

ECOSOC Coordination Segment
Reflections on the work of ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies
2 February 2023, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (NY time)

Background note and talking points for the Chair

Background note

The President of the Economic and Social Council is convening the second annual Coordination Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which will take place on 1 and 2 February 2023 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Coordination Segment will focus on the main theme of the 2023 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”. In addition, the following Goals will be reviewed: SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 17 (means of implementation and partnerships).

The Council aims to leverage the work of the ECOSOC system to discuss policies for an accelerated recovery from the pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In line with the latest resolution of the General Assembly on ECOSOC strengthening (A/RES/75/290 A), the Coordination Segment is also envisioned to give action-oriented policy guidance on issues that require coordination or implementation efforts by ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN system, including the specialized agencies.

The ECOSOC Coordination Segment, combined with the ECOSOC Partnership Forum convened the day before, will also provide inspiration and identify key issues, to be addressed in the segments and fora of ECOSOC in the following months culminating in the high-level segment of ECOSOC. The ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN System, including the specialized agencies, are also expected to identify best practices, as well as strategic policies and proposals to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs in line with the 2023 ECOSOC HLPF theme. The Segment will feature heads of United Nations entities, chairs of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies and other participants.

The Chair has been invited to participate in the session on “Reflections on the work of ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies”, to take place from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (NY time) on 2 February 2023, which will take the format of a fireside chat with a moderator.

Talking points

Question by the moderator: Could you give us some insights on how understanding and incorporating demographic trends in policy design and policymaking can be a game changer for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? Could you also tell us how the Commission is envisioning supporting Member States in following up on the Transforming Education Summit?

Reply: The work of the Commission on Population and Development is truly cross-cutting, with close linkages to the work of other subsidiary bodies. Population growth, population aging and international migration are all demographic processes with major, long-term implications for economies and societies and for the planet at large.

To give one example, the World Social Report 2023, launched two weeks ago by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, documented the vast and multi-faceted impact of population ageing on economies and labour markets as well as on poverty, inequity and exclusion, including gender dimensions, and on the care economy. These topics were also prominent in the discussions and the resolution on the CPD's special theme in 2022, "Population and sustainable development, in particular, sustained and inclusive economic growth".

As highlighted in the background note prepared for this event, the implications of future demographic change for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals should also be considered by other subsidiary bodies.

The background note also suggests that the environmental dimension of sustainable development requires more systematic attention by the ECOSOC system.

I am pleased to report that the relationship between population growth, environmental degradation and climate change was a key focus of the Secretariat's work programme on population during 2022, including in a report on Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development that examined the impact of population growth on the environment. Moreover, media coverage around 15 November 2022, the day our planet reached 8 billion inhabitants, was unprecedented.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To better align the work of the Commission with that of ECOSOC, we are organizing, for the second year in a row, a panel dedicated to the main theme of ECOSOC. With our annual session in 2023 focusing on the special theme of "Population, education and sustainable development", I expect the CPD to identify innovative, impactful ways to address the education crisis, building on the outcomes of the Transforming Education Summit. I believe that we will have much to contribute both to the HLPF in July and the SDG Summit in September.

Our review of the ICPD Programme of Action, in particular as it regards the relationships between education and health, including sexual and reproductive health, can also help to inform the GA high-level meeting on universal health coverage.

This year, we have decided to invite a representative from the Commission on the Status of Women. Considering this year's focus of CSW on the role of education for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, I look very much forward to their contribution to our deliberations.

We are also making an effort to invite speakers and panelists from countries that are presenting their VNRs in 2023 as well as from countries in special situations.

In closing, Mr. President, let me assure you of the full support of the CPD Bureau and me personally.

Thank you.