

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Coordination Segment
1-2 February 2023

Accelerating the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels

Concept Note

Background

The Coordination Segment is key platform for the Economic and Social Council to deliver on its Charter mandate to coordinate the work of the United Nations system and to guide and oversee the work of its functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies. The Coordination Segment¹ will take place on 1-2 February 2023. Through its Coordination Segment, the Council will provide forward-looking policy guidance to inspire and direct the work of the ECOSOC segments and forums, subsidiary bodies and the UN system entities in the economic, social, environmental areas in the upcoming months, culminating in the high-level segment of ECOSOC and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) in July. To this end, the Council will bring together Member States, ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies, United Nations regional commissions and UN system entities, including specialized agencies.

In 2022, the inaugural Coordination Segment took stock of the major impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDGs. It covered a wide range of policies and actions proposed by ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN system for an inclusive and resilient recovery aimed at the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Member States underscored the importance of ECOSOC, its functional commissions and expert bodies in responding to COVID-19 and promoting a sustainable and balanced recovery from COVID-19. The Segment identified key areas where ECOSOC, its subsidiary bodies and the UN system could deepen the policy reflection, identify innovative solutions or work more closely together. These included mainstreaming gender perspectives, poverty reduction, food security, education, digital transformation, access to technology and bridging the digital divide, sustainable infrastructure, the green economy, climate resilience and approaches based on human security.

During the 2022 HLPF, it became evident that while some countries were on the path to recovery, this recovery has been uneven and fragile. The world is currently facing multiple crises, including rising poverty and food insecurity, fuel shortages, a cost of living crisis, a refugee crisis and climate change. For the first time on record, the global Human Development Index value has declined two years in a row, reversing gains made in the previous five years.¹ Estimates for world economic growth in 2023² are projected to be lower than expected, impacting all regions and further exacerbating debt, health and climate crises facing developing countries.

Against this backdrop, the 2023 Coordination Segment will address the main annual theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF, which, for the 2023 session, will be: *“Accelerating the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”*. The Council will build on the work of the ECOSOC system and provide direction and promote coherence and coordination in the policies and normative work of subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies relating to the main theme. In this context, the Coordination Segment will aim to identify a few major transformative policy recommendations elaborated by ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and UN system

¹ [UNDP: 2021/22 Human Development Report](#).

² [UN DESA World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2022 \(2022\)](#), [UNCTAD Trade and Development Report \(2022\)](#).

entities to accelerate the recovery from COVID-19 and achieve the SDGs, taking into account the ongoing crises. The Coordination Segment is also to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2022 Ministerial Declaration of ECOSOC and the HLPF.

The policy findings and recommendations coming out of the Coordination Segment could also contribute to major upcoming events in 2023, including the UN Water Conference (22-24 March 2023) and the Mid-term review of the Sendai Framework (18-19 May 2023). Similarly, the transformative policies/solutions and actions for the achievement of the SDGs showcased by the UN system and the subsidiary bodies during the Coordination Segment could also help to shape a vision of how to realize the SDGs. Furthermore, the Segment also has a strategic importance to promote transparency and accountability of the work of the UN System and the subsidiary bodies, particularly in implementing the sustainable development agenda. As such, the Segment will make an important contribution to the second “SDG Summit” which will be held in September 2023 to review the state of the SDGs implementation based on an accountable and quality assured data, provide policy guidance and mobilize action to accelerate implementation.

Draft Programme

The programme of the Coordination Segment will build on lessons learned from the 2022 session, as well as developments since that session. The Segment will address key issues that are relevant to the implementation of the 2022 Ministerial Declaration and the 2023 theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF. It will focus on areas where dedicated policy and coordination guidance by ECOSOC to its subsidiary bodies and the UN system, in particular specialized agencies, would be particularly important.

As in 2022, panels and sessions will be organized around the 2023 main theme of ECOSOC and HLPF, as well as the SDGs under review for 2023. To narrow the focus, potential themes/focus areas and speakers for the Coordination Segment programme could include the following.

- Addressing the crises, building resilience and achieving the SDGs through risk-informed policies
- Transformative policies to accelerate implementation of SDG6 on clean water and interlinked SDGs, with a focus on climate action and financing
- Energy access and energy transition in the context of multiple crises
- Digital transformation for health and food security

Sessions could feature three or four Chairs of ECOSOC functional commission and expert bodies and heads of UN entities to kick off the discussions. It is envisaged that high-level participation by Chairs of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies, Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, and heads of UN system entities, including specialized entities, will give visibility to their work and enable ECOSOC members to engage in a high-level policy dialogue leading to concrete recommendations.

In view of the 2023 SDG Summit, which was also referenced in the 2022 Ministerial Declaration ([E/HLS/2022/1](#)), the Coordination Segment programme would also focus on how the ECOSOC system has addressed the 10 cross-cutting accelerated action areasⁱⁱ identified in the political declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit.

Supporting documents and outcome

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/290 A, an informal noteⁱⁱⁱ will be prepared by the Secretariat to inform the discussions at the Coordination Segment. A non-negotiated factual summary will be prepared by the President of ECOSOC in consultation with the Bureau of ECOSOC to reflect discussions during the Coordination Segment and the Partnership Forum, including strategic proposals

made during the discussions. It is envisioned that the summary will highlight a number of transformative policy recommendations, as well as a few UN system good practices identified during the discussions.

Draft Programme

Wednesday, 1 February 2023

- 10:00 – 10:15 Opening
- 10:15 – 11:30 Addressing the crises, building resilience and achieving the SDGs through risk-informed policies
- 11:30 – 13:00 Transformative policies for accelerating progress towards SDG6 on clean water and sanitation
- 15:00 – 16:30 Energy access and energy transition
- 16:30 – 18:00 Digital transformation for health and food security

Thursday, 2 February 2023

- 10:00 – 10:30 Conversation among Executive Secretaries of UN Regional Commissions: Regional perspectives for an inclusive and resilient recovery guided by the 2030 Agenda
- 10:30 – 13:00 Reflections on the work of ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies
- 15:00 – 17:45 The Way Forward: Transformative Policies and Actions
- 17:45 – 18:00 Closing

ⁱ In line with the mandates from [GA resolution 75/290](#), during the Coordination Segment, Member States will:

- steer the Council system towards an efficient and integrated workflow (para 16)
- provide forward-looking policy guidance to ensure coherence and direction in the policies and normative work of subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies relating to the 2030 Agenda (para 16)
- formulate common action-oriented policy guidance on all matters requiring implementation or coordination efforts [.....] including detailed guidance on the implementation of the intergovernmentally negotiated ministerial declaration of the previous year (para 17)
- provide guidance and coordination to subsidiary bodies, ensuring a clearer division of labour among them, aligning their work with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promoting their implementation of the intergovernmentally negotiated ministerial declaration of the previous year (para 18)
- provide detailed guidance to the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the United Nations system on their upcoming work on the main theme and develop action-oriented assessment and recommendations so that those bodies best contribute to the preparations for the thematic review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (para 18)
- review how subsidiary bodies and the UN system work on the interlinkages among the SDGs and the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, guiding their work for the rest of the Council cycle (para 18)

ⁱⁱ The cross-cutting accelerated action areas include the following: leaving no one behind; mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing; enhancing national implementation; strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions; bolstering local action to accelerate implementation; reducing disaster risk and building resilience; solving challenges through international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership; harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development; investing in data and statistics for the SDGs; and strengthening the high-level political forum

ⁱⁱⁱ According to its mandate, this informal note should include

- (i) integrated policy analysis emanating from the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies during the previous cycle and proposed guidance for their contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development;
- (ii) coordination issues emanating from the work of subsidiary bodies and the policy and normative activities of specialized agencies and other United Nations system entities and recommendations for addressing them; and
- (iii) proposals related to the implementation of the intergovernmentally negotiated ministerial declaration of the Council of the previous cycle and lessons learned from the thematic reviews and voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, with recommendations for follow-up by countries, various segments and forums of the Council, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders.