

Remarks on behalf of the Baha'i International Community, Daniel Perell:

Thank you, Mr Chair, and distinguished delegates for this opportunity.

It is clear from all previous comments that COVID-19 is challenging us to question everything. The world we have today is vastly different to what existed at the founding of the United Nations 75 years ago.

Interdependence is on the rise: States are, in fact, no longer as traditionally **sovereign** as they once were.

Notions of **power** are being questioned: an individual with a smartphone has the potential to galvanize a movement.

Even our understanding of development, largely based in **material** terms, is showing its limitations as high income countries can be equally vulnerable.

The degree of transformation required is more profound than ever both in the low and middle income countries, as we've rightfully heard, but also in the **high income** countries who must make cultural changes to stay within planetary boundaries.

With this as the backdrop - how is the ECOSOC integrating knowledge to better respond to the needs of the world?

We are off track to achieve the SDGs in the short run. This is to be expected in an unexpected crisis.

We must not be deterred, but we should modify our behaviors to build processes which can achieve the goals in the medium term and help stave off those longer term crises which we can fully expect.

The challenges we face are tremendously complex. Like the trial and error central to any advancement whether it is the child learning to walk or the scientist in the lab our path will involve setbacks and false-starts.

But what is most important is the persistence and dedication to a **process of learning** in the search for solutions. This process orientation, rather than program orientation, must be the spirit that guides the work of the ECOSOC in this Decade of Action.

This is the great challenge to an integration segment. More accurately, this is the great challenge of integrating new knowledge into the fabric of our efforts to achieve the SDGs refining it, consulting and building upon it with **all** stakeholders involved.

For example, if insights into gender equality have been identified in one space, we have not completed our work until the learning is integrated across all spaces and efforts.

Unfortunately, this cannot be done in a half day segment, this must be the ongoing work of ECOSOC.

How can ECOSOC build on the 31 January meeting of the chairs of the functional commissions, **and** find new opportunities to engender a spirit of integrated mutual collaboration and of genuine inquiry?

Thank you