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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

has a powerful mandate to promote international cooperation on economic, social and cultural 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; and

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 along with funds & programmes
- Provide a platform for engagement with non-governemental organizations
- Issue studies and reports
- Make recommendations
ECOSOC has evolved to become a central platform for policy analysis, policy review and policy guidance to Member States. **ECOSOC** is also mandated with the integrated and coordinated follow up of all UN conferences in economic, social and environmental fields while playing a key role in the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.
The General Assembly decided that the main theme for the high-level political forum (HLPF) on sustainable development for 2021 and the Economic and Social Council for the 2021 session shall be “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

The Forum meets for a period of eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment to be held in the framework of the high-level segment of the Council. The HLPF will review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Decade of action and delivery.

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.

The Council addresses the work of the UN system and its functional commissions on its theme at the integration segment, based on which it will develop guidance on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ECOSOC also works to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance and 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 efforts to address disasters and other humanitarian emergencies.

ECOSOC IS ALSO HOME to forums that address financing for development 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 meets every two years. 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.
THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Did you know, from 2016 to 2020, 168 countries presented voluntary national reviews (VNR) to the HLPF, including 133 countries presented one time, 33 countries presented two times, and 2 countries presented three times.

In 2021, 42 countries are expected to present their voluntary national reviews to 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 goals.

The HLPF helps translate the vision of the Goals into reality 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 new action to achieve the goals. Countries also agreed (resolutions 67/290 and 70/299) 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 STAKEHOLDERS

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 the 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 organisations, 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 shall be allowed:

a. To attend all official meetings of the forum;
b. To have access to all official information and documents;
c. To intervene in official meetings;
d. To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
e. To make recommendations;
f. 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 on Sustainable Development was created in 2012 as part of the mandates from the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), titled ‘The future we want’. (UNGA Resolution 66/288).

- GA Resolution 67/290 was adopted in 2013 and it outlined the ‘Format and organizational aspects of the HLPF 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. To date, 168 countries have presented their voluntary national reviews at the HLPF. 21 countries have so far expressed their wish to present their VNRs in 2021.

From 2017 to 2019, 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 dimension in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The HLPF met in 2020 under the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. Participants discussed the implementation of the SDGs in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. They reflected on how the international community can respond to the pandemic in a way that puts us back on track to achieve the SDGs and accelerate progress during the Decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.
STATUS OF VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW PREPARATION BY REGION  [ As of 18 August 2020 ]

The countries that conducted or announced VNRs.
The countries that have not conducted or announced VNRs.
SDG Summit

2019 marked the first time that HLPF met under the auspices of the General Assembly. In September 2019, world leaders gathered at UN Headquarters in New York for the 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. The General Assembly endorsed the Political Declaration on 15 October 2019. More than 100 acceleration actions have been announced.
WHAT ARE THE OFFICIAL OUTCOMES OF THE HLPF?

Ministerial Declaration

The HLPF usually adopts a Ministerial Declaration, a negotiated outcome document which 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 the future action.

Prior to the HLPF, the President of ECOSOC appoints, the permanent representatives of two countries to consult with Member States to co-facilitate the consultations with a view to producing the Ministerial Declaration. Representatives of Major Groups and other Stakeholders are able to make recommendations that can inform the Ministerial Declaration.

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 summarises the key issues of concern and possible solutions in the President’s summary.
THE ECOSOC SYSTEM

ECOSOC oversees a complex ecosystem of subsidiary bodies, composed of the United Nations regional commissions, ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies and related bodies. It is entrusted to guide and coordinate the work of those subsidiary bodies. It thus has an influence on a wide remit of the work of the UN in economic and social fields and on sustainable development.
The **United Nations Regional Commissions** are the regional outposts of the United Nations in their respective regions. Stationed in the five regions of the world, they have, among their key objectives, to promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs.

The **Functional Commissions** (composed of Governments) and the **Expert Bodies** (providing advice in their personal capacity) carry out the technical work of the Council. They provide policy guidance in areas such as gender equality and women’s empowerment, statistics, population, social development, crime and narcotic drugs, science and technology, and the situation of Least Developed Countries, public administration, international cooperation in tax matters, and economic, social and cultural rights.

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the United Nations Forum on Forests are also subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC. So is the NGO Committee, which grants consultative status to Non-Governmental Organizations.

**COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP), advises the Council on a wide range of issues relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee also reviews the least developed country (LDC) category and recommends to ECOSOC and the General Assembly which countries should be included into or graduated from the list. The next triennial review will take place in 2021. The CDP is expected to closely monitor and incorporate fully into its triennial reviews the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on LDCs and countries graduating from the category of LDCs.
The Statistical Commission is at the apex of the global statistical system. It develops norms for statistical activities around the world, promotes the strengthening of national statistical systems and coordinates the statistical work of the global statistical system. It also advises the Organs of the United Nations on statistical questions. In this context, the General Assembly requested the Statistical Commission, through ECOSOC, to develop a global indicator framework for the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over 5100 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.
### 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

### 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

### Regional Commissions

- **ECA** Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- **ESCAP** Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- **ECE** Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
- **ECLAC** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- **ESCWA** Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

### 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 Group of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

- High-level political forum on sustainable development

### Related Bodies

- Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti
- International Narcotics Control Board
- Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
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)

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

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
UNISDR 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

Standing Committees

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

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

World Bank Group

- IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- IDA International Development Association
- IFC International Finance Corporation
- MIGA Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- ICSID International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
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.

The **UN Specialized Agencies**, which have relationship agreements with ECOSOC, 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 in air and shipping transportation and in telecommunications and postal services and intellectual property. Those standards and the legal regime are vital for globalization and the flow of goods, services and ideas among countries.
ECOSOC’s range of technical work through its expert bodies extend 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
- Promote international cooperation in global geospatial information management;
- Promote international cooperation on tax matters
- 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.
- Determine international standards of accounting and reports coming from transnational corporations to improve availability and comparability
- Promote the standardization of geographical names at national and international levels and resolve problems where they occur.
ECOSOC RESPONSE TO COVID-19
On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic with alarming levels of spread and severity. The pandemic has caused severe disruptions to economy and society around the world with deep impacts on health, education, economic, financial and social systems.

ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies immediately shifted focus to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and to find policy solutions to respond, rebuild and recover more effectively from its devastating effects.

Promoting a robust multilateral response guided by global solidarity has been at the core of the Council’s approach to help reduce vulnerabilities to future shocks and disasters, build community resilience and recover better. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs have remained as the most viable roadmap for recovery and building resilience.

With its Financing for Development Forum, the Council called for global action to scale up resource mobilization from all sources, to invest into a sustained recovery from COVID-19. The ECOSOC high-level virtual briefing on COVID-19 offered valuable opportunities for dialogue, solutions for an effective and coordinated multilateral response.

The Council’s Integration, Humanitarian, High-Level and Operational Activities for Development Segments also addressed the impact of the pandemic. Calls were made for the ECOSOC to continue.
to provide an inclusive platform to explore integrated policies to respond to the current and longer-term crises, harnessing the work and expertise of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN system.

The various ECOSOC meetings highlighted the importance that the response to COVID-19 needs to be guided by international solidarity and cooperation and aim to put the world back on track to realize the 2030 Agenda.

Although COVID-19 had an impact on the programme of work of the Council, leading to some forums to be scaled down and/or deferred to 2021 (Financing for Development Forum, Youth Forum, Partnerships Forum and the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum), the Council found innovative ways to discuss the relevant issues of the forums’ thematic focus as well as received valuable inputs from different stakeholders.

Additional online resources on the work of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN system on COVID-19:

- UN platform on COVID-19 *
- The UN response to COVID-19 **
- ECOSOC and COVID-19 ***

ECOSOC IN 2021
7-8 APRIL 2021

The youth forum

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

12-15 APRIL 2021

The ECOSOC forum on financing for development follow-up (FfD Forum)

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

29 APRIL 2021

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, informal 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
3 MAY 2021

The partnership forum

- Held annually since 2008
- A platform for dialogue among member states, the private sector, foundations, NGOs, academia and other partners
- Effective ways for partners to support the implementation of the SDGs

4-5 MAY 2021

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
6-7 MAY 2021

Development Cooperation Forum High-level Meeting

- Reality-based and results-focused UN platform for review of trends and progress in development cooperation
- Aligns development cooperation with sustainable development, financing, climate, and disaster risk reduction agendas
- Open to all UN Member States and a diverse range of non-government actors

18-20 MAY 2021

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
- In 2021, the segment will guide the implementation of the 2020 QCPR, and efforts over the next four years for the United Nations development system to support countries in building back better and implementing the decade of action to achieve the SDGs.
23-25 JUNE 2021

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
- Preceded by an informal transition event that links discussions between the ECOSOC operational activities for development segment and the humanitarian affairs segment

2 JULY 2021

The integration segment

- Held annually since 2014
- Integrates the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, the UN system and other actors to support ECOSOC’s policy guidance and the thematic reviews of the HLPF
- Coordinates the work of ECOSOC’s subsidiary bodies and the policies and activities of the specialized agencies
- Integrates the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development both within the United Nations system and beyond
The high-level political forum (HLPF)

Meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC

- **Theme:** Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

- The HLPF in 2021, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, shall discuss Goals 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17 in depth.

- 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)**

- Side Events, Special Events, VNR Labs and Exhibitions
The high-level segment of ECOSOC

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

13-15 July 2021

- In 2021, 42 countries are expected to present their voluntary national reviews to the HLPF.
- The VNR presentations are planned to proceed for the three days of the ministerial segment of HLPF on 13-15 July 2021.

High-level segment of ECOSOC

16 July 2021

- The last day of the high-level segment of ECOSOC will focus on the theme "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development." It will also examine the long-term impact of current trends in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realization of the SDGs.
The “Management Segment” of ECOSOC

20 April 2021 and 8-9 June 2021 and 21-22 July 2021

- Focus on the procedural and legislative part of the Council’s work.
- Adopt procedural decisions and consider the recommendations of subsidiary bodies before their adoption. 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.
- ECOSOC also conducts elections to 26 subsidiary and related bodies at its dedicated management meetings.
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 and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

**PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT**

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 nexus.

- **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, using Article 65 of the United Nations Charter to request advice from **ECOSOC**.

- **ECOSOC regularly hosts** joint meetings with the **Peacebuilding Commission**.
1945

Establishment of ECOSOC by United Nations Charter

1946

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

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

2001

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

1999

Security Council request to ECOSOC to create the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Africa

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)
The first partnership forum is held

The first ECOSOC youth forum is held

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

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 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.
MAJOR ECOSOC MANDATES


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

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

A/RES/61/16: “Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”
A/RES/66/288: “The Future We Want”

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

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

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

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”

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)
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Three-year term.
(Term expires on December 31)
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<th>ECOSOC members</th>
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<td>Angola</td>
<td>2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>2020</td>
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Membership to begin/renew in January 2021:

- Argentina
- Austria
- Bolivia
- Bulgaria
- France
- Germany
- Guatemala
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Liberia
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Portugal
- Solomon Islands
- United Kingdom
- Zimbabwe

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