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
ECOSOC 12-month cycle

**Late JULY**
- ECOSOC Organizational Meeting
  - * Launch of new Theme
  - * Election of President and Bureau
  - * Adoption of Programme of work
  - CMM (Coordination and Management Meeting)

**JULY**
- Culmination of cycle on main theme
  - High-level Segment
    - * High-level Political Forum Ministerial Segment (preceded by HLPF Senior Officials Meeting)
    - * Dialogue with International Financial and Trade Institutions
    - * Thematic Dialogue
    - * Adoption of ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration

**JUNE**
- HAS (Humanitarian Affairs Segment)
  - CMM
  - Dialogue with Chief Executives Board (CEB)
  - Joint Meeting with Peacebuilding Commission

**MAY**
- Integration Segment
  - Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science and Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals
  - High-Level Development Cooperation Forum (biennial)

**APRIL**
- Partnership Forum
  - CMM

**FEB**
- Operational Activities for Development Segment
- Winter & Spring
  - Meetings of Functional Commissions
  - Financing for Development Forum
  - Special Meeting of the Council on International Cooperation in Tax matters
  - Ad-hoc Meetings (Spring and/or Fall)
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 co-facilitators:

- 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.
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?