



ECOSOC

01.2024

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ECOSOC AT A GLANCE

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was created by the United Nations Charter in 1945 as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.



ECOSOC

ECOSOC has the powerful mandate to promote international cooperation on economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related issues. Specifically, it is tasked with the promotion of:

Higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of **economic** and **social** progress and **development**;

Solutions of **international economic, social, health, and related problems**, and international cultural and education cooperation;

Universal respect for, and observance of, **human rights** and **fundamental freedoms for all** without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

THE FIRST MEETING

of the Council was convened in London from 23 January to 18 February 1946 under its first president Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar (India). The Council's membership has grown from 18 in 1945 to 27 in 1965 to 54 since 1974.



ECOSOC'S FUNCTIONS

- ▶ Assist the **General Assembly**
- ▶ Assist the **Security Council** when requested

- ▶ Create **commissions**
- ▶ Convene **international conferences**
- ▶ Conduct follow-up and review the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other UN Summits and Conferences**

- ▶ **Coordinate** the work of **specialized agencies**, with **funds & programmes**
- ▶ Provide a platform for engagement with **non-governmental organizations**

- ▶ **Commission studies and reports**
- ▶ Make **recommendations**

RECENT ECOSOC MANDATES

ECOSOC is a central platform for policy analysis, policy review and policy guidance to Member States. The Council is also mandated with the integrated and coordinated follow up of all UN conferences in economic, social and environmental fields and promotes the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.



The Council addresses the normative work of the UN system policy and its subsidiary bodies chiefly at the **Coordination Segment**, which aims to ensure they contribute fully to the achievement and delivery of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

ECOSOC guides and coordinates the work of the United Nations System at the country level. At its **Operational Activities for Development Segment**, it oversees the implementation

by the UN development system of the policies developed by the General Assembly.

ECOSOC also works to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance to make it more effective. Its **Humanitarian Affairs Segment** aims to improve and coordinate the UN system's humanitarian response in the broader context of international cooperation and efforts to address disasters and other humanitarian emergencies.





THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM IN BRIEF

The **High-level Political Forum on sustainable development** (HLPF) is the United Nations platform for the global follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Forum meets annually under the auspices of ECOSOC for a period of eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment held in the framework of the High-level Segment of the Council. The eight-day meeting includes thematic reviews of specific

sets of SDGs agreed by Member States and Voluntary National Reviews.

The SDGs under reviews are informed by the SDG Progress report and other reports and inputs from related intergovernmental processes, the functional and regional commissions of ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, and Voluntary National reviews. HLPF examines a theme each year linked to the 20230 Agenda. The HLPF is also convened at the level of Heads of State and Government every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly.

ECOSOC is home to forums that address financing for development, development cooperation, partnerships, youth engagement and science, technology and innovation.

The ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up is at the center of the dedicated follow-up process on Financing for Development established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in 2015. The Forum is the only intergovernmental forum on Financing for Development with universal participation that leads to an annual negotiated outcome. Over the years, the Forum has acted as a platform for consensus-building and meaningful exchanges among all key stakeholders to address the challenge of financing and

creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development.

The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) meets every two years. The DCF is a multi-stakeholder platform to discuss trends and progress in international development cooperation and articulate forward looking policy recommendations and normative guidance on development cooperation toward achieving the SDGs.

The Multi-stakeholder Forum on STI for the SDGs brings a variety of actors together to discuss cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation for implementing the SDGs. Both of these forums meet prior to the HLPF to inform the discussions at the HLPF.

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**THE HIGH-LEVEL
POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**



OVERVIEW OF THE HLPF

- ▶ The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a global plan of action to drive improvements for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. Countries established the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) — to boost efforts to achieve the SDGs.
- ▶ The HLPF helps translate the vision of the Goals into action by providing political leadership and recommendations and enabling countries to share experiences and lessons learned on implementing the SDGs. Every year, in early July, the HLPF brings together States, organizations of the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, civil society, NGOs, the private sector and other stakeholders to discuss progress, exchange lessons learned, experience, and challenges, and recommend actions to achieve the goals. Countries also agreed (resolutions 67/290, 70/299 and 75/290 B) that every fourth year, the HLPF will meet under the auspices of the General Assembly at the level of Heads of State and Government.

RELATIONS WITH THE MAJOR GROUPS AND OTHER STAKE HOLDERS

Member States have stressed the need for the HLPF to promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of the **major groups and other relevant stakeholders** at international level in order to make better use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions. The major groups and other stakeholders include non-governmental and non-profit organizations, business and industry, and local authorities, among others. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/290, the Forum is open to the major groups, other relevant stakeholders and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the General Assembly, building on arrangements and practices observed by the Commission on Sustainable Development. While retaining the intergovernmental character of the forum, the representatives of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders are allowed:

- To attend all official meetings of the forum;
- To have access to all official information and documents;
- To intervene in official meetings;
- To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
- To make recommendations;
- To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat.



MORE ABOUT THE HLPF

What is the history of the HLPF?

- ▶ The HLPF was created in 2012 as part of the mandates stemming from the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), titled ‘The future we want’. (GA resolution 66/288).
- ▶ GA resolution 67/290 was adopted in 2013 and outlined the “Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development”. The resolution also indicated that the HLPF, under the auspices of the ECOSOC and General Assembly, will:
 - » provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development;
 - » follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments;
 - » enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels; and
 - » have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges.
- ▶ The HLPF, which replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development, held its first meeting under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2013 and under the auspices of the ECOSOC in June-July 2014.

Review of progress towards the SDGs

- ▶ As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven (paragraph 79). These national reviews serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF, meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC every year in July.
- ▶ The Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The VNR countries submit comprehensive written reports that are made available in the VNR database.
- ▶ From 2017 to 2019 and from 2021 to 2023, HLPF discussed in depth every year a set of SDGs and their interlinkages to review progress made, with means of implementation (SDG17) reviewed annually.
- ▶ The Forum also provides an opportunity for the international community to review progress in addressing certain risks and vulnerabilities of countries in special situations, such as the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, African countries, the Small Island Developing States, as well as the challenges facing middle-income countries.

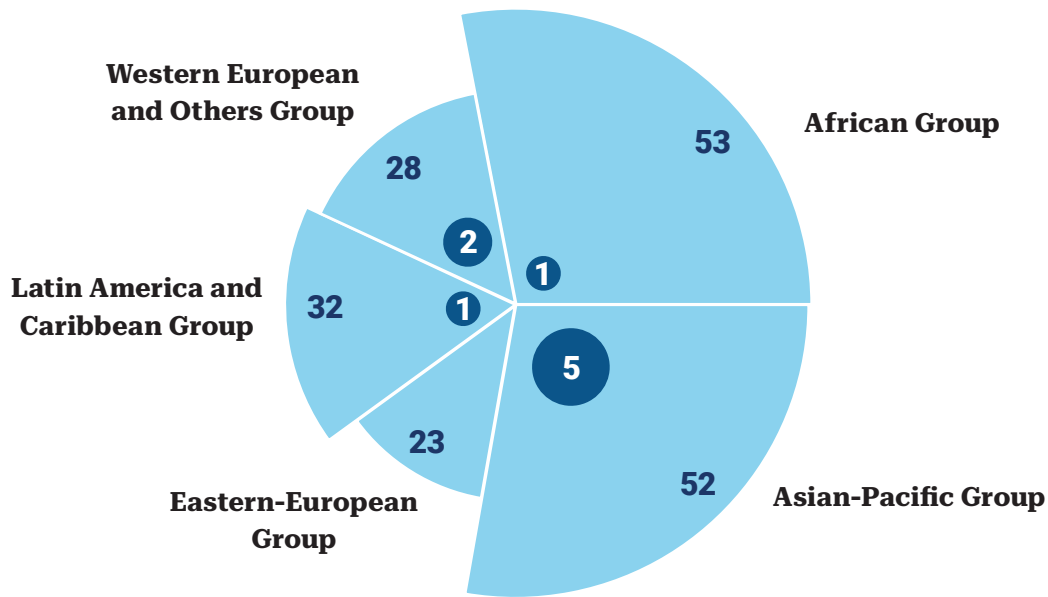


- ▶ The HLPF also discusses the regional and local dimensions in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ▶ The HLPF met in 2023 under the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”. The Forum in 2023 also discussed SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17 in depth. Participants focused on the effective and inclusive recovery measures to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDGs and explored actionable policy guidance for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels. The HLPF in July 2023 also supported the preparations for the 2023 SDG Summit – the HLPF convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023.

Did you know, from 2016 to 2023, 188 countries presented voluntary national reviews (VNR) to the HLPF? This includes 65 countries that presented one time, 107 countries that presented twice, 14 countries that presented three times and countries that presented four times.

In 2023, 38 countries presented their voluntary national reviews and the European Union presented its first voluntary review to the HLPF.

Status Of Voluntary National Review Presented By Region (As of 2023 High-Level Political Forum)



The countries that presented their VNRs
 The countries that have not presented their VNRs



SDG Summit

- ▶ The year 2019 marked the first time that the HLPF met under the auspices of the General Assembly. World leaders gathered at UN Headquarters in New York in September for the 2019 SDG Summit to review progress and identify measures to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs.
- ▶ The SDG Summit resulted in the adoption of the Political Declaration, “Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. World leaders called for a decade of action to deliver the SDGs by 2030 and many announced actions they are taking to advance the agenda.
- ▶ Four years later, the second SDG Summit took place on 18-19 September 2023. It marks the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030

Agenda from its adoption in 2015 to its target year of 2030. The Summit brought together Heads of State and Government alongside heads of the UN system and other international organizations, the private sector, civil society, women and youth and other stakeholders. Participants carried out a comprehensive review of the state of the SDGs, responded to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, and provided high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to the 2030 deadline for achieving the SDGs. The Summit adopted a Political Declaration which committed to bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions, anchored in international solidarity and effective cooperation at all levels.

WHAT ARE THE OFFICIAL OUTCOMES OF THE HLPF?

Ministerial Declaration

- ▶ The HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC usually adopts a Ministerial Declaration, a negotiated outcome document which is also the outcome of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC and reflects the collective views of States Members on the current state of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as well as their vision for future action.
- ▶ Prior to the HLPF, the President of ECOSOC appoints the permanent representatives of two countries to co-facilitate the consultations of Member States with a view to produce the Ministerial Declaration. Representatives of the major groups and other stakeholders

are able to make recommendations that can inform the Ministerial Declaration.

- ▶ The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/299, decided that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) shall have only one negotiated Political Declaration, covering the different and complementary functions of both sessions of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly - the Summit, and the forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), when the forum is convened twice in the same year.



Report of the HLPF convened under the auspices of ECOSOC

- ▶ The HLPF report covers factual information on the opening and closing sessions, the thematic review, the voluntary national reviews, the general debate as well as information on the number of side events, the number of participants and documentation associated with the HLPF session. The report also contains an executive summary on the substance of the discussions at the HLPF.

President's summary

- ▶ The President of the Economic and Social Council also summarizes the key messages, issues of concern and possible solutions in the President's summary.

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THE ECOSOC SYSTEM



THE ECOSOC SYSTEM

ECOSOC oversees a broad ecosystem of bodies in the economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields. This includes the Council's subsidiary system – regional commissions, functional commissions and expert bodies and related bodies – and United Nations specialized agencies. The Council is entrusted to guide and coordinate the work of these bodies.

It also coordinates the work of other UN agencies within its mandate of providing integrated policy guidance to Member States on the coordinated follow-up of UN conferences in economic, social and related fields and in promoting the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The **United Nations Regional Commissions** are the regional outposts of the United Nations on economic, social and related fields in their respective regions. Stationed in the five regions of the world, among their key objectives is to promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs. The **Functional Commissions** (composed of Government representatives) and the **Expert Bodies** (some composed of governmental experts and some composed of experts serving in their personal capacity) carry out the technical work of the Council. They provide policy guidance

and normative frameworks in areas such as gender equality and women's empowerment, statistics, population, social development, Indigenous Peoples' issues, crime and narcotic drugs, science and technology, forests and sustainable development, development policy issues, including the situation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), public administration matters, geospatial information management, international cooperation in tax matters, international standards of corporate accounting and governance, economic, social and cultural rights.



Over 6000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have consultative status with ECOSOC. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, a subsidiary body of ECOSOC, reviews NGO applications and makes recommendations on the granting of consultative status for final decision by ECOSOC.



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (CESCR)

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) comprises of 18 independent experts that monitor implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by its State parties. The Covenant enshrines economic, social and cultural rights such as the rights to adequate food, adequate housing, education, health, social security, water and sanitation, and work.

The Committee seeks to develop a constructive dialogue with State parties, determine whether the Covenant's norms are being applied, and assess how the implementation and enforcement of the Covenant could be improved so all people can enjoy these rights in full.

Through its General Comments, the Committee makes recommendations on any issue affecting economic, social and cultural rights, to which it believes the States parties should devote more attention. In recent years, CESCR has issued

General Comments on Business Activities, on Science and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It has also started developing a General Comment on Sustainable Development and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which will address challenges of achieving sustainable development in the light of planetary boundaries while respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee also issued a Statement on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and economic, social and cultural rights (April 2020), a Statement on universal and equitable access to vaccines for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (December 2020), and a Statement on universal affordable vaccination against coronavirus disease (COVID-19), international cooperation and intellectual property (April 2021).

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A Population Commission was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 3 (III) of 3 October 1946. In its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Commission should be renamed the Commission on Population and Development. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that it, the Council and the Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national,

regional and international levels and advise the Council. It met typically every two or three years until 1994, after which it has met annually. The discussions in the fifty-sixth session 2023 focused on the crucial links among fertility, mortality and migration. The transition from high to low levels of fertility facilitates investment in human capital, which is central to the effective implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action. For the first time in 20 years, the Commission assessed the links between population, education and sustainable development. This assessment comes at a critical time when the world is dealing with an education crisis, which was also highlighted during the 2022 Transforming Education Summit.

THE ECOSOC SYSTEM

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HLPF

High-level political forum on sustainable development

FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

Statistical Commission

Commission on Population and Development

Commission for Social Development

Commission on the Status of Women

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

United Nations Forum on Forests

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

ECA Economic Commission for Africa

ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ECE Economic Commission for Europe

ECLAC Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ESCWA Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

EXPERT BODIES COMPOSED OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

EXPERT BODIES COMPOSED OF MEMBERS SERVING IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITY

Committee for Development Policy

Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

ILO International Labour Organization

IMF International Monetary Fund

IMO International Maritime Organization

ITU International Telecommunication Union

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization

UNWTO World Tourism Organization

UPU Universal Postal Union

WHO World Health Organization

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization

WMO World Meteorological Organization

WORLD BANK GROUP

▶ **IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

▶ **IDA** International Development Association

▶ **IFC** International Finance Corporation

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

UNICRI United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

UNIDIR United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNSSC United Nations System Staff College

UNU United Nations University

AD HOC BODIES

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

RELATED BODIES

Committee for the UN Population Award

International Narcotics Control Board

Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UN Nutrition

FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UN-Habitat United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

WFP World Food Programme (UN/FAO)

OTHER ENTITIES

ITC International Trade Centre (UN/WTO)

UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNDRR United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services

UNRWA United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

UN-Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

WTO World Trade Organization

FORUMS

Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up

Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

Development Cooperation Forum

Partnership Forum

Youth Forum

STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee for Programme and Coordination

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations



GLOBAL COOPERATION AND THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Through its technical advice and standard setting, the ECOSOC system provides a platform for global cooperation and the smooth functioning of the international system.

UN Specialized Agencies help set global norms and standards for higher standards of living, full employment and economic, social, health and food and nutrition and related issues.

For example:

The ILO sets international labour standards, FAO sets standards for food safety and for plant and animal health, UNESCO for education, science and culture, and WHO for the production and control of biological products and technologies and for managing pandemics.

ICAO, IMO, ITU, UPU, WIPO oversee technical standards for air travel, maritime transport, telecommunications, postal services, and intellectual property, respectively. Those standards are vital for international cooperation and the flow of goods, services and ideas among countries.

ECOSOC's range of technical work through its expert bodies extends into other areas that require international cooperation for the functioning of the global economy. For example, expert bodies provide technical services that:

- ▶ Define the list of Least Developed Countries and criteria for graduation.
- ▶ Promote international cooperation in global geospatial information management.
- ▶ Promote international cooperation on tax matters.
- ▶ Bring partners together to address global issues in science, technology and innovation and promote STI solutions to advance sustainable development.
- ▶ Set the rules for the cultivation, production, manufacture and use of drugs for medical and scientific purposes and prevent their illicit cultivation, production, use and trafficking.
- ▶ Define and promote principles of effective governance to accelerate action on building strong institutions for sustainable development.
- ▶ Promote increased awareness and the inclusion of indigenous issues in policy and decision making.
- ▶ Determine international standards of accounting and reports coming from transnational corporations to improve availability and comparability.
- ▶ Set norms and provide guidance for cooperation in international tax matters, particularly for developing countries.
- ▶ Promote the standardization of geographical names at national and international levels and resolve problems where they occur.

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ECOSOC IN 2024



JANUARY

30 JANUARY 2024

The Partnership Forum

- ▶ Held annually since 2008.
- ▶ A platform for dialogue among Member States, the United Nations system, parliamentarians, local governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, scientists, academia, women, youth and other stakeholders.
- ▶ Sharing new ideas, expectations and priorities for ECOSOC and the HLPF and forward looking actions by countries and stakeholders and partnerships to support the implementation of the SDGs.



FEBRUARY

31 JANUARY - 1 FEBRUARY 2024

ECOSOC Coordination Segment

- ▶ Replaces the integration segment and the informal meeting of the Council with the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies in line with General Assembly resolution 75/290 A.
- ▶ Formulates common action-oriented policy guidance on all matters requiring implementation or coordination efforts.
- ▶ Provides forward-looking policy guidance to ensure coherence and direction in the policies and normative work of subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies.



MARCH

22 MARCH 2024

ECOSOC Special Meeting on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

- ▶ Applies a sustainable development perspective to cutting-edge issues in tax policy and administration: this year, digitalization, formal economy.
- ▶ Strengthens impact of UN policy guidance on tax matters at global, regional, national and subnational levels.
- ▶ Advances inclusive dialogue among key stakeholders, including national tax authorities and civil society.



APRIL

16-18 APRIL 2024

The Youth Forum

- ▶ Held annually since 2012.
- ▶ Brings the voices of youth into the discussions on the 2030 Agenda.
- ▶ Promotes youth participation and engagement.

22-25 APRIL 2024

The ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-Up

- ▶ Held annually since 2016.
- ▶ Reviews the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other financing for development outcomes.
- ▶ Means of implementation of the SDGs.





MAY

9-10 MAY 2024

The Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

- ▶ Launched by the 2030 Agenda.
- ▶ Meetings of the Forum convened by the ECOSOC President since 2016.
- ▶ Science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the SDGs.



14-16 MAY 2024

The Operational Activities for Development Segment

- ▶ Held annually to review progress implementing the General Assembly quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of the UN System operational activities for development.
- ▶ The accountability platform where Member States assess and guide the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations development system.



JUNE

18 JUNE 2024

The Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development

- ▶ Replaces the special event to discuss the transition from relief to development and alternate between Geneva and New York in line with GA resolution 75/290 A.
- ▶ Addresses the linkages between humanitarian assistance and development assistance and discusses, among other relevant issues, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and providing access to justice for all.
- ▶ Considers the agenda items of the Council on the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, South Sudan, and the Sahel region.

JUNE

19-21 JUNE 2024

The Humanitarian Affairs Segment

- ▶ Takes place in alternate years in New York and Geneva.
- ▶ Brings together UN Member States, UN organizations, humanitarian and development partners, the private sector and affected communities.
- ▶ Discusses how to strengthen and improve humanitarian work to save lives, and reduce humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.



8-12 AND 15-17 JULY 2024

THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) Meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC

- ▶ **Theme:** Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions
- ▶ The HLPF in 2024, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, shall discuss Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 in depth.
- ▶ It is the central United Nations platform to review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, help identify successes, gaps and lessons learned and provide political leadership and recommendations for follow-up.

- ▶ Official sessions (thematic review on the theme and the set of Sustainable Development Goals, and voluntary national reviews) are organized during the HLPF.
- ▶ Side Events, Special Events, VNR Labs and Exhibitions also take place during the HLPF.



15-18 JULY 2024

THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF ECOSOC

- ▶ The high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council is convened for four days following the first week of the high-level political forum meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. During its first three days, the President of ECOSOC jointly convenes the high-level segment of the Council and the three ministerial days of the high-level political forum. The final day of the segment is a high-level meeting of ECOSOC that addresses knowledge sharing and regional and international cooperation and future trends and scenarios relating to the annual theme.

15-17 JULY 2024

Ministerial segment of the high-level political forum (HLPF)

- ▶ In 2024, 44 presenters are expected to present their voluntary national reviews to the HLPF.
- ▶ The VNR presentations are planned to proceed during the three days of the ministerial segment of HLPF on 15-17 July 2024.



18 JULY 2024

Final day of the High-level segment of ECOSOC

- ▶ The final day of the high-level segment of ECOSOC aims to enhance knowledge-sharing and regional and international cooperation. It will focus on future trends and scenarios related to the Council theme, and the long-term impact of current trends in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. The theme for the 2024 ECOSOC and HLPF is “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”.



9 APRIL 2024 ; 5-6 JUNE 2024 ; 23-24 JULY 2024

THE MANAGEMENT SEGMENT OF ECOSOC

- ▶ Legislative part of the Council's work.
- ▶ Review the reports of ECOSOC subsidiary and related bodies, consider and take action on their recommendations as well as on related draft proposals. This vast array of resolutions and decisions of these technical bodies represent an important contribution by ECOSOC to Member States for their implementation at national and regional levels.
- ▶ Undertake system-wide coordination through the review of specific development issues with a view to promote more integrated responses. This includes gender mainstreaming, non-communicable diseases, and also the consideration of special country situations and/or regional issues which are on the Council's agenda.
- ▶ Conducts elections to subsidiary and related bodies at its dedicated management meetings.

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DID YOU KNOW?



ECOSOC AND GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

UNAIDS — the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS — that leads the global response to fighting HIV/AIDS, was established in 1994 by an ECOSOC resolution.

The UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), which reports to ECOSOC, coordinates the activities of relevant UN organizations and other inter-governmental organizations to support governments to meet high-level commitments to respond to NCD epidemics.



PUTTING WOMEN AT THE HEART OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was one of the first functional commissions created within ECOSOC. CSW has played a significant role within the United Nations intergovernmental system by drawing attention to women's rights and gender mainstreaming, including in the work of the Security Council which led to the landmark resolution of the Security Council 1325 on Women, Peace

and Security. It is entrusted with the follow-up to the Beijing Platform of Action.

The work of CSW has resulted in a number of important declarations and conventions that protect and promote the human rights of women, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW (1979).



RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

Through special meetings, **ECOSOC promotes awareness of global emergencies, including public health, natural disasters, and other crises.** The Council promoted a coordinated response by the UN system with the engagement of all stakeholders following the Tsunami in Indonesia in 1994, the global food crises in 2008/9, the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, Ebola in 2014, the Zika Virus in 2016, the aftermath of hurricanes in 2017 and pathways to resilience in climate-affected SIDS in 2018, Cyclone Idai in 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and vaccine equity in 2021. The Council also convened

a special meeting on “Reimagining Equality” to put a spotlight on structural racism and racial inequalities in 2021. The Council convened special meetings on natural resources, peaceful societies and sustainable development in March 2022; and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in April 2022. Most recently, the Council discussed social and economic measures to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in January 2023. And the Council explored the transformative power of SDG16 to improve governance and reduce corruption in May 2023.



PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

The relations between the **Economic and Social Council** and the **Security Council** are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. **Article 65** of the Charter states that “the Economic and Social Council may furnish information to the Security Council and shall assist the Security Council upon its request”.

The Economic and Social Council has developed mechanisms to respond to the problems faced by countries emerging from conflict and enhance the peace and development interlinkages.

- ▶ **The Council provides** advice to Haiti on a long- term development strategy to promote socio-economic recovery and stability through the **ad hoc advisory group on Haiti**. The first Advisory Group on Haiti was created in response to a request by the Security Council.
 - » In 2023, the Council intensified its efforts to address the complex and multi-faceted crisis in Haiti, through the work of its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and a Special Meeting on food security in Haiti to mobilize urgent action and resources for a Haiti free of hunger.

- ▶ In addition to Haiti, the Council also considers the **integrated, coherent and coordinated support** to South Sudan and the Sahel region to promote economic and social progress in the context of long-term sustainable development.
- ▶ **ECOSOC regularly hosts** joint meetings with the **Peacebuilding Commission**. During its 2023 session, the Council enhanced its collaboration with the Peacebuilding Commission through joint meetings in December 2022 and June 2023 to promote coherence and impact for peacebuilding, sustaining peace and sustainable development efforts on the ground.

ECOSOC TIMELINE

1945

Establishment of ECOSOC by United Nations Charter.

1946

ECOSOC convenes its first meeting from 23 January to 18 February 1946.

1999

Security Council request to ECOSOC on Haiti.

2001

General Assembly request to ECOSOC to create the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Africa.

2005

The 2005 World Summit Outcome mandated ECOSOC to convene an Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), with National Voluntary Presentations, and a biennial Development Cooperation Forum (DCF); ECOSOC becomes the main vehicle for the review of the MDGs.

2008

The first partnership forum is held.

2013

The high-level political forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was established to meet annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly. The HLPF replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development.

ECOSOC institutes the adoption of a system-wide annual main theme and a July-to-July work programme cycle, including creation of an integration segment.

2021

The Coordination Segment of ECOSOC was created by the United Nations General Assembly (A/RES/75/290 A).

1991

ECOSOC High-level policy dialogue with the heads of the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade.

The creation of a substantive session of 4-5 weeks, alternating between Geneva and New York.

The creation of a High-level Segment, a Coordination Segment, an Operational Activities Segment and a Committee Segment.

1998

First meeting of the BWIs with ECOSOC.

The first humanitarian affairs segment is held.

2003

The convening of the first Special High-level Meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and UNCTAD (ECOSOC Spring Meeting).

2012

The first ECOSOC youth forum is held.

2014

The first high-level political forum under the auspices of ECOSOC is held.

2015

Creation of the ECOSOC forum on financing for development follow-up through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

Creation of the Multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals [as a component of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism], with its meetings to be convened by the President of the Economic and Social Council.

The background features a complex geometric pattern of overlapping triangles and squares in various shades of blue and black. The central focus is a dark blue rectangular area containing the title text.

MAJOR ECOSOC MANDATES



1945

UNITED NATIONS CHARTER:
Chapter IX:
“International economic and social cooperation” and
Chapter X:
“The Economic and Social Council”

1977

A/RES/32/197:
“Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations System”

1991

A/RES/45/264:
“Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields”

1993

A/RES/48/162:
“Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields”

1996

A/RES/50/227:
“Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields”

1997

A/RES/52/12B:
“Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform”

2005

A/RES/60/1:
“World Summit Outcome Document”

2006

A/RES/61/16:
“Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”

2012

A/RES/66/288:
“The Future We Want”

2013

A/RES/67/290:
“Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development”

2015

A/RES/69/313:
“Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development”

2016

A/RES/70/299:
“Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level”

A/RES/68/1:
“Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”

A/RES/70/1:
“Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”





2018

A/RES/72/279:

“Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system”

A/RES/72/305:

“Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”

2019

A/RES/74/4:

“Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit)”

2020

A/RES/75/233:

“Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system”

2021

A/RES/75/290 A AND B:

“Review of the implementation of GA resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of ECOSOC and Review of the implementation of GA resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the HLPF and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level:

- a. Economic and Social Council
- b. High-level political forum on sustainable development”

2023

A/RES/78/1:

“Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit)”



The background features a complex geometric pattern of overlapping triangles and squares in various shades of blue and black. The central area is a solid dark blue rectangle containing the main text.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Three-year term — as of January 2024

(Term expires on December 31)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (54 members*; three-year term)

 AFGHANISTAN	2024	 LIECHTENSTEIN	2026
 BELGIUM	2024	 MAURITANIA	2026
 BELIZE	2024	 MAURITIUS	2024
 BOTSWANA	2025	 NEPAL	2026
 BRAZIL	2025	 NEW ZEALAND	2025
 CABO VERDE	2025	 NIGERIA	2026
 CAMEROON	2025	 OMAN	2024
 CANADA	2024	 PAKISTAN	2026
 CHILE	2024	 PARAGUAY	2026
 CHINA	2025	 PERU	2024
 COLOMBIA	2025	 POLAND	2026
 COSTA RICA	2025	 QATAR	2025
 CÔTE D'IVOIRE	2024	 REPUBLIC OF KOREA	2025
 CROATIA	2024	 SENEGAL	2026
 CZECHIA	2024	 SLOVAKIA	2025
 DENMARK	2025	 SLOVENIA	2025
 EQUATORIAL GUINEA	2025	 SPAIN	2026
 ESWATINI	2024	 SURINAME	2026
 FRANCE	2026	 SWEDEN	2025
 GERMANY	2026	 TUNISIA	2024
 HAITI	2026	 TÜRKİYE	2025
 INDIA	2024	 UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	2026
 ITALY	2024	 UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	2024
 JAPAN	2026	 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	2024
 KAZAKHSTAN	2024	 URUGUAY	2026
 KENYA	2026	 ZAMBIA	2026
 LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	2025		

Drawing of lots – CROATIA (1st Organizational meeting held on 27 July 2023)

* As of 27 July 2023 there is one outstanding vacancy amongst the Eastern European States for a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2025.

For the current list of ECOSOC members, please visit:

[**https://ecosoc.un.org/en/about-us/members**](https://ecosoc.un.org/en/about-us/members)

For more information, visit:

[**https://ecosoc.un.org/en**](https://ecosoc.un.org/en)

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