

Summary
Monthly meeting of the President of the General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC
4 April 2022

The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council held their monthly coordination meeting on 4 April 2022. A summary of the discussion is placed below.

Our Common Agenda: update and next steps

The President of the General Assembly welcomed the strong engagement of Member States in the General Assembly consultations on Our Common Agenda and conveyed that the summary of the informal consultations is expected to capture Secretary-General's proposals within two broad groups - those that received support of Member States and those that have received support of Member States but where further clarification was sought.

The President of the General Assembly invited the President of ECOSOC to share details of the Secretary-General's briefing to ECOSOC on recommendations related to the Council's work. The President of ECOSOC mentioned that the Secretary-General's briefing was very productive and that delegations had focused on proposals specific to ECOSOC and avoided repeating discussions already conveyed during the five informal thematic consultations on OCA. It was emphasized that the SDGs are the overarching framework to guide the recovery and that Our Common Agenda aims to accelerate SDG progress. He noted that Member States and the Secretary-General underscored the important role of ECOSOC, including in economic development, and the need to strengthen it. The Secretary-General said that follow-up to Our Common Agenda is now in the hands of Member States, under the leadership of the President of the General Assembly.

The two Presidents agreed to continue engaging on the follow-up to Our Common Agenda.

The New Urban Agenda: update on planned meetings of the General Assembly and ECOSOC

The President of the General Assembly thanked the President of ECOSOC for his engagement in his Advisory Committee on sustainable urbanization and welcomed the idea for the creation of a Group of Friends of the NUA. The High-Level Meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be held on 28 April will provide an opportunity to reflect on the outcome of ECOSOC special meeting on the same topic on 21 April. Both meetings should help make this a landmark year for the NUA.

The President of ECOSOC further mentioned that the ECOSOC meeting will focus on NUA implementation from the lens of inequality and UN system support. He ensured that the meeting adds maximum value and complements the GA meeting, which will assess the overall progress on the implementation and way forward. He will present key messages from the ECOSOC meeting to the GA High-Level Event.

ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development

The President of ECOSOC explained that the FFD Forum will aim to mobilize political will to mobilize resources for implementing the SDGs in the context of the recovery from COVID-19 and the on-going situation in Ukraine. The Forum will address various aspects including aligning the debt architecture with the SDGs. Participation of Heads of State and Government and finance ministers is expected along with the private sector. President ECOSOC underlined that it is critical that the Forum's outcome document is adopted by consensus. The President of the General Assembly concurred and hoped that development partners will remain committed to financing the 2030 Agenda.

Youth Forum

The President of ECOSOC stressed the importance of the ECOSOC Youth Forum in reinforcing youth participation in the work of the UN. He trusted that enhancing youth participation will be elaborated in the follow-up to Our Common Agenda. He outlined the programme of the Forum, including aspects related to Our Common Agenda, stressing that a new approach was being taken to ensure the interactive nature of the Forum.

The President of the General Assembly congratulated the President of ECOSOC on the Forum's preparations. He welcomed the proposal of the President of ECOSOC to invite Fellows of the PGA's HOPE Fellowship program to participate in the Youth Forum. He also hoped that the President of ECOSOC would participate in the 6 June General Assembly High-level debate on "Enhancing youth mainstreaming in crime prevention policies".

Update on joint events of the Presidents of the General Assembly and ECOSOC

The President of the General Assembly said that preparations for the **joint event on debt sustainability** were proceeding smoothly. The event would align with the FFD Forum and allow for renewing the political commitment to addressing unsustainable debt for countries in special situations and Middle-Income Countries.

The two Presidents concurred on the importance of ensuring that Member States participate in person meetings of the GA and ECOSOC. The President of ECOSOC said that the joint event has taken new urgency with the impacts of COVID-19 and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The event would build on the outcome of the FFD Forum, whose draft currently contains strong recommendations on addressing the debt situation.

The President of ECOSOC said that the **joint event on African development** would address the negative impacts of the on-going crises on food security, education, economic growth and other aspects in Africa. The programme will also address climate change, peace building and peaceful societies.

The two Presidents agreed that preparations and major outreach efforts should start urgently to ensure high-level participation and maximize the impact of the meeting. They asked their teams to discuss possible dates in July immediately following the HLPF.

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The President of ECOSOC said that, considering the multiple crises, the HLPF would be an important moment to demonstrate the commitment to international solidarity to recover better from COVID-19 and advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The HLPF would provide policy guidance on how recovery policies can advance the SDGs and review SDG 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17. It will be important to make linkages with the Transforming Education Summit, the Oceans Conference and the post 2020 Biodiversity Framework. The HLPF would also launch preparations for the September 2023 SDG Summit, and it would be important for the two Presidents to join hands with the Secretary-General to create momentum for those preparations. The two Presidents concurred that it was critical to adopt the HLPF declaration by consensus and stressed the important role of the Co-Facilitators in that regard.

The President of the General Assembly said that he would be ready to provide any support that may be needed in ensuring the success of the HLPF. He confirmed his participation in the opening of the HLPF on 13 July.