

ECOSOC and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Interlinked nature of the SDGs





Source: David Le Blanc, DESA Working Paper No. 141

Interlinkages of SDGs

- The interlinkages of Sustainable Development Goals means that they will need to be pursued in an integrated manner, rather than individually or sequentially.
- For example, SDG 1, End poverty in all forms everywhere, establishes the income level of \$1.25 per day as a minimum for everyone,
 - including through social protection systems (target 1.3),
 - as well as global action to enhance the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (target 1.5).
- Action to mitigate and adapt to climate change is therefore also part of realizing SDG 1



Overall role of ECOSOC



- The Council serves as a platform for countries to share their early experiences in aligning their national policies with the 2030 Agenda
- Offer opportunities to share, learn, innovate, mobilize support, form partnerships and work together
- Provides technical guidance and policy advice for results
- Promotes innovation and lessons learned in reviewing progress to adjust policies and practices

Format and working methods of the Council

Based on General Assembly resolution 68/1 (September 2013) on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council:

- focuses the analytical work of the ECOSOC system around a main theme
- requests Council to ensure harmonization and coordination of agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions
- develops responses to emerging development challenges
- Integration Segment bring together key messages from Council system on main theme and develop action-oriented recommendations
- ensures stakeholder engagement throughout the ECOSOC cycle





Council Working methods (cont.)



- Composition and duration of Council membership
 - 54 Members, elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms, based on geographical representation
- Composition and regional representation of Bureau
 - President and Bureau members represent the five regional groups
- Presidency
 - Rotation among regional groups

Council Working methods (cont.)

- 30 UN bodies that have a direct reporting relationship to the Council
 - eight functional commissions
 - five regional commissions
 - three standing committees
 - one ad hoc body
 - eight expert bodies and
 - four related bodies
- ECOSOC reviews the work of another 14 standing bodies that report formally to the GA
- Approval of reports by Coordination and Management Meeting





How to follow-up and review implementation?

- Elements of global follow-up and review include:
 - long-term orientation
 - inclusiveness
 - broad participation
 - transparency
 - building on existing platforms and processes, with active support from the UN system and other multilateral institutions

ECOSOC follow-up and review

- Supports follow-up and review of the SDGs through annual main theme and its forums, segments and instruments, including:
 - High-level Political Forum (under the auspices of ECOSOC and the General Assembly)
 - ECOSOC High-level Segment
 - Forum on Financing for Development
 - Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science and Technology
 - Development Cooperation Forum



Adjustments within the ECOSOC system

- Commission for Social Development
 - Support to thematic reviews of HLPF
 - Reports on social aspects related to ECOSOC main theme
- Commission on Population and Development
 - Multi-year work programme aligned with ECOSOC main theme and thematic focus of HLPF
- Commission on the Status of Women
 - Reports on aspects relating to gender equality and empowerment of women of ECOSOC main theme
 - Focus on emerging issues relevant to ECOSOC cycle and main theme
- UN Forum on Forests
 - Standing agenda item on thematic and operational priorities, taking into account review cycle of HLPF



General Assembly review of resolution 68/1 during its 72nd session



The President of the General Assembly has appointed two cofacilitators:

- H.E. Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland
- H. E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar

Review of 68/1 will begin on 6 February 2018.

General Assembly review of resolution 68/1 during its 72nd session (cont.)

The Co-facilitators have identified the following initial questions to frame the review:

- How to approach the review of 68/1 in order to cover its substantive and structural aspects?
- How to ensure that the review takes into account related processes but without overburdening its focus?
- How effectively is the Council generating, including through its annual main theme, the needed leadership, strategic direction and specific guidance?
- How can the Council augment the added-value coming from the various interlinked functions of the ECOSOC cycle?
- Are there changes to be made, within and/or across these functions?