

Meeting between the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council

Friday, 8 November 2024, UN Headquarters, New York

Summary

On 8 November 2024, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council held their first monthly coordination meeting in line with the General Assembly resolution 77/335 and the previous practice. They discussed the upcoming work during their presidencies of the relevant main organs of the United Nations and agreed to a regular interaction and enhanced collaboration on mutual areas of interest.

Collaboration during the session

Both Presidents reflected on themes of mutual interest such as financing for development and the reform of the international financial architecture. The President of the Economic and Social Council briefly mentioned his visit to the 2024 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, where he engaged with the international financial institution to further improve the working relations with the United Nations.

The President of the General Assembly presented additional priorities for the 79th Session which include addressing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, promoting human dignity, and turbocharging the sustainable development goals. The President of the Economic and Social Council responded with his priorities which include migration and displacement, financing for development, artificial intelligence for the SDGs, as well as gender equality, and inclusion.

The Presidents briefly reflected on some of the major conferences during their respective sessions, such as the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, scheduled to be held on 10-13 December 2024, in Gaborone, Botswana¹, 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference, which will be held on 9-13 June 2025, in Nice, France and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, which will be held on 30 June – 3 July 2025, in Seville, Spain.

¹ After this meeting it was announced that the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries would be postponed.

Upcoming events of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

The President of the Economic and Social Council extended an invitation to the President of the General Assembly to a meeting of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of the Economic and Social Council which will take place on 2 December 2024.

Furthermore, the President of the Economic and Social Council also invited the President of the General Assembly to nominate a representative of his Office to serve as a member of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group for the Partnership Forum of ECOSOC. The Advisory Group will serve as an informal consultative mechanism to help prepare for the 2025 Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council which will take place on 5 February 2025.

Other regular meetings such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the Development Cooperation Forum and the Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs and the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development were mentioned, and the President of the Economic and Social Council looked forward to the participation of the President of the General Assembly. In addition to this, the President of the Economic and Social Council also highlighted his desire to convene special meetings of the council on artificial intelligence, and the issue of displacement.

The President of the General Assembly briefly mentioned some of the mandated meetings that are to be convened during this session such as the meetings on middle-income countries and sand and dust storms.

The President of the Economic and Social Council inquired on a possible follow-up to the International Decade for People of African Descent. The President of the General Assembly indicated that it is important for the International Decade to be extended in order to ensure that outstanding fundamental issues are addressed. Both Presidents agreed that they look forward to the Second Decade.

The meeting ended with the two Presidents agreeing to schedule their next monthly coordination meeting as soon as practicable.
