

**2021 ECOSOC Integration Segment**

**July 2, 2021**

**Closing Remarks by**

**Ambassador Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations**

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

Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,

We have concluded the program of work of the Integration Segment of the Economic and Social Council. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who have joined us today for your active participation.

I hope that the 2021 Integration Segment has inspired concrete and action-oriented policy guidance for a more coherent and integrated approach to solving the challenges facing our planet, humanity and our ecosystems, and that it represents a stepping stone for the new Coordination Segment.

Ensuring equitable access to vaccines for all is one of the most pressing challenges we face today. Recovery from the pandemic is no easy task either. The countries face constraints in fiscal space, short-term trade-offs, and competing priorities. Going forward, we must prioritize the most vulnerable groups of people in our recovery efforts. To do so, we must build strong social protection systems. We must also significantly increase our support for a sustainable and inclusive transformation of the economies of countries in special situations, including the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States, as well as middle-income countries.

The global challenges we face today require a strong United Nations and renewed multilateralism. We, the Member States, need to make the best use of existing intergovernmental platforms to pursue a resilient and sustainable recovery from the pandemic and implement the 2030 Agenda.

To this end, we must take advantage of the potential of the Economic and Social Council, a key body of the UN Charter, and the High-Level Political Forum as the central UN platform to review the SDGs, to achieve our goals. The Council should foster greater coordination among its functional commissions and expert bodies to avoid duplication, ensure coherence and promote synergies. And as we have heard, the Council should consider new norms and standards based on lessons learned from the pandemic. The Council must also respond to the need for inclusive and connected multilateralism.

At the opening of the High-Level Political Forum on July 6, I will share key messages from the Integration Segment to contribute to the thematic review of the HLPF. In addition, the valuable discussions and recommendations from our deliberations will be compiled in a Vice-President summary, which will be distributed to all participants and made available on the ECOSOC website.

Thank you very much.