



United Nations

Committee for
Development
Policy

Statement by Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Chair of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP)

ECOSOC Coordination Segment

Session on “The Way Forward: From the 2023 SDG Summit to the Summit of the Future”

1 February 2024, 16:30 to 17:45pm (NY time)

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

In trying to share insights from recent work by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) on how to enact sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to turbocharge the SDGs and leave no one behind, I would like to focus on just three points.

First, the commitment to leave no one behind is inspiring, but also poses a risk: we need to ensure that we are also *pushing no one behind*. This is something the CDP has emphasized for several years. In a transformation as complex as the one we are trying to achieve with the 2030 Agenda, and in the midst of the climate crisis, the low-hanging fruit will only take us so far. Whether it is in technological transitions or in new uses for land geared at meeting some of the SDGs, it is critical to remember that disruptions of all sorts are pushing people behind at a constant pace. And further, well intended efforts to respond to these problems help some but make situations worse for others. A clear case of this is in the efforts to combat climate change. A **globally just transition** requires countries to meet their climate commitments and ensure that in doing so they do not push poorer countries further behind by creating barriers to trade and constraining policy space, thereby excluding them from the opportunities associated with the expansion of new product markets, or relegating them to the traditional role of suppliers of primary commodities. Many well-intentioned efforts actually have negative unforeseen consequences.

A second message, from our ongoing work on innovation ecosystems for development, structural change and equity, on which we will report to ECOSOC after our next Plenary meeting

in March, has to do with making the 2030 Agenda's pledge for "innovative and people-centered economies" more than just words. The COVID-19 pandemic and the stark inequalities in access to vaccines and treatment showed that important parts of our international and domestic policy frameworks, including international agreements, technical assistance programmes and domestic legislation have not worked for people. In a rapidly changing international environment characterized by multidimensional and pervasive crises and also by an unprecedented degree of technological change and the rise of the digital economy, we cannot rely on outdated dogmas as the basis for policy-making. The tools exist to build **innovation ecosystems that effectively support both innovation and access to that innovation by those who need it**. And these tools can mobilize rather than stifle the immense innovative potential in the Global South.

Finally, I would like to refer to the CDP's proposal for **a new generation of VNRs** that realigns the reports towards their agreed purpose as vehicles for exchange of experiences and peer learning so that, in effect, the 2030 Agenda implementation can be accelerated and be made more effective. The Committee recommends that Member States refocus the reports away from lengthy descriptive narratives of progress towards more evidence-based analysis, lessons learned from implementation, discussions of policy successes and failures, identification of key challenges, and assessment of the core transformative elements of the 2030 Agenda, including the means of implementation. Reports should be framed under the concept of sustainable development as integrated and universal, with commitments to inclusion, human rights and respect for planetary limits. In a nutshell, there should be a new generation of VNRs, with a new approach, that are:

- 1) More analytical;
- 2) Focused on key challenges;
- 3) That incorporate an assessment of the transformative elements of the Agenda;
- 4) That are developed through participatory processes and debate; and
- 5) That include feedback loops.

And finally, we recommend that civil society shadow reports be included in the review processes.

A Communiqué reflecting these recommendations is being prepared and will be issued presently and communicated to ECOSOC.