect the need for an integrated and action-oriented approach to the Sustainable Development Goals. Their recommendations should build on a solid evidence-based review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and of the outcomes of conferences and summits in their respective area. They should work in an efficient, effective, transparent and inclusive manner.

The General Assembly, at its 75<sup>th</sup> session, considered that more efforts were needed to implement these recommendations. Accordingly, it invited “the President and Bureau of the Economic and Social Council to work with the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies and in consultation with delegations during the 2022 session of the Council, so as to identify possible actions to be taken to implement the provisions of paragraphs 28 and 29 of the Annex to General Assembly resolution 72/305” (Resolution 75/290A).

#### Process for the review:

The President of ECOSOC for 2021-2022, H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, entrusted H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, Vice President of ECOSOC, to facilitate this review on behalf of the Bureau of ECOSOC.

The process for the review was launched on 29 November 2021, at a meeting of the President and Vice President of ECOSOC with the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies. Based on the mandate, as well as on the feedback received from the Chairs, a set of five questions was shared with the Chairs of the functional commissions and expert bodies in a [letter on 3 February 2022](#) to be used as a basis for their assessments.<sup>4</sup> The Chairs were encouraged not to make the assessment based only on their subsidiary body’s latest session but to take into consideration previous experience with the work of that body. They were also encouraged to reach out to their respective memberships to the extent possible to collect their views.

Chairs were invited to designate Focal Points from among their Bureaux to take the lead responsibility to conduct the assessments which were to be submitted within 10 days of the conclusion of their sessions. For those subsidiary bodies which already held their sessions, Chairs were invited to provide their assessments at the earliest opportunity.

---

<sup>4</sup> The review will apply to the functional commissions and expert bodies of ECOSOC. In addition to their different governance structure, regional commissions are not included in this review also due to the fact that their work has already been reviewed within the context of the process of the repositioning of the UN development system, particularly the repositioning of the regional assets of the UN development system.

The Chairs and their designated Focal Points were given the flexibility to conduct the review in the manner they considered most efficient. Some based their assessment on the reflection of the individual Bureau and others consulted the entire membership. The Facilitator held meetings with the Chairs and with the focal points.

As of 18 April 2022, 13 assessments had been received from the 17 functional commissions and expert bodies of the Council. This document is based on this information.<sup>5</sup>

The Facilitator encourages Member States to use the opportunity of the review to introduce meaningful improvements in ensuring that the work of subsidiary bodies best supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while remaining within the mandate of the review and the respective mandates of subsidiary bodies.

Section A summarizes the assessments received from the bureaux of the functional commissions and expert bodies. Section B reflects recommendations emanating from the assessments by the bureaux and the facilitator's analysis and proposed conclusions and recommendations based on those assessments. Section C briefly refers to the outcome of the present ECOSOC review.

## A. Summary of the assessments of the work of subsidiary bodies

The assessments received by the Bureaux of the functional commissions and expert bodies in response to the [questions sent by the Facilitator and Vice-President of the Council](#) are summarized in the points below. .

### I. Alignment of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs:

1. The assessments by the bureaux of functional commissions and expert bodies confirm the diversity and richness of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary machinery. Bureaux estimate that all subsidiary bodies work towards the 2030 Agenda while performing their mandated activities such as ensuring follow-up and review of specific conferences and summits entrusted to them<sup>6</sup>.

The bureaux confirm that the work of subsidiary bodies is overall supported by and/or produces expert analysis and evidence-based reviews of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the outcomes of conferences and summits within their respective mandates. This work is taking into consideration interlinkages among SDGs and sectoral areas. These bodies have also been working to support the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic within their respective areas.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> In the case of subsidiary bodies meeting after the present non-paper is finalized, the bureau's assessment will be provided during the informal consultations.

<sup>6</sup> This is also reflected in the [mapping](#) of the work of subsidiary bodies in support of the SDGs.

<sup>7</sup> This is highlighted in the [informal note](#) prepared by the Secretariat for the 2022 Coordination Segment.

2. Some subsidiary bodies' bureaux emphasize the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into their work.
3. There was a concern about the decreased role of the Commission on Population and Development in assessing the contribution of international migration to sustainable development since the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the creation of the UN Network on Migration to support its implementation.
4. The subsidiary bodies work to achieve expert agreed outcomes during their session through general or expert discussions at ministerial round tables, interactive dialogues and interactive expert panels, intersessional meetings or thematic sessions.<sup>8</sup>
5. The functional commissions and expert bodies also provide inputs<sup>9</sup> to the thematic review of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) as mandated by the 2030 Agenda. Those are summarized in the official "Synthesis of voluntary submissions by functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums". A few subsidiary bodies are increasingly engaging in supporting the HLPF voluntary national reviews (such as the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee for Development Policy or the Committee of Experts on Public Administration). The Commission on the Status of Women also has a practice whereby countries are nominated through their regional groups to make voluntary national presentation on the implementation of the Beijing Conference and other agreements on gender equality and women's empowerment.

## II. Working Methods

### Expert and evidence-based nature of the work and outcomes of subsidiary bodies:

5. The expert and evidence-based nature of subsidiary bodies' work is ensured first through the preparation of their sessions. In some cases, preparations include intersessional meetings, preparatory expert group meetings and special events, all of which produce expert analyses.<sup>10</sup> Such expert analyses and evidence-based reviews are reflected in reports of the Secretary-General and other official or informal documents for the session.
6. Those preparations and documents in turn support the elaboration of subsidiary bodies' outcomes at their session (see para 4 above).
7. Outcomes include resolutions providing policy recommendations to enable the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and further mandates under the purview of these bodies. Some of these mandates stem from outcomes of UN conferences, internationally agreed conventions or protocols that are

---

<sup>8</sup> A detailed account is given in the original assessments sent by the Bureaux.

<sup>9</sup> These inputs are also available on the [HLPF website](#).

<sup>10</sup> A detailed account is given in the original assessments sent by the Bureaux.

mandated to be followed up by subsidiary bodies of the Council<sup>11</sup>. Other outcomes, notably for expert bodies, include manuals, guidance notes, model regulations, international legal instruments and codes, normative frameworks, principles and methods, which benefit from the knowledge of the expert members of these bodies and are endorsed by the Council.

#### Best practices in the working methods of subsidiary bodies:

8. In terms of best practices, some subsidiary bodies' bureaux highlight the importance of regular engagement of the bureau with Member States, for example through regular briefings in between or during sessions. Many stress the importance of having inclusive practices. Several examples are shared on the latter, with bureaux stressing the need to ensure that a diversity of views, from all relevant stakeholders, is presented in the deliberations and related preparatory processes and documentation. The significance of involving civil society organizations, youth and academia is underscored. The importance of collaborating with other partners, such as other international, regional and subregional organizations, other key international players, research agencies and the private sector, is also emphasized.
9. Some subsidiary bodies emphasize their consensus-based approach. Others further underscore open and transparent processes to review their working methods and/or terms of reference.
10. Subsidiary bodies' bureaux often stress the effectiveness of having sub-groups or working groups to address specific aspects of their work. Those allow members to use their particular expertise.
11. Bureaux also stress the usefulness of having an agenda item to address the main theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF, which appears to be another shared practice. Given the difference in the timing and periodicity of the adoption of the main theme of the Council and the HLPF and that of the subsidiary bodies, some also highlight that the theme is considered under an item on "emerging issue" which allows them to address it.
12. Many subsidiary bodies' bureaux explain how they have adjusted to the impact of COVID-19 on their working methods, especially through the use of information and communication technology.

---

<sup>11</sup> The 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (Commission on Social Development); the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Commission on Population and Development); the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Commission on the Status of Women); the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Commission on Narcotic Drugs); the 2003 Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, and the 2005 Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, of the World Summit on the Information Society (Commission on Science and Technology for Development); the 2017 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (United Nations Forum on Forests); the 1967 United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names); the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Pacific and for the Americas (United Nations Committee of Experts on Geospatial Information Management); the 1980 United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries (Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters); the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

13. Some subsidiary bodies' bureaux note with concern that the allocated Regular Budget resources have not grown commensurate with the increased number of mandates. They mention that it would be important to draw the attention of Member States to the possible consequences for the implementation of mandates arising from this situation. Fostering an interactive discussion between Member States and relevant UN staff members was seen useful to assess achievements and challenges in the implementation of the mandates entrusted to the Secretariat.

### III. Coordination and cooperation among subsidiary bodies

14. Overall, there is a significant interest from the part of the functional commissions and expert bodies in increasing cooperation among them and getting to know more about each other's work. Some bodies have long-standing collaboration, usually due to their closely related areas of work and expertise. This is the case with, for example, the Statistical Commission and the Groups on Geographical Information (UN-GGIM), and Geographical Names (UNGEGN), as well as with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), to name a few.
15. Some however recognize that collaboration between subsidiary bodies could be strengthened, and many agree that regular consultations with and among Chairs of subsidiary bodies remains important. The participation of Chairs and other members of one subsidiary body in the sessions of other subsidiary bodies is often highlighted as one way to explore opportunities for joint work.
16. Some bureaux also stress the importance of engaging relevant UN agencies in subsidiary bodies' sessions and in the related preparatory process, including in the preparation of Secretary-General reports and other documentation. Participation of the Chairs of functional commissions in meetings of UN entities' governing bodies, such as the Executive Boards of Funds and Programmes, is also suggested.
17. Another proposal is the organization of joint side events by bureaux of several subsidiary bodies at the margins of the HLPF and on other occasions.
18. The Bureaux identified an integral role for ECOSOC to play in promoting collaboration among its subsidiary bodies, particularly by serving:
- i. As a "matchmaker", by fostering cooperation between different subsidiary bodies, thus addressing interlinkages
  - ii. As an amplifier, by ensuring implementation of recommendations of some subsidiary bodies which call for mainstreaming the consideration of an issue -- or looking at an issue from multiple angles in various subsidiary bodies, in a cross-cutting manner throughout ECOSOC subsidiary machinery. One example is [mainstreaming a gender perspective](#), as called for in the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and ECOSOC.

- iii. As an integrator, by highlighting integrated policy approaches related to the theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF that emanate from the work of subsidiary bodies.

To support the work of ECOSOC and subsidiary bodies, the Secretariat can provide a one-stop shop for Member States to learn about issues under consideration in subsidiary bodies and identify ways to increase cooperation between them. A concrete tool is the webpage on subsidiary bodies on ECOSOC website. For example, a central searchable webpage or repository consolidating all events, reports and outputs/publications of different subsidiary bodies could facilitate coordination and collaboration among ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies and ECOSOC guidance in this area.

#### IV. Leveraging the work of the Subsidiary Bodies -- How ECOSOC can best use the outcomes of subsidiary bodies

19. There is a strong call from the Bureaux for featuring and using more effectively the outcomes of the subsidiary bodies in the work of the Council and the HLPF, particularly by:
  - i. Including key recommendations from their negotiated and other outcomes in ECOSOC and HLPF outcome documents, in particular the Ministerial Declaration.
  - ii. Actively promoting the implementation of subsidiary bodies' negotiated outcome documents including resolutions or agreed normative frameworks, as well as model regulations, manuals, guidance, principles and methodologies, so that they inform policy making and capacity building by the UN system and other actors, where applicable.
  - iii. Monitoring more effectively the follow-up to the outcomes of the subsidiary bodies.
  - iv. Inviting Chairs of subsidiary bodies as panelists in ECOSOC segments and meetings and in the HLPF (as was done in the 2022 Coordination Segment and during some special meetings of ECOSOC in 2022).
  - v. Supporting the subsidiary bodies in further strengthening their contribution to the Coordination Segment.
  - vi. Providing further opportunities to raise awareness and disseminate the work of the subsidiary bodies, including those headquartered away from New York.
  - vii. Organizing one pilot cross-sectorial meetings on a specific theme during the 2023 session of the Council, with participation of the entire membership and featuring relevant subsidiary bodies.
  - viii. Holding more regular meetings between the ECOSOC Bureau and subsidiary bodies' Chairs, to institutionalize substantive exchanges and promote integrated approaches in the deliberations of the Council.
  
20. Bureaux of functional commissions and expert bodies also hope that the adoption of the main theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF by the General Assembly can be done with sufficient lead time to allow subsidiary bodies to contribute to the work of ECOSOC. They would also like information on



ECOSOC and ECOSOC-related meetings to be circulated well ahead of time, to ensure meaningful input from the subsidiary bodies, particularly those bodies headquartered away from New York.

## B. Conclusions and possible recommendations to support the deliberations of Member States during ECOSOC informal consultations:

Based on the analysis of the assessments prepared by the Bureaux of the functional commissions and expert bodies, the Secretariat's [mapping of the work of these bodies in support to the SDGs \(presented at the Coordination Segment\)](#) and the deliberations of the [2022 Coordination Segment](#), the facilitator suggests that the Council may wish to consider the following elements:

### I. **Aligning with the 2030 Agenda:**

1. Most subsidiary bodies could benefit from specific guidance from the Council on which areas of the 2030 Agenda to address from their respective angles, while avoiding one-size-fits-all approaches. Such recommendations may allow ECOSOC to ensure that its subsidiary bodies contribute to its work, the HLPF or other upcoming Intergovernmental meetings. More specific guidance would also benefit Member States because it would allow functional commissions and expert bodies to respond to their needs more directly.
2. For example **the Council could recommend that the Commission for Social Development regularly consider progress in achieving SDG 10 on inequality and related policies, as also recommended by the General Assembly.**<sup>12</sup>
3. **Gender equality and the empowerment of women should be addressed by all subsidiary bodies in a cross-cutting manner.** Those should dedicate special attention to targets on gender equality contained in SDG 5 and other SDGs that fall within their purview.
4. **Subsidiary bodies should reflect on the interlinkages of SDG 13 on climate change with the issues within their purview** and how their policy recommendation can contribute to climate action.
5. The Council could consider whether subsidiary bodies should give more attention to the interlinkages between the SDGs within their purview and other SDGs that are cross-cutting but are not part of the traditional focus of the work of the subsidiary bodies. Such SDGs may include SDG 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production, SDG 14 on ocean, SDG 15 on terrestrial ecosystems, SDG 16 on peaceful societies, justice and institutions. SDG 17 is also cross-cutting and

---

<sup>12</sup> The General Assembly, in its resolutions on the Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the 24<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly, has called upon the Commission for Social Development to continue to address inequality in all its dimensions, in the context of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The latest resolution on this matter is [A/RES/76/134](#).

subsidiary bodies should continue to consider financing and other Means of Implementation in their respective areas of work.

6. Given the importance attached by member states to this SDG, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic, ECOSOC could consider which body(iies) would be best placed to address SDG 6 on water and sanitation.
7. Subsidiary bodies could consider the impact of cross-cutting trends, such as long-term demographic trends, on progress towards the SDGs within their purview.
8. The key principle of the 2030 Agenda, Leaving No One Behind, and the commitment to reach the furthest behind first, should guide the work of all subsidiary bodies<sup>13</sup>.

## II. Coordination issues among subsidiary bodies, areas for synergies possible duplications and gaps:

9. The Council could decide to give additional guidance during its Coordination segment on further areas or aspects that should be addressed by the Council's subsidiary bodies, as it did in 2022.
10. The approval by ECOSOC of the agenda of the future session of its subsidiary bodies is the opportunity for the Council to identify major issues that should be addressed by its subsidiary bodies, promote synergies and prevent duplication of work, thus allowing the "ECOSOC system" to most effectively support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. **It could be considered whether ECOSOC could look at the draft agendas of its subsidiary bodies in a holistic manner, rather than sequentially. This would require informal discussions between the ECOSOC Bureau and bureaux of subsidiary bodies ahead of the subsidiary bodies' sessions so as to shape the agendas in a consultative fashion, while respecting the expertise of subsidiary bodies.**
11. **ECOSOC could consider whether ensuring that functional commissions address a specific, focused and well delineated theme, rather than a broad general theme, would lead to more practical guidance and maximize the impact of their work.**
12. The Council could also **clarify the respective roles of subsidiary bodies and ECOSOC forums working on similar issues**, such as the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and ECOSOC Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum). CSTD may be considered for example as the subsidiary body maximizing Member States engagement in developing policy guidance, while ECOSOC STI Forum is the platform to engage all stakeholders in debates and reflections preparing the work of the HLPF on this topic.
13. ECOSOC could also provide guidance on collaboration with organizations or representatives working in the area of expertise of the subsidiary bodies (for example, opportunities of joint work between the UN Secretary-General's Technology Envoy and CSTD).

---

<sup>13</sup> Recommendation 1-4 emerged in the discussions of the Coordination Segment. 5-8 are from the Facilitator based on her analysis of bureaux' assessment and recommendation 9 is from the bureaux' assessments.

14. It is difficult for ECOSOC to ensure that its guidance to its subsidiary bodies is implemented since it does not adopt a resolution on the work of its subsidiary bodies. The first edition of the new coordination segment in 2022 showed that this segment has great potential to provide guidance to ECOSOC subsidiary bodies. **The Secretariat should continue preparing the work of this segment through action-oriented analysis of the work of subsidiary bodies. The Vice-President's summary of the segment should be widely disseminated and systematically followed up by subsidiary bodies.**
15. ECOSOC could consider periodically adopting a resolution to provide guidance to its subsidiary bodies on both substantive and process-related aspects. It could do so every four years, for example, following the meeting of the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly (the "SDG Summits"). Another possibility would be for the General Assembly process on strengthening ECOSOC (mandated to be held during the 78<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly in 2023-2024) to mandate ECOSOC to conduct a review of the work of its subsidiary bodies in the following session of the Council, leading to a resolution.
16. The subsidiary bodies could maintain the network of focal points established for the current process of review, with a view to promoting exchanges and coordination with ECOSOC and among them. The focal points could meet.
17. The Council plays a fundamental role in promoting the further strengthening of collaboration among its subsidiary bodies. This could be done by:
  - a. **Encouraging procedures and practices that, while not reopening discussions held in other fora, help subsidiary bodies to draw from each other's work so as to promote integrated policy approaches.**
  - b. **Monitoring the coordinated follow up of the Ministerial Declaration of ECOSOC and the HLPF by subsidiary bodies at the Coordination Segment.**
  - c. **Providing guidance with a view to fostering interlinkages between the work of the different subsidiary bodies, in support of integrated policy approaches to address the theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF.**
  - d. **ECOSOC could further raise awareness about the work of its subsidiary bodies headquartered away from New York and encourage other subsidiary bodies to consider drawing more systematically on their outcomes on areas such as corruption, crime and criminal justice, drug abuse and drug trafficking or science and technology. This could be achieved through a special meeting of ECOSOC or briefing or side events on the margins of ECOSOC meetings. ECOSOC's review of draft resolutions proposed by ECOSOC subsidiary bodies is another opportunity.**
  - e. **The ECOSOC Bureau could hold more regular meetings with the Bureaux of functional commissions and expert bodies, for example, two or three times a year.**
18. The webpage on subsidiary bodies on ECOSOC website could be further elaborated by the Secretariat so that it becomes a one-stop shop for Member States to learn about issues under

consideration in subsidiary bodies and increase cooperation between them. For example, a central searchable webpage or repository consolidating all events, reports and outputs/publications of different subsidiary bodies could facilitate coordination and collaboration among ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies.<sup>14</sup>

### III. Working methods:

19. Some subsidiary bodies, such as the Statistical Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women have recently reviewed their working methods (see Annexes). This could be welcomed by ECOSOC and built upon in the present review of the work of subsidiary bodies.
20. The functional commissions and expert bodies have long been assessing and leveraging interlinkages between the areas under their purview.
21. More specific guidance by ECOSOC would allow tapping on the expertise of subsidiary bodies in addressing interlinkages among the SDGs. It could thus maximize the impacts of ECOSOC's work in bringing about transformative policies to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Addressing integrated policies is a strategic advantage of the Council that can be a make-or-break element in our achievement of the SDGs.
- 22. Subsidiary bodies could accordingly be encouraged to further deepen their focus on interlinkages across the SDGs and sectors under their purview and make recommendations that build on synergies and address trade-offs across such areas.**
23. As the understanding of the potential of the interlinkages among the SDGs for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda grows, expanding collaboration among subsidiary bodies is increasingly important. The assessment above shows that subsidiary bodies have already been increasing collaboration. But they are often more aware of the work of UN agencies than of the other subsidiary bodies.
- 24. The Council could consider providing further specific guidance to its subsidiary bodies to enhance coordination and exchanges so as to support the elaboration of integrated policy approaches to address the theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF and other issues within their purview, building on the interlinkages among the SDGs.**
- 25. The Council could further consider calling on all subsidiary bodies to consider mainstreaming the consideration of an issue in their work, in case this is recommended by one subsidiary body.**
- 26. While most of the subsidiary bodies engage a range of stakeholders in their work, ways could be found to deepen and broaden stakeholder participation.** Proposals to increase youth engagement in UN intergovernmental bodies will be considered as part of the follow-up to the

---

<sup>14</sup> Recommendation 9 and 17 emanate from the assessments by the bureau and/or the Coordination Segment. The other recommendations reflect the facilitator's reflections based on those assessments.

Secretary-General's report on Our Common Agenda. Several subsidiary bodies already do so and the others could be encouraged to do so, where possible.

27. **ECOSOC could recommend that subsidiary bodies dedicate an agenda item to the theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF and to the interrelations between their own priority theme, where applicable, and the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda<sup>15</sup>.**

#### IV. How ECOSOC can best use the outcomes of subsidiary bodies:

28. It is important to retain that technical nature of the work of each subsidiary body by ensuring participation of relevant decision makers and experts in the area within its mandate, while recognizing that it is up to each Member State to identify its representative.
29. **Member States could request the functional commissions and expert bodies to address the gaps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national or regional level which require support of the international community and can be addressed through global norms and standards, policy guidance or peer learning. This would encourage a demand driven approach to the work of the subsidiary bodies.**
30. The Council should seek to incorporate the outcome of the work of its subsidiary bodies in its own work in a more effective way, in order to benefit fully from their expertise. **The ECOSOC President could consider inviting more systematically the Chairs of subsidiary bodies to participate in round table discussions during the ECOSOC session, as done in 2022.**
31. **The HLPF could likewise draw more systematically from the inputs of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies for conducting its thematic reviews, including by building on innovative policy guidance, ideas and trends emanating from their work. .**
32. **Functional commissions and expert bodies could more systematically invite countries conducting Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF to participate in their session and engage in a dialogue on the implementation of the SDGs most closely related to their work. This would help to maximize peer learning on policy experiences emanating from the VNRs.**
33. Another important element is how ECOSOC addresses the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies. While the Council should avoid repeating the discussions in its subsidiary bodies, it should dedicate enough time to examine the content of their outcomes. Proactive engagement of Member States in the meetings of the Management Segment is critical in this regard.
34. The impact of the work of the subsidiary bodies on policies and people's lives is related to, among other things, on how their outcomes are followed up. **There is a critical role for countries to feed those outcomes back to their respective national ministries. ECOSOC could also dedicate part of its operational activities segment to examining critical outcomes of**

---

<sup>15</sup> Recommendations 20-27 are based on the bureaux' assessments and recommendation 28 is based on the facilitator's analysis of these assessments

**subsidiary bodies that require follow-up at country level.** Chairs of subsidiary bodies can be encouraged to participate in the governing bodies of UN system entities.

35. As mandated by the General Assembly last June, 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. This will be informed by the existing report of the Secretary-General synthesizing the inputs of the functional commissions of the Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums to the thematic review of the high-level political forum.” It will be important for Member States to fully engage in this exercise.
36. **More meaningful engagement from Member States in subsidiary bodies would also contribute to reducing duplication and avoiding creating additional structures to carry out work that fall under the purview of the mandates of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and can thus be easily carried out by them.** This was one of the recommendations emanating from the [2022 Coordination Segment](#).<sup>16</sup>

### C. Outcome of the review of the work of subsidiary bodies:

37. General Assembly resolution 75/290 A did not specify the format of the outcome of the review of the work of the subsidiary bodies. The Facilitator suggests that this be discussed in the informal consultations of ECOSOC in light of the conclusions and possible recommendations that emerge from the discussions and the assessments of the work of subsidiary bodies. The focus will be on the substance, which will ultimately determine the format of the outcome.
38. There are various options for the format that can be considered, such as:
- A summary by the President of ECOSOC
  - A summary by the President of ECOSOC with action-oriented recommendations for follow-up by subsidiary bodies, circulated through a letter of the ECOSOC President asking Chairs of subsidiary bodies to follow-up on the recommendations
  - A resolution or decision of ECOSOC

---

<sup>16</sup> Points 29 and 31-34 are from the bureaux’ assessments; 35-36 are from the facilitator’s analysis of those assessments and 37 is from ECOSOC Coordination Segment

## **Annex: Subsidiary Bodies of the Economic and Social Council**

### **Functional Commissions**

Statistical Commission

Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

Commission for Social Development (CSocD)

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

Commission on Sustainable Development (discontinued)

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

### **Regional Commissions**

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

### **Expert bodies composed of governmental experts**

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR)

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

## **Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity**

Committee for Development Policy (CDP)

Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII)

## **ECOSOC Standing Committees**

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)

Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies

## **Ad Hoc bodies**

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

Ad Hoc Open-ended working Group on Informatics (no longer meets)

## **Other related bodies**

International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN), now UN Nutrition

Committee for the United Nations Population Award

Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women