

### Integration Dialogue 3

#### **Human well-being and capabilities: Building back more resilient, healthy, equitable and sustainable societies**

**10 June 2021**

**Opening Remarks by  
H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico  
to the United Nations, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council**

Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome you all to the third and final Integration Dialogue that I am convening in preparation for the 2021 Integration Segment of the Economic and Social Council.

First, a few housekeeping announcements:

- I would like to inform you that this meeting is being recorded.
- I would also like to request that all participants keep their microphone muted when you are not speaking.
- I request the Lead Agency and Moderator and panellists to please keep their camera on throughout the meeting while keeping their microphone off except when they have the floor.

Distinguished Participants,

Today, in our third and last Integration Dialogue, we will focus on *“Human well-being and capabilities: Building back more resilient, healthy, equitable and sustainable societies”*. We have the honour of having the FAO as both the lead entity and the moderator for this dialogue to set the stage.

We are looking forward to this dialogue being as successful as the first two, which demonstrated the integrated and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the three dimensions of sustainable development. *“Human well-being and capabilities”*, which is our focus today, is one of the entry points identified in the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report

## Check against delivery

(GSDR). And as the GSDR points out, it is “key to the overarching mission of eradicating poverty in all its forms and manifestations and reducing inequalities to leave no one behind”.

Integrated policy frameworks are at the heart of realizing the 2030 Agenda. This is not by chance. Integrated strategies and policies are meant to break silos, generate positive impacts and co-benefits in related sectors, increase coordination among various actors, and instill multidimensional approaches. These approaches are crucial at a time when we look for sustainable and resilient recovery strategies that also set inclusive and effective paths towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We have to face reality and reality says that no recovery is possible without vaccines for all. This is the shared huge challenge for the international community in this very moment.

The Economic and Social Council was given the Charter mandate to coordinate the work of the entire UN system, including the specialized agencies, in the economic, social, health, cultural, educational, and related matters. It is a powerful role which should be used to provide the solutions to economic, social, health and related global problems that the Charter speaks about.

The pandemic brought to the spotlight the importance of human well-being and capabilities and its interlinkages with all the SDGs. It revealed and exacerbated existing inequalities, including the digital divide, and discrimination based on gender, race, age, disability, economic status, and minority and migratory status. The pandemic will have long lasting implications not only on health, but also on education, food security, livelihoods and sustainable development, unless we take coherent and decisive action now.

Currently, countries are at different stages of the pandemic and recovery. They are facing challenges, uncertainties, and trade-offs in their efforts to stop the pandemic and recover better that are also making substantial inequalities within and among countries evident. One thing is clear: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its guiding principle of leaving no one behind, is, without a doubt, our blueprint for a recovery that needs to be people-centered while building back more resilient, healthy, equitable and sustainable societies. We need to leave no one unvaccinated behind. This must be the United Nations priority, because we cannot recover if we do not have ensured the access to vaccines.

Today, we are joined by distinguished panelists who will help us unpack these issues to identify key policy solutions from the perspective of their work. Without further delay, I would like to invite our moderator, Ms. Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Thank you.