


## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ECOSOC?


- 🌍 **The theme of the 2022 ECOSOC and High-Level Political Forum** is “Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda”.
- 🌍 The **ECOSOC Bureau** comprises, besides the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ambassador Collen Vixen Kelapile, Botswana, H.E. Ambassador Diego Pary Rodríguez, Bolivia (Vice-President); H.E. Ambassador Jukka Salovaara, Finland (Vice-President); H.E. Ambassador Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, Bulgaria (Vice-President); and a Vice-President from the Asia-Pacific Group.
- 🌍 The President outlined his **priorities** for the work of ECOSOC in the 2022 cycle in his inaugural statement on 23 July. These include fiscal space for a COVID-19 response and swift recovery, addressing inequalities within and between countries, and resuming development after conflict. Moreover, the Presidency will focus on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), climate crisis and biodiversity loss, partnerships and effective youth engagement.

- 🌍 **Joint Meeting of ECOSOC with the Second Committee:** On 20 October, the Council held a joint meeting with the Second Committee of the General Assembly on building productive capacities in LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and MICs in the post-Covid-19 era. The meeting focused on the opportunities, challenges, key policies and investments needed to build productive capacities as a critical step for recovering better and getting on track towards achieving the SDGs. The President of ECOSOC and the Chair of the Second Committee co-chaired and addressed the meeting. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Ms. Rebecca Grynspan and Mr. Courtney Rattray, the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs spoke in the opening session. A policy dialogue kicked off the interactive session with voices from the field, featuring the Vice-Minister of Economic Relations and Integration of Paraguay; the Minister of Trade and Industry of Trinidad and Tobago; and Mr. Taffere Tesfachew, the Team Leader of the LDC Sub-Group of the Committee for Development Policy. Thirty delegations spoke during the interactive dialogue. Countries underlined the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on countries in special situations and stressed the importance of multilateral partnerships and adequate resources to build the productive capacities of these countries. Many speakers highlighted the issue of inequity in access to vaccines and the need to bridge this divide through transfer of technology and the opening of vaccines patents. A number of countries





also underlined the interlinkages between productive capacities and trade, and the need for special and differentiated trade benefits. Several countries supported the index on productive capacities since it gives developing countries the possibility to focus on the most needed factors to expand their productive capacities.

 **Final list of countries that will present Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs):** The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2022 will hear presentations from [46 countries](#) on their national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals. These include: Andorra, Argentina, Belarus, Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Montenegro, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Togo, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay.

 A virtual webinar took place on 25 October in order to prepare the 46 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the HLPF in 2022. The event was co-hosted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, highlighted the importance of the VNRs for achieving the SDGs. He encouraged the countries to use their VNRs to deal with challenges hindering SDG progress and implementation and to include multiple stakeholders in order to guarantee a detailed report.

### **What is next?**

The following ECOSOC events will take place in December 2021:

-  Elections to Subsidiary and Related Bodies – Agenda Item 4 (8 December)
-  Joint Meeting of ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission (15 December)

The following ECOSOC events will take place in 2022:

-  Partnership Forum (2 February)
-  Coordination Segment (3-4 February)
-  Special Meeting of the Council on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (8 April)
-  Youth Forum (19-20 April)
-  Forum on Financing for Development (25-28 April)
-  Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (5-6 May)
-  Operational Activities for Development Segment (17-19 May)
-  Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development (20 June)
-  Humanitarian Affairs Segment (21-23 June)
-  High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (5-12 July)
-  High-Level Segment (13-18 July)
-  Management Segment (8-9 June, 21-22 July)

## HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS

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### **Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**

At the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on 16 September, Ministers and other high-level officials from 46 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) met remotely to discuss specific trade and development challenges faced by their countries. The meeting offered the opportunity for LDCs and their development partners to exchange views on ways to overcome the difficulties they face in the context of today's multiple crises. A Ministerial Declaration was adopted which provides political



guidance and direction to advance trade and development interests of the LDCs in the post-pandemic environment. The President of the ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, highlighted the problems faced by the LDCs in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He noted that limited progress has been made since the launch of the Istanbul Programme of Action, as many countries continue to face multiple challenges including poverty, hunger and the impact of climate change. The President also underscored how the lack of affordable and equitable access to vaccines, combined with the narrow fiscal space to address the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, are likely to widen the gap between LDCs and other countries.

### **SDG Moment**

The President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, participated in the SDG Moment, convened in a hybrid format by the UN Secretary-General on 20 September. The annual SDG Moment seeks to reinforce the continued relevance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and build momentum for the implementation and achievements of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The meeting was held in advance of the General Assembly General Debate and crucial summits convened during its High-Level Week on Food Systems and Energy. It convened Heads of State and Government from over 30 Member States as well as champions for the SDGs from civil society, the private sector and international partners. In his remarks during the opening, the President of ECOSOC observed that, though the pandemic has derailed progress on the SDGs, the Goals themselves provide the framework for building back better. He spoke of five 'rays of hope', covering COVID-19 recovery and vaccine equity, building back economically from the pandemic, addressing the climate and biodiversity crises, advancing human rights, and revitalizing the UN. He emphasized that the global community needs to address gaps in political will and strengthen global partnership, particularly to support countries in special situations.



## United Nations Security Council Arrria Formula Meeting on Haiti

On 15 October, the A3+1 (namely: Kenya, Niger, Tunisia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) held a virtual meeting titled “*Beyond the inconvenient truths about underdevelopment in Haiti: seeking pan-African solutions/pathways and supporting national dialogue and reconciliation*”. This objective was to facilitate dialogue among Haitians, drawing on those countries with experience in post-colonial nation building and national dialogue processes. The discussion offered ideas on how to strengthen the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) to achieve solutions for the situation in Haiti.



In his address, the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, acknowledged the work that both the Security Council and ECOSOC have done for several years with respect to Haiti. He stressed that besides the political and security crisis in Haiti, the country also faces socio-economic, humanitarian, environmental and human rights challenges. He highlighted the alarming situation in Haiti, and underscored the importance of measures to address the root causes of underdevelopment in the country. Haiti will only be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals when the country finds lasting solutions to violence and instability, he stressed. Moreover, he called for adequate, predictable, and flexible funding from the international community to better work towards risk reduction, recovery, and poverty reduction in the country.

## Food Convergence Innovation: High-Level Roundtable on the Occasion of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit

The United Nations Food Systems Summit took place on 23 September during the High-Level Week of the 76<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The goal was to have an inclusive meeting with multiple stakeholders on how to transform food systems to ensure food security and sustainable food production. Nearly 300



**UNITED NATIONS  
FOOD SYSTEMS  
SUMMIT 2021**

commitments from around the world and across constituencies have been made to accelerate action and transform food systems towards a sustainable future. In his remarks the President of the ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, highlighted the importance of the Summit as an historic opportunity to shape the future of our food systems and get on track to achieve the SDGs. He urged countries to focus on malnutrition in all its forms and reduce the environmental impact of their food production systems. The President highlighted the importance of regional solutions to address challenges with food systems. He also emphasized the necessity of global solidarity and cooperation, especially for the most vulnerable. He stressed the need to bring together civil society, the private sector and governments in order to invest in the SDGs and create a better future for everyone. The President expressed his support for *Food Convergence Innovation*, a flagship programme initiated by the McGill Centre and the Global Partnerships Forum.

### **High-level Meeting convened by the President of the General Assembly on Climate Action**

On 26 October, the President of the General Assembly convened a high-level meeting on the climate crisis. Among the speakers was the President of the ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile. He stressed the importance of this meeting, considering current extreme weather events like droughts and floods that are putting lives and livelihoods at risk. Moreover, he highlighted the upcoming COP26 meeting as a moment of action where the international community must work together to support more ambitious climate action. The climate crisis should be seen as an integral part of the slow progress in SDG implementation, which has been exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the President.



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## **OTHER POLICY DIALOGUES**

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### **Human Rights Council Meeting on “Economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights, including the right to development”**

On 22 September, the President of ECOSOC participated via a pre-recorded video statement, to present the outcomes of the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) to the Human Rights Council. He highlighted Member States' efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, paying special attention to the 42 countries that have submitted Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the 2021 session. The President summarized that during the HLPF many countries expressed concerns because of the increasing inequalities due to the COVID-19 pandemic and stressed the importance of climate action. He also welcomed the efforts of the Human Rights Council in promoting the role of human rights and the 2030 Agenda. He reaffirmed the commitment of the HLPF to work together with the Council to ensure that economic, social and cultural rights are respected globally.

### **The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Achieving Food Security in the Post COVID-19 Era: Investing in a Safe, Nutritious and Climate-Resilient Food Systems**

The role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to achieve food security was discussed in a virtual event co-hosted by the Permanent Representatives of Nigeria and Morocco on 30 September. The objective of the event was to find strategies to establish sustainable food systems and address nutrition insecurity by using new technologies like AI. Agriculture can be improved with the help of advanced e-technologies in various areas such as soil and crop monitoring or predictive analytics, which would offer new possibilities for achieving global food security and SDG2. In his statement, the President of the ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, reminded participants that the transformation of food systems is necessary not only to achieve zero hunger by 2030 but also to build more sustainable food production practices. He highlighted that AI and other technologies can help with this. He, however, also cautioned that collecting data especially in regions where broadband access and connectivity is unavailable can be difficult. According to the President, this shows once more the importance of equal access to technology and science.

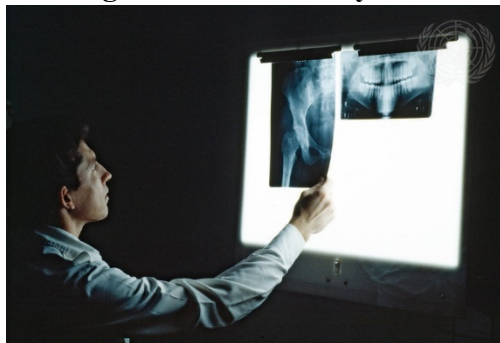
## **Advancing a Tax and SDGs approach that builds trust and spurs transformation: present and possible future contributions by the UN Tax Committee**



global tax cooperation.

The ECOSOC President, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, highlighted the importance of the meeting to enhance international tax cooperation for sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. He commended the work of the UN Tax Committee, which gives a special focus to developing countries in order to build back better from the pandemic globally. The new products launched during the meeting provide practical guidance for countries to deal with challenges in taxation while also looking at global trends, according to him. The President underlined the importance of an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach to ensure innovative solutions and balanced outcomes that leave no one behind.

## **Raising Awareness of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) for Successful Application of Existing Solutions and Beyond**



ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being is a matter of solidarity and ensuring that no one is left behind. According to the President, the focus needs to be on treating early-stage SMA and investing in education about the disease. He reiterated ECOSOC's willingness to work towards SDG 3 by strengthening health and social protection systems that put people first and address gender needs.

## OTHER EVENTS

### International Youth Day 2021

On 12 August, the global community celebrated the International Youth Day 2021. The #YouthLead Innovation Festival organized by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy of Youth was one of the festivities to celebrate innovative youth-led solutions for the achievement of the SDGs and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, issued a message wishing young people around the world a happy International Youth Day and reaffirmed the commitment of the global community to find solutions for their challenges. In line with his focus on youth inclusion as one of his eight priorities, the President is committed to hearing from the global youth and to give them a seat at the table.



### World Food Day



On 15 October, the President of ECOSOC participated in a high-level panel in commemoration of World Food Day 2021, as part of an International Symposium convened by Global Minnesota, a multistakeholder organization based in the United States. The focus of the symposium was on the impacts of COVID-19, climate change, and conflict on food security, which have caused unfortunate setbacks to the progress achieved in recent years toward reducing extreme hunger and food insecurity. He discussed how these

three areas interact and interconnect with each other, stressed the need to address the root causes of food insecurity, and highlighted interlinked drivers that can create the situations of violent conflict that lead to food insecurity, extreme hunger and famine. He also highlighted the actions taken by the United Nations to help countries to overcome these challenges. He further outlined to the participants his priorities as President of ECOSOC, including to promote actions that address the root causes of conflict and foster long-term sustainable food systems that can eliminate extreme hunger and food insecurity.



The ECOSOC newsletter is produced by the [Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development](#) in the [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#).