

2021 ECOSOC Integration Dialogues

Key takeaways and recommendations for integration identified by the Chair

The Integration dialogues served to prepare the ground for the Integration Segment on July 2.

Some key takeaways and recommendations are highlighted below, that show concrete and action-oriented policy guidance for a more coherent and integrated approach to solving the challenges facing our planet, humanity and our ecosystems.

Cross-cutting conclusions to the Dialogues are that global challenges are interlinked and innovative approaches that promote coherence and integration, breaking siloes and reducing duplications, are needed to solve them effectively. ECOSOC has also been identify as a platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences among countries, as well as coherent policy guidance for the achievement of a sustainable and resilient recovery.

Dialogue 1 - Institutional strengthening, governance, inclusion and the rule of law

- Greater coherence is needed since the integrated nature of the crises we face requires integrated solutions. Increased levels of policy coherence and investing in capacity are needed taking in consideration the interlinkages in priority areas.
- Recovery packages must be sustainable and greener, avoiding additional pressures on the loss of biodiversity and climate change.
- International solidarity, collaboration and support within and across countries are essential to reduce inequalities and to overcome the COVID-19 crisis.
- Social protection measures must go beyond short-term cash payments and focus on expansion of care systems, financial inclusion, access to digital technologies and access to universal health systems and vaccines.
- Intersectoral work for vaccine equity is essential. The scientific, industrial and commercial health sectors must work jointly on comprehensive strategies to promote the local production of vaccines, medicines and tools.
- ECOSOC needs to foster deeper coordination between its subsidiary bodies to avoid duplication, ensure coherence and promote synergies, as well as look into new norms and standards based on lessons learned from the pandemic, and advance global solidarity and multilateral cooperation efforts towards a resilient and sustainable recovery and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- The HLPF provides a unique opportunity to advance informed decision-making at a time of unprecedented challenges, based on the thematic and national reviews of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, offering key insights on priority areas for accelerated action.

Dialogue 2 - Building back better towards inclusive, sustainable, and just economies for recovery: Re-designing the contract between people and planet.

- The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs remain the blueprint to implement integrated policies for a resilient and green recovery.
- ECOSOC should take stock of lessons learned from the shortcomings of the multilateral and regional responses to COVID-19. Responding to the need for an inclusive and networked multilateralism, the Council should put in motion an open and transparent process to identify and implement the changes that will ensure that the UN system supports equitable, sustainable and resilient development through structural transformation. These are the kind of innovative vision and objectives that are essential for the needed change.
- Particular attention and priority must be given to LDCs in the international response to COVID-19, including in equitable access to vaccines and strengthening public health systems, providing debt relief and scaling-up financial support.
- Governments can steer public-private relations to produce a dynamic economic system where innovation and investment are geared towards meeting people's needs and the protection of the planet.
- To advance decent work, the opportunities of just digital and ecological transitions need to be leveraged.
- Developing and implementing comprehensive and integrated approaches to curb the spread of informality and accelerate the transition to the formal economy is also essential, as is fostering supply chains that are more resilient

and contribute to decent work and environmental sustainability. Behavioral science can serve as a tool to analyze and promote integrated policies.

- It is indispensable to include sustainability in the public finance frameworks to ensure an integration of environment approaches across fiscal policy and regulation design. Greener financing will be crucial in aligning national policymaking and growth trajectories with the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and post-2020 biodiversity targets.

Dialogue 3 - Human well-being and capabilities: Building back more resilient, healthy, equitable and sustainable societies.

- The Economic and Social Council should take a leading role for a global and holistic approach to the COVID-19 response and beyond, including by bringing together its subsidiary bodies. Functional commissions and expert bodies are also encouraged to continue to identify synergies and promote joint actions among them, avoiding siloes and duplications.
- Linking social protection to agricultural and rural-based livelihoods, placing human rights at the center of the food systems transformation and promoting policies that enhance employment and income-generating activities, including decent rural jobs for youth, and nutrition-sensitive social protection programs, are crucial policies to address the needs and rights of the poor and most marginalized.
- Concerted efforts are needed to step up public and private sector investments in agri-food systems with significant policy coherence, addressing the nexus between food security, disasters and conflict.
- Investing in green recovery of food systems will address both food security and climate risks, as well as all other SDGs in various degrees due to their integrated and interlinked nature.
- Governments should ensure universal access to high quality social services that allow vulnerable populations to develop the human capital required to raise their lifetime earning potential.
- Geospatial information can bridge the digital data gap across many communities and sectors. Due to its cross-cutting nature, geospatial information is integrative, innovative, and comprehensive.
- More equitable access to scientific knowledge and technologies, including digital technologies, is crucial to close the gap on SDG 3, as well as to enable other SDGs.
- Global collaboration and global action is fundamental to address all of the mentioned challenges and ECOSOC can make a difference to improve people's lives, developing effective integrated policies, that are innovative and achievable.