



INFORMAL NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

Leveraging ECOSOC for an inclusive and resilient recovery guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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¹ The informal note by the Secretariat builds on an analytical paper on the work of subsidiary bodies prepared by DESA consultant, Mr. Alberto Padova. The informal note draws upon the inputs received from the Secretariats of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN system entities, as well as their work on COVID-19 recovery and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The **UN System SDG Implementation online database**—the UN family’s repository of actions, initiatives and plans on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs has also been consulted in preparation of this note.





I. Introduction

With over 5.5 million deaths and 326 million cases to date² - and numbers still rising – and trillions of dollars in lost economic activity, the pandemic has taken a tremendous toll on people’s health, wellbeing and livelihoods around the world. Its multidimensional impact has also derailed many Sustainable Development Goals, which were already lagging behind before the pandemic. The recovery is fragile and highly uneven, with deep inequalities among countries in access to the vaccine and financial resources for recovery.

The Ministerial Declaration of the 2021 ECOSOC and high-level political forum on sustainable development showed that the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are the needed framework for an inclusive and sustainable recovery from COVID-19.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) needs to provide the policy guidance and coordinate the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, to ensure a more coherent and effective support to Members States in their response to the pandemic and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

With the new Coordination Segment, the Council can do just that, rallying its subsidiary system and the United Nations system entities behind action-oriented policies for accelerated progress in the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, through an enhanced global COVID-19 response. Guidance on the implementation of the ministerial declaration of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) can support that.

When it established the new Coordination Segment³, the General Assembly aimed to support the Council to effectively carry out its Charter coordination mandates and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the response to COVID-19. The Coordination Segment replaces the Integration Segment and the informal meeting of the Council with the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies.

The objectives of the new Coordination Segment, taking place early in the year, are:

To take up coordination matters arising from subsidiary bodies, principal organs and specialized agencies in the economic, social, environmental and related fields.	To steer the ECOSOC system towards an efficient and integrated workflow throughout the Council cycle leading up to the HLPF.	To provide forward-looking policy guidance to ensure coherence and direction in the policies and normative work of subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies relating to the 2030 Agenda as well as to other aspects of the work of the Council.
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² As of 17 January 2022 ([WHO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#) | [WHO Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Dashboard With Vaccination Data](#)).

³ General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#) of 25 June 2021 on the “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”





This informal note⁴ is prepared by the UN Secretariat, as mandated by the General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#), to inform the discussions at the Coordination Segment. The note presents the integrated policy analysis emanating from the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies during the previous cycle and proposes guidance for their contributions to the response to COVID-19 and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Coordination issues emanating from the work of subsidiary bodies and the policy and normative activities of specialized agencies and other United Nations system entities are also discussed, along with recommendations for addressing them. The note makes proposals related to the implementation of the 2021 ministerial declaration of the Council and the HLPF and lessons learned from the thematic reviews and voluntary national reviews conducted at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, with recommendations for follow-up.

II. A sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: messages from the ECOSOC system

This section provides integrated policy analysis emanating from the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council during the previous cycle and highlights their main policy messages, as well as those from the UN system, many of which were reflected in the 2021 Ministerial Declaration⁵. It outlines policy conclusions and proposed guidance for furthering their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Ministerial Declaration in the context of the pandemic, for consideration by the Council. A mapping of the work of the subsidiary bodies focused on the SDGs is provided as an additional tool to enhance the support of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda⁶.

In 2021, the main theme of ECOSOC and HLPF was *“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”*. In addition, the HLPF reviewed progress towards Goal 1 on ending poverty, Goal 2 on ending hunger, Goal 3 on ensuring good health and well-being, Goal 8 on promoting decent work and economic growth, Goal 10 on reducing inequalities, Goal 12 on ensuring responsible consumption and production, Goal 13 on taking urgent climate action, Goal 16 on promoting peace, justice and strong institutions, and Goal 17 on strengthening partnerships.

The 2021 theme of ECOSOC and HLPF and the nine goals under review strongly resonated in the work of the subsidiary bodies and UN entities, within their respective mandates. Indeed, an

⁴ This year’s note places a special focus on the work of subsidiary bodies and coordinated work and initiatives of the UN system and selected organizations. It does not aim to be exhaustive.

⁵ [E/HLS/2021/1](#)

⁶ See mapping of the work of the functional commissions and expert bodies in support of the SDGs in section VII.





analysis of the 2021 Ministerial Declaration shows that many key messages from the subsidiary bodies were reflected or inspired in the adopted document. The policy guidance of subsidiary bodies aims to support ECOSOC's own policy guidance through their deliberations and adopted resolutions and decisions. Subsidiary bodies also provide dedicated inputs to the HLPF thematic review.

A. The impact of and response to the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDGs

The pandemic was still unfolding in 2021. However, the magnitude of its impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs had already become apparent. All the Goals under review were impacted, in many cases reversing or slowing down progress.⁷ The multiple dimensions of the current crisis have put in stark relief the interlinkages among the SDGs.⁸ Concerns shared across the regions included the disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable social groups, inadequate social protection, reduced growth, disruptions to trade, inadequate connectivity, infrastructure and digital skills and the need for sufficient financing. The climate and biodiversity crises continued unabated, compounding the impact of the pandemic. Inequality was further exacerbated by COVID-19, through the impact of the pandemic and in some cases by the response to the pandemic. At the same time, inequalities led to disproportionate impact of the pandemic on vulnerable populations. In response to the pandemic, the Secretary-General and UN system entities issued a series of policy briefs to support Members States in their efforts to address the consequences of the crisis.⁹

Key developments in various regions

For **Africa**, the major barrier to recover from the pandemic and address structural challenges to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 remained the lack of liquidity and limited access to markets to mobilize financing for investment. **ECLAC** considered it imperative to develop a vulnerability matrix, given that per capita GDP did not always correctly reflect countries' real vulnerability, such as in the case of the Caribbean economies. In the **Economic Commission for Europe region**, all countries have been impacted by various economic shocks, on demand, supply and financing. Facilitating connectivity, addressing transboundary and other risks and supporting a green and resilient recovery were considered crucial in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic in this region. **In Asia and the Pacific region**, disruptions caused by COVID-19 revealed regional, national and subnational inequalities and vulnerabilities that had long exposed member States and their societies to economic and other shocks. Several important sectors have been severely impacted, including the tourism and hospitality industries. For **Arab countries**, common priorities included a focus on groups at risk of being left behind in the region,

⁷ [Report of the Secretary-General on "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals"](#)

⁸ For an analysis of interlinkages among SDGs, see United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs 'Sustainable Development Outlook 2021, Table 1, page 7. [Sustainable Development Outlook 2021: From anguish to determination \(un.org\)](#)

⁹ <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/UN-response>





addressing transboundary issues of priority for the achievement of SDGs, and highlighting the importance of regional cooperation and coordination in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 vaccines and the response to the pandemic

Under the leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General, the **United Nations system** continued to mobilize across the **health, humanitarian and socio-economic response** to promote multilateral efforts and global solidarity to control the pandemic and respond to its impacts.¹⁰ The **UN system** helped mobilize resources through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Trust Fund. In 2021, **WHO** and **UNICEF**, GAVI and partners, through the COVAX Facility, rolled out a global vaccination effort that led to more than 1 billion doses¹¹ being shipped through COVAX to 144 countries and territories. **IOM, UNICEF** and **UNHCR** have been advocating for migrant inclusion in vaccine priority groups and national COVID-19 vaccination plans and roll-out.

WHO led the coordinated and comprehensive health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, guided by a set of strategic frameworks and tools, including the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP). In October 2021, **WHO** launched its Strategy to Achieve Global COVID-19 Vaccination by mid-2022, with the goal of vaccinating 40 percent of people in all countries by the end of 2021, and 70 per cent by mid-2022.

As 2021 drew to an end, around 4.3 billion people worldwide had received a dose of COVID-19 vaccine, or around 55 per cent of the world population. However, these numbers hide striking disparities between rich and poor countries in access to vaccines, with only 10 per cent of the population in Africa receiving at least one dose, compared with a coverage between 63 and 71 per cent for most other regions (except the Middle East with 46 per cent). Many goals, commitments and pledges remain unfulfilled, including the critical goal of achieving 40 per cent vaccination coverage in every country by the end of 2021 and 70 per cent by mid-2022.¹² And vaccine disparity paves way to new virus strains, putting global public health at risk and hindering recovery. Most subsidiary bodies of the Council called for a more equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines during their deliberations and reflected this call in their outcomes.

More broadly, the pandemic revealed that a global crisis like no other needed a global response like no other, based on an unprecedented level of international solidarity and cooperation. The **development and deployment of COVID-19 diagnostics, testing and highly effective vaccines** in record time was an example of unprecedented cooperation that was life-saving and vital for the recovery. The safe transport of COVID-19 vaccines was possible due to provisions adopted by the

¹⁰ See latest update on [UN system's COVID-19 response](#).

¹¹ As of 17 January 2022 (See latest at <https://www.gavi.org/covax-vaccine-roll-out>)

¹² [Ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations](https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations); COVID GAP Report 'Holding the World to Account: Urgent Actions Needed to Close Gaps in the Global COVID-19 Response', 18 November 2021 ([Home - The COVID-19 Global Accountability Project](#) (covid19gap.org))





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

But international cooperation and international solidarity fell short of what was needed to lift the world out of the pandemic. The **Committee for Development Policy (CDP)** reiterated its call for a reform of the multilateral system, urging the Council to take stock of the lessons learned from the shortcomings of the multilateral and regional responses to COVID-19 and, in line with the calls for an inclusive and networked multilateralism, put in motion an open and transparent process to identify and implement the changes that will ensure that the system supports equitable, sustainable and resilient development.¹³ The **Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)** emphasized that global cooperation and solidarity was critical to supporting developing countries in achieving the crucial objective – of interest to all nations – of making these countries’ public institutions, their societal and physical infrastructures, and their economies more resilient and agile, not only against COVID-19 but all potential future shocks. The **Council** brought to the limelight the role of systemic inequality in the impact of and the response to the pandemic, with particular emphasis on the access to the vaccines, at its special meeting on “A Vaccine for All”. The **Council** stressed the importance of universal and equitable access to vaccines and strengthening cooperation on production, distribution, technology, and meeting the financing gap and building back better.

The unequal impact of COVID-19

Across the UN system and the Council’s subsidiary bodies, evidence showed that the pandemic exposed and deepened existing inequalities within and among countries. Many subsidiary bodies showed how women and girls and vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as, youth and children, older persons, migrants and refugees, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and those living in conflict-affected countries were the hardest hit and put forward policy recommendations in this regard. The **Commission for Social Development (CSocD)** deliberated on paths to achieve a socially just transition towards sustainable development, including the link between social protection and resilience and inclusiveness of recovery efforts. Disadvantaged social groups, such as women, ethnic minorities, immigrants and low skilled workers have been at a greater risk of unemployment and income loss, especially when working in the informal sector, which typically lacks social protection coverage. In a resolution on its special theme, the **Commission on Population and Development (CPD)** brought attention to the prominence of equitable and sustainable food systems for a resilient recovery as well as for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, highlighting the importance of safeguarding food security during the pandemic, especially to women and girls, infants and young children. The resolution also made an important contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit and the UN Climate Change

¹³ Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-third session [E/2021/33] and Development Policy and Multilateralism after COVID-19 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.20.II.A.2): <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wpcontent/uploads/sites/45/CDP-Covid-19-and-Multilateralism.pdf>.





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Conference (COP26). The **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** assessed that the pandemic continued to aggravate hardship among forest-dependent people and communities, particularly due to reduced income and access to markets, services and information. **UNFF**, which launched its first flagship publication¹⁴, stressed that COVID-19 was a stark reminder that the protection, conservation and restoration of nature, in particular forests, was essential to preventing future infectious and zoonotic diseases and that forests had the potential to offset many of the social, economic and environmental impacts of the pandemic and other global challenges, assessments which were endorsed by the Council¹⁵.

Accounting for 70 per cent of global health professionals¹⁶, women were more exposed to the virus while also bearing the brunt of unpaid domestic and care work. The **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, **CSocD** and **CPD** noted that a disproportionate burden of care fell on women, both in the healthcare sector and at home, also as a result of school closures and lack of access to childcare facilities¹⁷. Moreover, the pandemic exposed the weaknesses of health systems in all countries, such as resource gaps and the limited capacity to respond to surges in new patients. In addition to the millions of deaths and health damages experienced by the hundreds of millions of people infected by the virus, the pandemic also led to huge disruptions in immunization and other health-care programmes unrelated to the disease. This resulted in additional morbidity and deaths from preventable communicable and non-communicable diseases.¹⁸ Moreover, the stresses caused by the pandemic further negatively affected families' mental health and saw a rise in substance abuse and domestic violence. As the shadow pandemic of domestic violence bore evidence, the Secretary-General issued a global call to end all violence against women, including at home¹⁹. **UN-Women** issued an Inter-agency statement on violence against women and girls in the context of COVID-19²⁰ and published a series of policy briefs on the topic²¹.

To assess the extent to which policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic have been gender-sensitive, **UNDP** and **UN Women** developed and launched a **COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker** which includes 2,500 measures across 206 countries and territories.²² To promote a

¹⁴ <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/outreach/global-forests-goal-report-2021/index.html>

¹⁵ [E/RES/2021/6](#) and Council decision 2021/225.

¹⁶ United Nations, 'World economic situation and prospects as of mid-2021'. E/2021/60. New York.

¹⁷ [E/RES/2021/9](#), [E/RES/2021/10](#), and Council decisions 2021/228, 2021/230 and 2021/226. CSW [Agreed Conclusions](#) are transmitted to the Council in accordance with GA resolutions 68/1 and 70/1 in the report of the Commission as an input to the work of the Council.

¹⁸ For example, according to WHO, 47,000 additional deaths from malaria in 2020 were linked to disruptions caused by the pandemic. ([WHO News release 6 December 2021](#)).

¹⁹ UN chief calls for domestic violence 'ceasefire' amid 'horrifying global surge':

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061052>

²⁰ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/6/statement-inter-agency-statement-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-context-of-covid-19>

²¹ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/series-evaw-covid-19-briefs>

²² <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response#tracker>





gender-responsive recovery from the pandemic, **UN Women** launched “*Beyond COVID-19: A feminist plan for sustainability and social justice*” which outlines ambitious and transformative policies needed to build a more equal and sustainable future.²³

The issue of gender-based violence was prominent in the deliberations and agreed conclusions²⁴ of **CSW** and was also addressed by the **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples (PFII)** which highlighted the increased violence against indigenous women²⁵. The **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)** further addressed gender-based crime, as well as another critical aspect that surfaced during the pandemic: cybercrime. It warned that cybercriminals were capitalizing on the anxieties and fears of underprivileged groups as well as on the increased demand for COVID-19 related medical products, which has generated a diverse number of fraud schemes. The **Commission on the Narcotic Drugs (CND)** further pointed to the worsening of the world drug problem with COVID-19, adopting a statement²⁶ identifying good practices and outlining actions to address this challenge.

The **Committee on Development Policy (CDP)** warned that vulnerable countries, such as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), bore a disproportionate share of the burden of the impact, even when the spread of the pandemic in these countries was lower than expected. This was due to plunging tourist revenues, falling exports and employment, vulnerability to disasters, limited fiscal space and often already high debt levels, among others. The **CDP** called for new international support measures for graduating and graduated LDCs while also putting forward policy recommendations on finance and debt relief, health, climate change and social protection.

Data, science and digital technologies

The ability to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic affected on people and across groups of society, develop needs assessments, design effective policies and tools, and monitor implementation and progress depends on the availability of reliable and quality data. The **Statistical Commission** emphasized the integral role of the national statistical offices, which served as data stewards for informed decisions by policymakers and citizens alike. In addition to building capacity and continuing to develop tools and frameworks, **the Statistical Commission** adopted the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA), a significant step towards complementing GDP as a measure of development progress and ensuring that natural capital is also recognized in economic reporting²⁷. **CDP** has also been discussing the challenges of considering solely a metric such as GDP to measure wealth and the

²³ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/09/feminist-plan-for-sustainability-and-social-justice#view>

²⁴ [E/2021/27](#)

²⁵ [E/2021/43](#)

²⁶ Resolution 64/1: https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/Drug_Resolutions/2020-2029/2021/resolution_64_1.pdf

²⁷ Council decision 2021/224; [E/2021/24](#), Decision 52/108.





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related impact in countries in different stages of development and facing varied sources of vulnerabilities, such as LDCs and middle-income countries.

The **Statistical Commission** also stressed that lack of quality data remained a critical gap in implementing the 2030 Agenda, a message that has been echoed by many subsidiary bodies, such as the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** and the **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**, which recommended that Member States collect and disseminate disaggregated statistical data on indigenous peoples, in close cooperation with indigenous peoples themselves, to support evidence-based policymaking and programming.

The visual geospatial dashboards were instrumental in providing real time status of virus' spread. As shown by the **United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Information Management (UN-GGIM)** there is critical value to be gained from combining and integrating location-based data with other data types, including statistics. Such dashboards are enabled by global frameworks such as the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) adopted by **UN-GGIM** in 2017. The United Nations launched one such tool, **the COVID-19 Stimulus Tracker**, an innovative and pioneering global observatory of social protection and economic policy responses of the Governments, to inform peer learning about policy actions, strengthen policymaking capacity, and improve government readiness to formulate effective policy responses to future shocks.

Science, technology and innovation (STI) have been instrumental to the response to the health, economic and social disruptions of the crisis, as recognized in the deliberations by the **Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)**. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have enabled continuity in health care provision, education and business, with the rapid adoption of e-health, e-learning, telework, e-commerce and e-government. Digitalization and the transition to an information society have leapt forward. Highlighting the potential of blockchain for development, **CSTD** noted that collaborative, multistakeholder partnerships could help orient blockchain innovation towards sustainable solutions in areas such as land titles, remittances, identity systems, climate change and financial inclusion. Intrinsic risks – related to being often dissociated from the real economy, lack of regulation, the fast pace of innovation, however, needed to be fully taken into account.

At the same time **ITU, CSTD, CSocD, CSW, CDP** and **CEPA** pointed out how the pandemic has exposed persistent **digital divides** in terms of access, connectivity, affordability and digital literacy. This further exacerbated socio-economic inequalities within and among countries, generations and genders. **ECLAC** has proposed measures to universalize connectivity and affordability of digital technologies to address the impacts of the pandemic in the region.²⁸ **CSTD** further warned that biotechnological development has far outpaced regulatory development and called for increased attention to ethical concerns with new biotechnologies.

²⁸ <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/45939-universalizing-access-digital-technologies-address-consequences-covid-19>





During this period, digital technologies have also facilitated the spread of xenophobia, hate speech and related practices in the cyber world leading to discriminatory practices. The **United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)** pointed out that the naming of a disease based on its geographical origination can also lead to bias, discriminatory and xenophobic actions. It has thus been a positive step to move towards identifying COVID-19 and its variants by its scientific name and alphabetically, respectively, rather than by the countries of their first occurrences.

Education is central to realizing the SDGs and the future of societies. COVID-19 has proven to be the biggest disruptor of education, affecting over a billion students; at the same time, the rise of mis- and disinformation during the pandemic has further emphasized the importance of education as a fundamental ally in the prevention of extremism and in building the skills and competences to operate in diverse societies. **UNESCO** launched [a Global Education Coalition](#) to bring together more than 175 members from the UN family, civil society, academia and the private sector to support countries in scaling up their best distance learning practices and reaching children and youth who are most at risk. And **UNICEF's Reimagine Education** focused on making digital learning relevant to every children and young persons.

Human-centred recovery

The **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)** issued a statement²⁹ on universal affordable vaccination against COVID-19, international cooperation and intellectual property. The **PFII** also deliberated on several aspects of human rights of indigenous peoples, emphasizing that all COVID-19 recovery plans should take a human rights-based approach that promotes the rights to self-determination, lands, territories and resources and accessible quality healthcare and education.

The **UN system**, within the context of the **UN system Chief Executives Board for Coordination**, took action to jointly address rising inequalities, which have been exacerbated and brought into stark relief by the COVID-19 pandemic. The **UN Shared Framework for Action on Equality and Nondiscrimination** presents a system-wide approach to combatting inequalities and for promoting economic and social rights and gender equality.³⁰ The Framework is being operationalized at the country-level through the work of the UN Sustainable Development Group. **UN System entities** also jointly issued a policy brief³¹ to address the policy implications of the pandemic and outline transformative actions to put societies on a path to greater equality and sustainability and to enable all people to enjoy the full range of human rights.³² Inter-agency work on inequalities continues in 2022 with a view to elevate engagement and ambition in support the achievement of SDG10 and SDG5.

²⁹ https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E/C.12/2021/1&Lang=en

³⁰ <https://unsceb.org/un-system-framework-action-equality>

³¹ <https://unsceb.org/covid-19-inequalities-and-building-back-better-policy-brief-hlcp-inequalities-task-team>

³² <https://unsceb.org/covid-19-inequalities-and-building-back-better-policy-brief-hlcp-inequalities-task-team>





Financing for recovering from COVID-19 and achieving the 2030 Agenda

According to the United Nations [COVID-19 Stimulus Tracker](#), there is sharp inequality between recovery packages of high, low- and middle-income countries. The 132 low- and middle-income countries account for only 10 per cent of global stimulus while the 62 high-income countries account for 90 per cent of it. According to the [CDP](#), the bulk of the massive stimulus packages took place in developed countries, while many developing countries were constrained by limited fiscal space and often already high debt levels. With a drop in foreign investment and tourism revenues, financial conditions were especially challenging in least developed countries and small island developing states.

In response to the calls for debt relief³³ for the most vulnerable countries and following the initiatives by the Group of 20 countries, the [IMF](#) approved the largest allocation of Special Drawing Rights in history, of \$650 billion, in August 2021. As the allocation is in proportion to countries' quotas in the Fund, [CDP](#) stressed that a voluntary redistribution of SDRs from high-income countries to countries in need would be essential for it to have a significant impact.

The scale of resources needed to recover from the crisis and enable countries to refocus on achieving the SDGs is such that all financing sources, domestic, international, public and private must be tapped. Broadening the tax base, curbing tax avoidance, evasion and money laundering, as underscored by the [UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters](#), and returning stolen assets continue to be critical for countries to finance their response to the crisis and for achieving the SDGs. Integrated national financing frameworks can help countries carry out their sustainable development strategies. International support will be indispensable, particularly for vulnerable countries. Supporting efforts by micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSME) to access finance and government support during the COVID-19 crisis is also crucial to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. [The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting \(ISAR\)](#), in cooperation with [UNCTAD](#) and UN partners, delivered technical cooperation to governments and entrepreneurs to facilitate resurgence and strengthen MSME resilience during the pandemic.

[UNDRR](#) warned that the nature and scale of **risk** has been changing, surpassing the capacity of traditional risk approaches. Integrating risk considerations into the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including emerging lessons learned from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, is fundamental for a resilient, green, and equitable recovery from the crisis. Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 across the UN system is informed by the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, which was adopted by the CEB in 2016. The Plan supports efforts to integrate multi-hazard risk considerations and DRR in COVID-19 response recovery, through a whole-of-[UN system](#), whole of government, multi-stakeholder and multi-sector approach.

³³ See SG Policy Brief on [Liquidity and Debt Solutions to Invest in the SDGs: The Time to Act is Now](#).





B. Priority areas for follow-up of the 2021 Ministerial Declaration

Two years into the pandemic and based on guidance from the 2021 Ministerial Declaration, there are important lessons to be learned. Many were captured in the outcomes and work of the ECOSOC system. They can help countries achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery. The 2021 Ministerial Declaration called for international solidarity in response to the vaccine. It underscored that the recovery should not be a return to pre-crisis development patterns but an opportunity for effecting the changes needed to realize the SDGs, a message that also emanated from many subsidiary bodies. The declaration also addressed recommendations, in particular for the UN system's attention, including sustainable consumption and production, digital transformation, climate change and risk-informed policies. References were also made to the regional dimensions and specific challenges faced by the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.

In view of the 2021 Ministerial Declaration and lessons learned from the response to COVID-19, the UN system and subsidiary bodies could be invited to enhance their work to follow up and develop policy guidance on the priority areas listed below. These priority areas, many of which are also addressed in the 2030 Agenda, could also guide the upcoming work in the ECOSOC forums and segments as well as the HLPF. All subsidiary bodies and the UN system should also provide inputs to the thematic reviews of the July 2022 HLPF.

First, the evidence has revealed **that vaccine equity is the single most important measure to contain the disease and sustain the recovery**. Predictable distribution of vaccines to the countries and people further behind, especially in LDCs, also by sharing excess doses, needs to be urgently accelerated. This is not just the ethical thing to do, it is the way to prevent the development of new variants and a further protraction of the pandemic. To this end, the COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and its COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) need to be supported and fully funded. Country-level capacity for effective and efficient vaccination and testing should be strengthened and local manufacturing and delivery capabilities developed and scaled up. Timely and equitable access to promising oral therapies for all countries is also essential.

Second, countries with even basic universal health coverage did better than countries at similar income levels at confronting COVID-19 but with weaker health coverage. Meanwhile, even countries with sophisticated health coverage in place were overwhelmed by the pandemic. **The ECOSOC system should support countries' efforts to strengthen their health systems towards implementing the 2019 Political declaration of the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on universal health coverage and WHO recommendations on UHC, maternal and child health care services**. This is both a key element in the response to the current pandemic and an essential building block of prevention and preparedness ahead of future shocks.





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Third, the evidence has shown that universal social protection is critical in times of crisis, as financial assistance can be scaled up quickly to address most urgent needs created by unemployment, sickness or other shocks. Social protection systems are a very effective tool in reducing inequality and poverty and achieving health-related goals, gender equality, decent work and inclusive economic growth. **The ECOSOC system should support countries' efforts to develop or strengthen nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable. This is an essential part of the new social contract, anchored in human rights, between Governments and their people and within societies called for by the Secretary-General in his report on Our Common Agenda.**

Fourth, transforming the food systems aligned with the 2030 Agenda can play an essential role in driving the global recovery. With about 10 per cent of the world's population still going hungry, and that number rising, **global integrated food systems and adequate farming technologies are integral to reduce poverty and hunger, deliver affordable, healthy diets for all, and protect the planet.**

Fifth, despite efforts to protect biodiversity and eco-systems and expand sustainable forest management, progress towards meeting the biodiversity and ecosystem-related targets with a 2020 deadline has been uneven and generally not sufficient to halt biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. The continued loss of forests and wildlife has drawn attention to the interlinkages between biodiversity and human health and the risks of recurrent zoonotic epidemics and pandemics. Under the current Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, **urgent and more ambitious action is needed to reverse biodiversity loss, deforestation, climate change and pollution, with integrated ecosystem-based approaches, nature-based solutions and sustainable consumption and production, thereby also addressing crimes that affect the environment.**

Sixth, in order to achieve an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery from the current crisis, the **ECOSOC system** should support countries' efforts to **pursue growth paths which prioritize employment creation and promote a decoupling of growth from environmental degradation.** Recovery efforts should support the three dimensions of sustainable development and create decent jobs. It would be important to address the impact of pandemic on MSMEs. Sectors most at risk, such as accommodation, tourism, food services, retail and manufacturing, must be supported. Decoupling growth from environmental degradation will also entail changing consumption and production patterns, by reducing food loss and waste, preventing plastic pollution, fostering greater resource efficiency, a better management of chemicals and waste, and sustainability education. These actions will also advance progress towards the biodiversity-related targets.

Seventh, driving transformative change towards inclusive and resilient societies requires **women's empowerment, through meaningful participation and leadership in decision-making,**





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in the economy, and in recovery efforts, equal pay for work of equal value, equal access to land and natural resources and eliminating discrimination and violence against women. Further progress should also be made in the adoption and implementation of national action plans to achieve gender parity by 2030.

Eighth, the need for effective, accountable and transparent institutions, which can help building trust, is even more urgent in view of the shocks from the pandemic, with governments facing decreasing revenues and increasing expenditures. This is especially the case in conflict-affected countries, where progress towards peace and security has been hindered. Recovery efforts must be guided by effective governance, particularly in service delivery and the management of public finances. This also entails addressing corruption, tax evasion, and illicit financial flows, which divert funds from the treasury and undermine the provision of essential public services and people's trust in their institutions.

Ninth, the pandemic has shown the importance of **the science-policy interface and the need for evidence-based policies.** The **ECOSOC system** should help countries strengthen research and development efforts, scale up the application of STI solutions, promote technology transfer and diffusion, and capacity building while countering the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes. Achieving the digital transformation requires building sufficient infrastructure, and access to digital technologies and skills, particularly in LDCs and other vulnerable countries. The potential benefits of new technologies must be made available to all, taking into account the needs of the more vulnerable people. Universal connectivity must be put at the forefront of sustainable development efforts. Investing in timely, reliable and disaggregated data and statistics, as well as geospatial information, is critical to monitor the pandemic and to respond to it through evidence-based approaches. It is equally critical to leaving no one behind, achieving the SDGs and building foresight and resilience to risks and future shocks. Efforts to improve the measurement of the contribution by the private sector to the SDGs are also important.

Finally, the pandemic has highlighted that significant progress in all the above areas and the realization of the 2030 Agenda are only possible with a **stronger focus on the most vulnerable groups.** The **ECOSOC system** must continue strengthening the operationalization of the principle of leaving no one behind, including by embracing a comprehensive vision of human rights. The Council could provide further guidance on how to operationalize the leave no one behind principle building on the existing efforts by the **UN Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB)** and **UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)** and taking into account the assessments of **all subsidiary bodies, including the Committee on ESCR**³⁴

³⁴ The Committee on ESCR has elaborated a position paper on LNOB and is currently working on guidance related to the 2030 Agenda





III. **Lessons learned from the HLPF Thematic Reviews and Voluntary National Reviews**

Some subsidiary bodies, such as **CDP**, **PfII** and **CEPA**, are already conducting some work related to the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) conducted at the HLPF (**CDP** with its analysis of the reports, and **CEPA** by engaging VNR countries in a dialogue on the institutional aspects of SDG 16). For example, **CDP**'s analysis of VNRs has illustrated systematic under-reporting on environmental sustainability, inequality and LDCs' structural constraints. Other subsidiary bodies, such as **CPD**, are also considering engaging VNR countries in their deliberations, dialogues, and special events.

The Regional Commissions continue to support Member States throughout their VNR processes. This support includes discussion at regional forums on sustainable development. Other examples include a community of practice for VNR countries in the Arab Region and the Latin America and the Caribbean region, dedicated workshops, targeted support and technical assistance, generating guidance and tools to strengthen the localization of the 2030 Agenda.

According to **UN Women**, VNRs reflect gender perspectives unevenly, with references to institutional arrangements and efforts in gender mainstreaming. Issues that are addressed include measures to address violence against women and girls, women in decision-making and women's access to decent work.

Interaction of **subsidiary bodies** with VNR countries in the preparatory process of VNR reports could be an opportunity to bring specific aspects of the 2030 Agenda into the VNR reports. **ISAR**'s support for the measurement of the contribution of the private sector to the SDGs, for example, could provide data for the preparation of VNRs. **DESA** involves secretariats of subsidiary bodies in global VNR workshops and in supporting individual VNR countries.

CDP recommends that for VNRs to support a transformative approach to SDG implementation, greater attention needs to be given to goals and targets on environment, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, as well as SDG 17, including support to LDCs.³⁵ VNRs should also explore the commitment to reach the furthest behind first and address the trade-offs to ensure policies do not push people behind.

IV. **Strengthening impact of the work of ECOSOC, its subsidiary bodies, the HLPF and the UN system**

The section identifies, for possible guidance by ECOSOC, coordination issues emanating from the work of subsidiary bodies and the policy and normative activities of specialized agencies and other United Nations system entities. To this end, this section highlights examples of collaboration among functional commissions, expert bodies and UN system entities on topics of

³⁵ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/CDP-bp-2021-52.pdf>





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common interest or coordination issues. It then identifies steps the Council could take to strengthen the impact of this work.

Recommendations of the General Assembly for enhancing further the work of subsidiary bodies and ECOSOC, main themes of the Council and the interlinkages among the SDGs have had two key results—in recent years: increased thematic alignment by subsidiary bodies around the Council/HLPF theme; and growing collaboration among ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and with the United Nations system. Such collaboration has typically taken the form of organization of joint events, technical inputs and contributions to subsidiary bodies by UN system entities and participation by the Chairs in sessions of other bodies.

Recent examples of the above include the following collaborations:

- Between **CSocD** and **CSTD** on **CSocD**'s 59th session priority theme ('Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and wellbeing of all');
- Between **the Statistical Commission** and **CCPCJ** on the Implementation of the Kyoto Declaration in the area of crime statistics;
- Regular contributions on data and indicators, particularly the Global Indicator Framework for the 2030 Agenda by the **Statistical Commission** to several functional commissions and expert bodies (**CND**; **CPD**; **CSocD**; **CSW**; **PFI**; and **ISAR**);
- Collaboration between the **Statistical Commission**, **UN-GGIM** and **UNEGN**, on the integration of statistics and geospatial information and the standardization of geographical names;
- Between **CEPA**, **CDP**, **CPD** and the Peacebuilding Commission on institution building for sustainable development;
- Between **CSW** and: **PFI**; **CSTD**; **the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF)**; **CND**; **CCPCJ**; and **the Statistical Commission**, for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- Between the **Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters** and other international bodies, such as **OECD**, **IMF**, **World Bank Group** and regional tax groupings;
- Between **PFI** and **UNEGN**, with members of the Permanent Forum being invited to contribute to **UNEGN**'s work; and
- Between **CESCR** and **PFI** on indigenous issues.

Regular collaboration also takes place between the functional commissions and expert bodies with the **regional commissions** and with **UN system organizations**. In some cases, collaboration has also been facilitated by the existence of voluntary interagency support groups. Examples





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include the [Collaborative Partnership on Forests](#), comprising fifteen international organizations, institutions and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests; and [the Interagency Support Group on Indigenous Issues](#), comprising over forty member organizations, with the aim to promote the PFII mandate within the UN system and strengthen mutual collaboration. The [UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development \(IANYD\)](#), which consists of around 56 UN entities, advocates for, supports and reviews progress on the implementation of UN Resolutions, Conventions and the internationally agreed development goals that are youth-related. The IANYD partnered with the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) to create the [COVID-19 Youth Action Platform](#), to give visibility to a diverse set of youth initiatives responding to COVID-19 and to the health, social, and economic consequences of the pandemic.

Collaboration with other stakeholders, such as civil society, local governments, academia and the private sector, is another essential element in the work of the [ECOSOC system](#). While the degree of their engagement varies, depending in part on the mandates and nature of each subsidiary body, reflections on ways to further strengthen such engagement are called for in the Secretary-General's report on Our Common Agenda.

In this regard, it is worth noting that the acceleration of the digital transformation prompted by the pandemic has facilitated new forms of collaboration, as well as greater inclusiveness. For example, several subsidiary bodies, such as [CCPCJ](#) and [CND](#), have further broadened opportunities for engagement with civil society by expanding the use of digital tools.

A review of the work of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC is under way, as mandated by paragraph 33 of the annex of GA resolution 75/290 A, with a deadline for completion of July 2022. However, reflections and consultations within and among subsidiary bodies on ways to strengthen their contributions have already started.

Preliminary suggestions emerging from ongoing reflections include the following:

1. [More systematic integration between the review process led by the HLPF and the policy and normative work by the ECOSOC system](#). Inputs of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and UN system should be taken into account in the deliberations on the draft ECOSOC/HLPF Ministerial Declaration. In addition, subsidiary bodies could review the latest Ministerial Declaration when preparing their outcomes and agendas, to include the most relevant elements. The follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration by the UN system could be incorporated into strategic plans and documents for discussion at the Executive Boards.
2. The Council could identify key interlinkages across the SDGs to be considered for follow up by subsidiary bodies and UN system entities. Guidance could also be provided by ECOSOC on [key interlinkages among the SDGs under review](#), inviting relevant bodies and UN system entities to come together for joint follow-up, for example at the Coordination Segment. For 2022 Goals under review, for example, the Council could highlight the strong interlinkages between SDG5 and other SDGs, in particular SDG4, as well as the interlinkages among SDGs





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14 and 15. And with regard to the 2023 Goals under review, the Council could highlight the strong links among SDG 6, 7 and 11 (as well as SDG1) and invite relevant bodies and UN system entities to provide joint inputs.

3. In addition, the in-depth review of SDG5 in 2022 is an opportunity for all subsidiary bodies and UN system entities to address the **gender dimensions of the SDGs** in their work. Consistent efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into the work of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies as well as in the policies and programmes of the UN system, building on existing plans, tools and initiatives, would be a key contribution to creating greater policy coherence.
4. Given the urgency for **climate action**, in particular for countries vulnerable to climate change, the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies can contribute to overcoming silo approaches in favor of cross-sectoral decision-making and innovative solutions that unlock synergies for climate action and the SDGs. For example, the ECOSOC system reflects on aspects related to mobilizing science, technology and innovation to combat climate change; climate finance; the use of taxation; improving data; impacts on vulnerable populations; socio-economic dimensions or the role of government and stakeholders in climate action. Within their respective mandates, the subsidiary bodies could collaborate on how COVID-19 recovery efforts must be aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of the Paris Agreement to “build forward better”.
5. A more **systematic mainstreaming of a focus on countries in special situations** by subsidiary bodies would help to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is implemented everywhere, leaving no country behind.
6. The **early decision** by the General Assembly on the **annual theme** for the **ECOSOC/HLPF** sessions, as well as the Goals to be reviewed by the Forum in 2024, as decided by the GA in its June resolution, would facilitate further alignment by ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, as well as their contribution to the Ministerial Declaration.
7. The Council could provide guidance to scale up and accelerate efforts by the **UN system** to systematically integrate the vision and principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDG throughout its strategic plans, work programmes, and activities and to ensure that their support to Member States in recovery from the pandemic are aligned with the SDGs and accelerate their implementation. **UN system specialized agencies, including independent specialized agencies, and other UN entities** could:
 - identify interlinkages between the SDGs and strengthen cooperation in those areas where the linkages are strongest;
 - further analyze policies that aim to respond to COVID-19 while advancing the SDGs, and develop policy guidance based on lessons learned and approaches that delivered good results;





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- follow-up and implement the recommendations directed to the UN system in the 2021 Ministerial Declaration of ECOSOC and the HLPF, along with other recommendations, and provide information on their respective follow-up actions through the note of the Secretary-General to the 2023 coordination segment;
- review the lessons from the HLPF voluntary national reviews and thematic reviews and take them into account in developing their policy recommendations, programmes, plans and activities;
- elaborate policies and actions that can contribute to the elaboration of a possible global vaccine plan, as proposed by the Secretary-General in Our Common Agenda.
- **Specialized agencies**, through their collaboration with various sectoral ministries, could be encouraged to help countries take a more coordinated and integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, building on the General Assembly guidance on UN development system operational activities.

V. The Way Forward: 2022 ECOSOC and HLPF guidance on an SDG-guided recovery

The COVID-19 crisis has provided a unique opportunity to build back better by addressing some of the underlying weaknesses and vulnerabilities exposed by the pandemic. Only then it will be possible to achieve a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient development pathway and realize the SDGs. The theme of the 2022 ECOSOC and HLPF is *“Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*. And the following Goals will be reviewed in depth: SDG 4 (education), SDG 5 (gender), SDG 14 (oceans), SDG 15 (terrestrial ecosystems) and SDG 17 (means of implementation and partnerships). While the focus will be primarily on people (4 and 5); planet (14 and 15); and partnerships (17), there are opportunities to highlight the interlinkages with the other SDGs building on the work of the United Nations entities.

Several subsidiary bodies have aligned their thematic focus to that of ECOSOC, making their contribution directly relevant to both the recovery and advancing the 2030 Agenda.³⁶ In so doing, they will take up key priority areas highlighted in Section II, above. For example, **CSocD** 60th session’s priority theme addresses ‘Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19’.³⁷ By focusing on poverty and hunger, the Commission will also address other related policy areas, such as education, health, gender equality, water and sanitation, inclusive growth and decent

³⁶ See mapping of the work of the functional commissions and expert bodies in support of the SDGs in section VII. An overview of the themes of the sessions of the ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies during the 2022 session of the Council can also be found in the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies website at <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/ecosoc-subsidiary-bodies>.

³⁷ ‘Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, wellbeing and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda’.





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work, inequality, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, environmental degradation, peaceful and inclusive societies, and partnerships. This provides opportunities for cooperation with other subsidiary bodies and UN system entities on relevant issues.

With its special theme in 2022 zeroing in on sustained and inclusive economic growth, **CPD** will also consider population trends, such as population ageing, and even population decline in some countries, and rapid population growth in others and reflect on their implications on inclusive and sustainable development. Policy options to be examined will include education and lifelong learning, reproductive health, consumption patterns, climate change, natural ecosystems, affordable childcare, immigration.

The **UN Forum on Forests** will tackle the impact of the pandemic on forests and the forest sector, in the context of accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Global Forest Goals, including to halt and then reverse deforestation by 2030. It will also discuss enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits; and mobilizing financial resources and cooperation for sustainable forest management. Besides biodiversity and ecosystems, forests are also closely linked with several other Goals, including poverty, food security, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, and inequality. This is especially relevant for indigenous peoples, for example in the case of land degradation due to deforestation and mining.

In some cases, subsidiary bodies will address a common theme from different angles, creating the potential for synergies. For example, both **CSW** and **CEPA** will address issues related to climate change, from their own perspective - gender equality and the empowerment of women for the former and governance, institutions and public administration aspects for the latter. Both perspectives cut across the entire 2030 Agenda.

With SDG 5 under review at the 2022 HLPF, all subsidiary bodies have an opportunity to address the gender dimension of all SDGs. By also reviewing women's empowerment in the changing world of work, **CSW** will consider policies related to participation in decision making; discrimination; inequalities; care work (both paid and unpaid); violence against women and girls; and economic insecurity, especially for workers in the informal sector, among others.

Moreover, **CSTD** and **CDP** will focus on complementary aspects related to industry. **CSTD** will explore the adoption of frontier technologies by manufacturing sectors, and its impact on prospects for industrialization and structural transformation in developing countries, as well as on inequalities. It will also look into possible joint actions at international level to help bridge digital divides and promote the diffusion of technologies. **CDP** will consider industrial policy and how it can be formulated and implemented both to advance the more traditional goal of structural transformation but also the new challenges of a green transition and climate resilience, equality (including gender equality) and recovery from COVID-19.

It would be important to incorporate disaster risk reduction throughout the work of subsidiary bodies, including to promote synergies between the implementation and review processes of the





2030 Agenda and Sendai Framework. Some of the most important risks faced by humankind today are environment-related. Building the resilience of marine and land ecosystems should be considered within the HLPF review of SDGs 14 and 15. The Words into Action Guidelines on Nature-Based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction guides Member States and other stakeholders on working with nature rather than against it.³⁸

The 2022 theme and the SDGs under review, especially SDGs 4 and 5, also provide an opportunity to address the urgent need for job recovery for young people, especially young women, who continue to face the greatest employment deficits. Inequality dynamics have been reinforced by the pandemic, notably for youth and women, with implications on skills training and educational attainment. ECLAC has proposed to position the care economy as a sector to fuel the recovery.

The reviews of SDG5 and SDG15 provide an opportunity to focus on rural women. Around 80 percent of the world's extreme poor live in rural areas, they represent nearly half of all agricultural workers but face serious restrictions in terms of access in general, for example to financing, markets, health and education services for themselves and their family, and to land and land rights. Furthermore, it would be important to focus on rural areas in the work of subsidiary bodies and for all SDGs under review at the HLPF as 84 percent of the multidimensionally poor live in rural areas.³⁹

Finally, the review of SDG 14 and 15 this year provides an opportunity for the ECOSOC system to address the environment-related SDGs within the context of their main themes, including by engaging entities specialized in those issues during their sessions, or convening intersessional joint panels. This year's Coordination Segment is a timely occasion to consider possible options for promoting a more systematic attention to the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the future.

VI. Conclusions

It is important to redouble efforts to follow-up on the policies recommended by subsidiary bodies and agreed by the Council last year. The paper has highlighted the following priority areas where further coordinated and coherent action is needed: equitable global access to vaccines; basic universal health coverage; universal social protection; new food systems that reduce poverty and hunger; reversing deforestation, biodiversity loss and pollution; sustainable and inclusive growth paths; women's empowerment; transparent and accountable institutions; an inclusive digital transformation; and a stronger focus on the most vulnerable.

³⁸ Available at <https://www.undrr.org/publication/words-action-nature-based-solutions-disaster-risk-reduction>

³⁹ A/76/239





In recent years, the ECOSOC system has largely aligned its work to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while respecting individual mandates, and increased horizontal collaboration, among functional and regional commissions, expert bodies and UN system organizations. The many interlinkages among the SDGs, which the paper has outlined, may provide additional opportunities for collaboration.

The paper also identified areas for strengthening the subsidiary bodies' contribution to the work of the Council and the HLPF, and in so doing, their impact towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, for their consideration. These areas include concrete steps for enhanced follow up of the Ministerial Declaration; a greater attention to countries in special situations; and guidance by the Council on interlinkages, among others.

Discussion Questions for Member States' consideration:

- What are priority areas for a sustainable recovery and accelerated implementation of the SDGs where ECOSOC functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies can add value?
 - What are the opportunities for better collaboration among the subsidiary bodies and between the subsidiary bodies and UN system entities?
 - How can the UN system, including specialized agencies, ensure that their support to Member States in recovery from the pandemic are aligned with the SDGs and accelerate their implementation? What are areas for enhanced coordination?
 - How can the Council strengthen the impact of the work of ECOSOC functional commissions, expert bodies and regional commissions on its various segments and forums as well as on the HLPF?
 - What are some key interlinkages among the SDGs under review in 2022 and 2023, that ECOSOC subsidiary bodies could explore and further analyze jointly?
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List of abbreviations for ECOSOC system

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**)

United Nations Forum on Forests (**UNFF**)

Regional Commissions

Economic Commission for Africa (**ECA**)

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

Economic Commission for Europe (**ECE**)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (**ECLAC**)

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 (**TDG-GHS**)

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

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (**UNGEGN**)

United Nations 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**)





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UN Funds and Programmes

- United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**)
- United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**)
- United Nations Population Fund (**UNFPA**)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (**UN-Habitat**)
- United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**)
- World Food Programme (**WFP**)

Specialized Agencies

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (**FAO**)
- International Civil Aviation Organization (**ICAO**)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (**IFAD**)
- International Labour Organization (**ILO**)
- International Monetary Fund (**IMF**)
- International Maritime Organization (**IMO**)
- International Telecommunication Union (**ITU**)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (**UNIDO**)
- World Tourism Organization (**UNWTO**)
- Universal Postal Union (**UPU**)
- World Health Organization (**WHO**)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (**WIPO**)
- World Meteorological Organization (**WMO**)
- World Bank Group

Other Entities

- International Trade Centre (**ITC**)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (**UNAIDS**)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (**UNHCR**)
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (**UNDRR**)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (**UNODC**)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (**UNOPS**)
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (**UNRWA**)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (**UN-Women**)
- World Trade Organization (**WTO**)





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VII. Resources

- [Key Messages from the Coordination Segment Informal Note](#)
- [SDG mapping: ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies](#)
- [Infographics of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies](#)
- [UN Response to COVID-19](#)
- [UN System SDG Implementation Database](#)
- [UN COVID-19 Stimulus Tracker](#)

