

## 2021 High Level Political Forum Opening

6 July 2021, 9:00 a.m.

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

Mr. President of the Economic and Social Council,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to present the key messages of the ECOSOC Integration Segment that I had the honor to chair. During the Segment and its three preparatory Integration Dialogues, ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and UN system entities shared a wealth of innovative ideas and policy solutions for the inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery the world needs.

Distinguished delegates,

We can only emerge from this pandemic with renewed confidence in institutions, political will, effective multilateralism and innovative approaches that promote coherence and integration to solve the global challenges facing humanity and our planet.

Now is the time for transformative action to build a truly sustainable and resilient future. Let us make current weakness, the moment to emerge more resilient, more capable, more efficient, more humane, more caring.

The Segment discussions and dialogues were rich and profound, and we had an exceptional group of panelists who brought to us important insights. The results are difficult to summarize in a few minutes, but I will share ten key messages from the ECOSOC Integration Segment, which I believe will be particularly useful for the thematic review of the HLPF this week:

1. **Regain trust in institutions and strengthen the social contract.** We need a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that builds trust in institutions and breaks down silos. Governance systems that are inclusive and effective in their outcomes are the partners that citizens want to have in order to put forward a strengthened social contract. Everything we do must be gender responsive; let us start with full equality for women in our new social contract.

2. **Leave no one unvaccinated, leave no one behind.** Our recovery must be people-centered and guided by the principles of equality and respect for human rights. We must strengthen international cooperation, international solidarity, and global and multi-stakeholder partnerships to ensure equitable access to vaccines for all. Building on our scientific advances and successes, we must develop affordable vaccines, innovative treatments and delivery methods for other critical diseases. It is unacceptable that the least developed countries have only vaccinated 2% of their population against COVID-19.
3. **Eliminate inequalities.** We must face the reality that the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed between 119 and 124 million people into extreme poverty, so public policies must be coherent, inclusive and informed by high-quality data and continue to focus our efforts on achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. **Economic recovery must protect planet and people.** Governments must promote a dynamic economic system in which innovation and investment are geared towards meeting the needs of people and protecting the planet. Greener and better-targeted finance and accountability can help align national policymaking and growth trajectories with the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the post-2020 biodiversity targets for a green and inclusive recovery.
5. **Adopt a new, more equitable and sustainable development model.** It is time to rethink the development paradigm towards equality, resilience and environmental sustainability. Circular economy strategies will be key to sustainability and prosperity, creating decent jobs. We must invest in clean and efficient energy, clean transportation, green buildings, nature-based solutions, and clean research and development.
6. **Recovery with social progress.** Our recovery packages must integrate policies to create broad-based economic growth with decent job opportunities for all, while reducing the environmental footprint. We must pursue universal health systems and other social safety nets to reduce inequality and poverty. Investing in the ecological recovery of food systems will address food security, climate risks and other SDGs.
7. **Leave no one disconnected, achieve global digital connectivity.** There can be no recovery without global digital connectivity. Promoting decent work, improving people's well-being and creating green jobs requires ensuring just digital transitions. Science, technology and innovation are key to transforming agri-food systems and advancing the SDGs.
8. **Reliable data.** We need high-quality disaggregated data to make informed, evidence-based decisions, to design effective policies, to reach the most vulnerable groups and to ensure that no one is left behind. Geospatial information can bridge the digital data gap in many communities and sectors.

9. **Reduce the fragility of vulnerable countries.** We must leave no country behind in the international response, with special attention to Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing Countries, as well as economies highly vulnerable to debt. All countries must have access to vaccines, the means to strengthen their health systems, as well as debt relief, digital connectivity and increased financial assistance.
  
10. **Consolidate a new effective and deliberative ECOSOC.** As we seek pathways to resilient recovery, we must take full advantage of the knowledge and experience of ECOSOC, its subsidiary bodies and the UN system. The Integration Segment demonstrated that these are powerful tools for launching transformative action towards the SDGs. It also demonstrated the relevance and deliberative nature of ECOSOC, which provides us with political guidance on how we can transform resolutions into concrete actions on the ground for the well-being of people. Furthermore, the consolidation of ECOSOC as the accountability platform of the resident coordinator system will allow us to assess that we have an effective United Nations that delivers tangible results in improving people's lives.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to thank the collective effort of the brilliant panelists who joined us in an ECOSOC integration segment particularly relevant to the pandemic, which has led us to be able to share these results, which comply with the mandate of the Charter of the United Nations given to the Economic and Social Council. Many thanks to the DESA Secretariat for its strong support. I hope that these elements will enrich the work of this High Level Political Forum, which may have a historic significance for the international community and for the United Nations.

Thank you very much.