

Discussion Group 2: Recovering better for sustainability

Second Meeting Summary

5 August 2020

The second formal meeting of the Group, attended by over 133 participants, took place on 5 August 2020. The UK opened and chaired the meeting and Rwanda presented the draft paper of the consolidated menu options distributed on 4th August, and the EU closed the meeting. The co-chairs of Discussion Group II will consolidate and further refine feedback received from participants on 7th August ahead of the Roundtable of Experts scheduled for 19th August.

Key messages presented:

In line with the four focus areas that have been identified, the recovery should:

- Ensure that policy options are operational, risk-informed, and incorporate human rights and gender equality frameworks, social protection schemes, and the need for vaccines. The recommendations should also include debt relief, tax measures, and eliminate trade barriers to promote economic recovery.
- Focus on fiscal space and transition, as well as on an economic stimulus for job creation and skills. Proposed tax incentives should ensure that they do not place a greater burden on society.
- The Africa Free Trade Agreement is vital, especially for medical supplies, food, capacity building, and boosting investment in human resources for job creation. Further, the policy should reflect the voices of developing countries and have a targeted approach for groups such as SIDS.
- Include National Biodiversity Strategic Plans in country planning, including in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and be attentive to deforestation policies and mitigation efforts. Greening the recovery is a top priority, and establishing Green National Development Banks are crucial to ensuring access to climate and green finance. Stimulus plans also need to be climate and disaster risk informed.
- Ensure access to technology. Automation and digital platforms are key to ensuring that there is minimal disruption in global supply chains.

The following key messages were conveyed in the second formal meeting of Discussion Group II in addition to the points expressed by the co-chairs:

- The next steps are to come up with 10-20 concrete, transformational, and actionable policy options that consolidate the written inputs and comments received prior to and during the call.

- The Co-Chairs will continue consultations with thought leaders and the Special Envoy, as well as the other five Discussion Groups, to avoid overlaps and ensure coherence.