



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

6 May 2021

Excellency,

The COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest test the world has faced in generations. 2021 is a pivotal year for people, economies, societies and our planet. The pandemic and its impacts must be overcome in all countries. Everyone everywhere must have access to vaccines and adequate social and economic support, including in particular the most vulnerable.

It is in this context that I have the distinct honour to invite you to the 2021 United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), which will be convened from Tuesday, 6 July, to Thursday, 15 July 2021, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. The forum will focus on the theme of *“Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”*.

Participants will have the opportunity to explore the many aspects of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the concrete measures and types of international cooperation needed to build a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery and put the world on track to achieve the SDGs in the decade of action and delivery. The Forum will also review in depth Sustainable Development Goals 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 10 on reduced inequalities, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and 17 on partnerships. The Forum will also consider the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs.

Forty-four countries will carry out Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The programme of the Forum and the Secretariat’s concept note are available at the HLPF website: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021>. You will also find important reports for the HLPF, such as the synthesis of the inputs provided by ECOSOC’s functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and platforms to contribute to the thematic review of the HLPF.

I wish to encourage member states to be represented at ministerial level in the various parts of the HLPF. I encourage the active participation of Ministers from all relevant fields across the three dimensions of sustainable development to bolster the discussions, share experiences and lessons and provide policy guidance on the way forward in recovering better from COVID-19. There will be the opportunity for Member States to intervene, share their experience or ask questions in the course of the various panel discussions and sessions as well as during the VNR sessions and the session on the reporting from the regional forums on sustainable development.

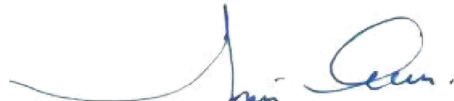
It is envisaged that the opening of the high-level Segment of ECOSOC and the ministerial segment of HLPF on 13 July, the closing of the HLPF on 15 July, and the closing of the high-level segment of ECOSOC on 16 July, will be organized as in-person meetings. All other parts of the programme will be organized on a virtual platform with remote simultaneous interpretation. The general debate will be conducted through the submission of video and written statements. Further information will be provided in an information note to be circulated in the coming weeks.

For further information, please contact Ms. Irena Zubcevic (zubcevic@un.org) or Ms. Ling Wang (wang24@un.org) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

I would also like to encourage you to avail this opportunity to launch “SDG Acceleration Actions” aimed at putting us on a track towards accelerated progress towards the SDGs. More information could be found at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgactions>.

I look forward to the active participation of your Government at the HLPF and thank you for your support.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Munir Akram
President of ECOSOC

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York