

OVERVIEW OF ECOSOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES: THEMES, SESSIONS AND WORKING METHODS

Subsidiary body	Date of the session / venue	2021 Theme or other pertinent issue	ECOSOC-related agenda item ¹	Comments
A. FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS				
Commission for Social Development	8-17 February 2021 (59th session)	<p>Priority Theme: Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all.</p> <p>Emerging Issues: Social policy to promote a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery: Building back better post COVID-19 for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.</p> <p>Theme of Ministerial Forum: Promoting multilateralism to realize inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development and its social dimensions.</p>	Agenda item on Emerging issues, which is usually on a topic related to the Council's annual theme and HLPF under ECOSOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau members are elected by the Commission at the 1st meeting of a regular session, held immediately after the end of a regular session for the sole purpose of electing a new bureau. The elected members serve for a term of office of two years, in parallel with the review and policy cycle. • At its 56th session (Feb. 2018), CSocD reviewed its methods of work and adopted a resolution on its future organization and methods of work. • The commission reaffirmed that it will contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, within its existing mandate, by supporting the thematic reviews of the HLPF on progress in the implementation of the SDGs, including cross-cutting issues. It decided that it will consider one priority theme at each session on the basis of the follow-up to and review of the World Summit and its linkages to the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, proposing an action-oriented resolution with recommendations to the Council in order to contribute to its work. • The same resolution requests the Commission to adopt a multi-year programme of work to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation; in selecting its priority theme, the Commission should take into consideration, in addition to the follow-up to and review of the World Summit and the outcome of the special session of GA, the programme of work of the Council, as well as the 2030 Agenda, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council system and the high-level political forum.
Statistical Commission	1-3 and 5 March 2021 (52nd session)	The Statistical Commission does not have a priority theme. The	Agenda item on follow-up to ECOSOC resolutions and decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Statistical Commission elects its bureau members (by acclamation) for each session at its first meeting of the session.

¹ 2021 session 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

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		<p>Session is split into discussion and information items. Topics for discussion at the 2021 Session include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International migration statistics; • Household surveys. • Economic statistics, • Environmental-economic accounting; • Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; • Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council; • Management and modernization of statistical systems; • Big data; • Regional statistical development. <p>Please see the annotated agenda for more information.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2017, the Statistical Commission adopted its programme of work (E/CN.3/2017/34) for the period 2017-2021. • The Statistical Commission has continued to maintain the official indicator framework for the follow up of the 2030 Agenda. • The Statistical Commission has tasked its Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to work on the development and maintenance of the SDG indicator framework. • The Statistical Commission's High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB) provides strategic leadership for the sustainable development goal implementation process. • The HLG-PCCB, has held three UN World Data Forums, to promote active participation of major groups, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the statistics and data discussions in the context of the 2030 agenda.
Commission on the Status of Women	15-26 March 2021 (65th session)	<p>Priority theme: Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the</p>	Agenda item on follow-up to ECOSOC resolutions and decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual priority theme and review theme • Bureau elected on a two-year cycle. • At its 60th session, CSW adopted a resolution on "Multi-year programme of work of the CSW" in which it decided on priority and review themes for its 61st (2017), 62nd (2018) and 63rd (2019) sessions. • At its 59th session, CSW reviewed its methods of work, in which it decided "that the Commission will report on the aspects relating to gender

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		<p>empowerment of all women and girls.</p> <p>Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session)</p>		<p>equality and the empowerment of women of the agreed main theme of the ECOSOC, in order to contribute to its work (OP3 of E/RES/2015/6). It also decided that the Commission will, as necessary, continue to discuss emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men, that require timely consideration, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives is required, and with attention to relevant issues on the agenda of the Council, in particular its annual main theme, as applicable (OP10).</p>
<p>Commission on Narcotic Drugs</p>	<p>12-16 April 2021 (64th session)</p> <p>9-10 December 2021 (reconvened 64th session)</p>	<p>N/A / TBD</p>	<p>Agenda item on contributions by the Commission to the work of the ECOSOC, in line with GA res 72/305</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau of CND (for the next session) is elected at the end of its reconvened session. The Extended Bureau also includes the Chairpersons of the five regional groups, the European Union and the Group of 77 and China. • The CND bases its considerations on the findings and the analysis contained in the World Drug Report, exploring the interrelationship between the world drug problem and sustainable development.
<p>Commission on Population and Development</p>	<p>19-23 April 2021 (54th session)</p>	<p>(a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels.</p> <p>(b) Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One special theme for each annual session. • Bureau members elected for one year. • In ECOSOC resolution 2016/25 on the Commission's future organization and methods of work, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission's primary mandate, derived from GA resolution 49/128, is to monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and to advise the Council thereon. It was also decided that the Commission would contribute to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within its existing mandate. • In its decision 2017/260, ECOSOC decided that, starting with the 53rd session of the CPD in 2020, the Commission would adopt a four-year cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, as part of a multi-year work programme aligned with the Council's main theme and with the thematic focus of the high-level political forum convened under the auspices of the Council. • CPD returned to its earlier practice of deciding its annual theme two years in advance.

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United Nations Forum on Forests	26-30 April 2021 (16th session)	Thematic priorities for UNFF16 and UNFF17: (i) Reversing the loss of forest cover; (ii) Enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits; and (iii) mobilizing financial resources and strengthening scientific and technical cooperation; promoting governance frameworks to advance implementation; and enhancing cooperation, coordination and coherence, for sustainable forest management.	Agenda item on technical discussions on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Agenda item on emerging issues: impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on forests and the forest sector. Agenda item on adoption of the UNFF's Programme of Work for 2022–2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau members are elected at the first meeting of every other UNFF session for a two-year term of office with a view to ensuring continuity between policy and technical sessions. • In 2017, the UNFF and subsequently ECOSOC adopted the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the UNFF for the period 2017-2020 (4POW) (E/RES/2017/4). • Per 4POW, the odd-year sessions are dedicated to implementation and technical advice, whereas the even-year sessions focus on policy matters. • The thematic priorities of each biennium are determined based on the Global Forest Goals and targets, taking into account the programme of the HLPF and relevant international forest-related developments. • In 2020, the UNFF and subsequently ECOSOC adopted the outcome of UNFF15, including the Programme of Work for UNFF16 and the proposed Programme of Work for UNFF17, 18 and 19 (E/RES/2020/14).
Commission on Science and Technology for Development	17-21 May 2021 (24th session)	Priority theme 1: Using STI to close the gap on SDG 3, good health and well-being. Priority theme 2: Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges. The 24 th session will also review the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).	Agenda item on contributions by the Commission to the work of the ECOSOC, in line with GA res 72/305	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau for the subsequent session is elected at the end of each regular session. • Two annual priority themes and review of WSIS follow up at the regional and international levels • The CSTD's methods of work were last reviewed in 2006 (E/RES/2006/46) "Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development "

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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	17-21 May 2021 (30 th session) 9-10 December 2021 (reconvened 30 th session)	“Effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children”	Agenda item on contributions by the Commission to the work of the ECOSOC, in line with GA 68/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bureau of CCPCJ (for the next session) is elected at the end of its reconvened session. The Extended Bureau also includes the Chairpersons of the five regional groups, the European Union and the Group of 77 and China. In 2015, CCPCJ (E/2015/30/Add.1) decided the themes for 25th, 26th, 27th, 28 and 29th sessions. It also decided that the Commission, at its future sessions, should continue to consider ways of further improving its working methods, including with regard to the consideration of agenda items and the organization of its thematic discussions. The CCPCJ negotiated in 2018 a resolution “Enhancing the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which was adopted by the GA (A/RES/73/183).
B. STANDING COMMITTEES				
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	17-25 May 2021 and 27 May and 7 June 2021 (regular session) 30 August-3 September 2021 and 7-10 September 2021 (resumed session)	N/A	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee elects its Bureau at the commencement of its regular session. Bureau Members are eligible for re-election. The Committee is responsible for; considering applications from NGOs; monitoring the relationship between them and the UN; and examining a quadrennial report submitted to it by them.
Committee for Programme and Coordination	June 2021 <i>TBD</i> (61 st session)	N/A		
C. EXPERT BODIES COMPOSED OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS				
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	3-7 May 2021 (2nd session)	National and international standardization of geographical names remains the top priority for 2021. The second session	Agenda Item 7, Social and economic benefits, supporting sustainable development, measures taken and proposed for the implementation of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, a newly reconstituted body established by Council resolution 2018/2, is composed of representatives of States Members of the United Nations, including experts appointed by Governments.

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		<p>of the “new” UNGEGN will seek to address Geographical Names Supporting Sustainable Development and Management of the Pandemic. Other priority topics to be addressed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toponymic education. • Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity, including indigenous, minority and regional languages and multilingual issues. • Toponymic data files and gazetteers. • Writing systems and pronunciation. 	resolutions and evaluation of the work of the Group of Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau is elected at the end of the session prior to which they will assume their functions. They serve for two sessions and until the terms of office of their successors commence. They are eligible for re-election. • As per Council resolution 2018/2, the Group of Experts convene biennial sessions over a period of five days, which began in 2019. • In its decision 2019/230, ECOSOC decided that in close consultation with States Members of the United Nations, the Bureau of UNGEGN should undertake the development of a draft strategic plan and programme of work for the new Group of Experts, to be adopted at the second session. • The Group of Experts through its 24 geographic/ linguistics Divisions, nine working groups and two task teams focuses on the importance of safeguarding identity and cultural heritage engagement with local communities on naming issues, publicity and clarification of principles, procedures and processes of standardization, as well as the improvement, enhancements and expansion of the scope in the collection and cataloguing of geographical names. The Group of Experts also encourages Member States that had not yet prepared toponymic guidelines to do so.
United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management	4-6 August 2021 (11 th session)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening geospatial information management. 2. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda. 3. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. 4. Global geodetic reference frame. 5. Geospatial information for sustainable development. 6. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information. 		

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		<p>7. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.</p> <p>8. Geospatial information and services for disasters.</p> <p>9. Marine geospatial information.</p> <p>10. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.</p>		
Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting	Autumn 2021 <i>TBD</i> (38 th session)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of practical implementation, including measurement, of core indicators for entity reporting on the contribution towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. • Climate-related financial disclosures in mainstream entity reporting: good practices and key challenges. 		
Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	9 December 2022 (11 th session)		Agenda item on resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council.	

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D. EXPERT BODIES COMPOSED OF MEMBERS SERVING IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITY				
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	15 February-5 March 2021 (69th session)			
Committee for Development Policy	22-26 February 2021 (23rd session)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contribution of the Committee for Development Policy to the theme of the Economic and Social Council 2. Triennial Review of the Least Developed Country Category 3. Monitoring of graduating and graduated countries 4. Improvements in graduation process and monitoring 5. Voluntary national reviews 6. Contributions of the Committee for Development Policy to the new programme of action for least developed countries 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDP Bureau is elected for a three-year cycle • Providing advice to ECOSOC on the annual theme is one of the core mandates of the CDP. That advice is contained in the CDP report and is additionally presented to the High-level Segment of ECOSOC by the Chair of the CDP. • This year the CDP will conduct its Triennial Review of the LDC category and may recommend countries for graduation from the category.
Committee of Experts on Public Administration	12-16 April 2021 (20th session)	Theme: Building inclusive, effective and resilient institutions for sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and timely implementation of the SDGs	Agenda item on governance and public administration aspects of empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies for the twenty-first century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau members are elected at the first meeting of each session of the Committee. In accordance with established practice, the officers continue to act as the Bureau during the intersessional period that follows. • The Committee has placed the 2030 Agenda at the centre of its work and advises on how public administrations can support the implementation and progress reviews of the SDGs. • The Committee adopts an agenda item relating to the annual main theme of ECOSOC and provides a written contribution to the HLPF.

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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	19-30 April 2021 (20 th session)		Agenda item on future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the ECOSOC and emerging issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairs and the Vice-Chairs are elected for each session at the first meeting of the Forum. • Since 2008, it has adopted a bi-annual working method of one year with a specific theme and the next year focusing on review of implementation.
Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters	26 – 28 and 30 April 2021 (22 nd session)	N/A	Each year, after the Committee's fall session, ECOSOC holds its one-day annual meeting to consider international cooperation in tax matters including, as appropriate, its contribution to mobilizing domestic financial resources for development and the institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation. This will next be held on 29 April 2021. It draws upon and informs the Committee's work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau is elected at the first session of a new Membership – i.e. every 4 years. • The Committee decides the priority themes for its consideration on an ongoing basis, but the main themes are usually set at the beginning of the 4-year membership terms, with a focus on expected guidance products to be finalized by the end of those terms. Agenda items are added by consensus.