



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

***Theme: Accelerated action and transformative pathways:  
realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable  
development***

**Tuesday, 7 July 2020**

Tuesday, 7 July 2020, 9:00 AM-9:15 AM

### Opening

The theme for the 2020 United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and ECOSOC is “*Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*” (GA decision 74/508). The **decade of action and delivery** was launched by Heads of State and Government at the SDG Summit in September 2019 in order to step up progress towards the SDGs and put the world on track to realize their targets by 2030.

In light of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the HLPF will examine the severe impacts of the pandemic on the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will discuss concrete measures to address the impacts of the pandemic and get back on track to accelerate progress towards the SDGs during the decade of action. It will discuss how the SDGs can serve as the guideposts for building back better, leaving no one behind. It will highlight the importance of international solidarity and a multilateral response to the pandemic.

#### **Chair:**

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

Video clip of young people

#### **Opening remarks:**

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

Tuesday, 7 July 2020, 9:15 AM-12:00 PM

### **Launching the decade of action at a time of crisis:**

### **Keeping the focus on the SDGs while combatting COVID-19**

(The impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs, SDGs Progress report, 2020 targets, regional dimensions and countries at different levels of development, including middle-income countries, data, institutions for integrated policy making)



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The COVID-19 crisis is likely to have a profound effect on progress towards the sustainable development goals. COVID-19 is not only a threat to our health, but a human crisis of multiple dimensions. It might push tens of millions of people back into extreme poverty and hunger and is impacting the livelihoods of half of the global workforce due to unemployment or underemployment. This is happening at a time when we were still not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030 and we were launching a decade of action to accelerate progress.

The poorest and the most vulnerable people are most affected by the pandemic, including women and girls, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees, persons in situation of conflict, informal sector workers and other groups. Countries in special situations, including African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states, may be significantly affected in the long term due to their fragile health systems, limited financial and other resources, vulnerability to external shock, and dependence on international trade. Many middle-income countries are also vulnerable and require financial and other support and cooperation to cope with the pandemic and its impacts.

It is vital that, while responding to the crisis and addressing its impacts, countries keep the SDGs and climate commitments in focus so as to hold on to the gains made thus far, and in the recovery, to make investments that propel us toward a more inclusive, sustainable, just and resilient future. A gender sensitive recovery is of utmost importance.

Particular efforts are needed to accelerate progress towards the target scheduled to be achieved by 2020. The HLPF may also give directions on the kind of action to be taken with regard to those targets. Many of the transformations needed to realize the 2030 are possible, yet require strong institutions and integrated, evidence- and data-based policies. Also critical are international and national cooperation, dialogue among countries, multiple stakeholders and regions. At the geopolitical level, the crisis calls for leadership, global solidarity, transparency, trust and multilateral cooperation.

### **Proposed guiding questions:**

- Where do we stand in terms of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs at the time of COVID-19 and how can we protect advances made thus far on the SDGs?
- How can the responses to the impacts of COVID-19 accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs?
- What are the lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis that can help increase country resilience and embark on risk-informed sustainable, resilient development pathways?
- What are ways to ensure that actions do not leave anyone behind?
- How can we help countries to strengthen statistical capacities, improve the quantity and quality of disaggregated data and support evidence-based swift decision-making?

### **Chair:**

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

### **Presentations:**

- **H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan**, Vice President of Economic and Social Council, on messages from the Integration Segment of ECOSOC



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- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress towards SDGs

### Keynote speakers:

- **H.E. Ms. Jutta Urpilainen**, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation
- **H.E. Mr. Victor Harison**, Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission

**Part 1: 9:35 AM – 10:50 AM** *Keeping the focus on the SDGs while combatting COVID-19: progress on SDGs, regional dimensions and countries at different levels of development including middle-income countries*

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Manish Bapna**, Vice President and Managing Executive Director, World Resources Institute

### Resource persons:

- **Mr. Jaouad Mahjour**, WHO Assistant Director-General for Emergency Preparedness
- **Ms. Vera Songwe**, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, and Coordinator of Regional Commissions
- **Ms. Mariana Mazzucato**, Founder and Director, Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, University College London, and Member of the Committee on Development Policy (CDP)

### Lead discussant:

- **Mr. Mohamed Boudra**, Mayor of City of Al Hoceima, Morocco (Local Authorities Major Group)

Followed by interactive discussion

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Ms. Pilar Garrido**, Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy, Costa Rica
- **H.E. Ms. Stientje van Veldhoven**, Minister for the Environment, Netherlands
- **Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, Executive Director of UN Women

**Part 2: 10:50 AM – 12:00 PM** *Keeping the focus on the SDGs while combatting COVID-19: 2020 targets, data, institutions for integrated policy making*

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Claire Melamed**, Executive Director of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data



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### Resource persons:

- **Ms. Ariunzaya Ayush**, Co-chair of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB), Chairperson of National Statistical Office of Mongolia
- **Ms. Geraldine Joslyn Fraser-Moleketi**, Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), former Minister for the Public Service and Administration of South Africa, and former member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress
- **Ms. Henrietta H. Fore**, Executive Director of UNICEF

### Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Jack Dangermond**, President and founder, ESRI (Geographic Information Systems and location intelligence)
- **Ms. Maria Isabel Leon Klenke**, President, PERU Employers Federation, Peru (Business & Industry Major Group)

Followed by interactive discussion

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Ms. Hala Al Said**, Minister of Planning, Egypt
- **H.E. Mr. Norbert Barthle**, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation, Germany
- **Ms. Joyce Msuya**, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP

**Tuesday, 7 July 2020, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM**

### **Building back better after COVID-19 and acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs**

#### **Protecting and advancing human wellbeing and ending poverty**

(Most closely related SDGs: SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 6, SDG 16, and SDG17)

Advancing human well-being is at the heart of sustainable development. It is about upholding human rights, eradicating poverty and deprivations across multiple dimensions, closing opportunity gaps and expanding capabilities – including those needed to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences as well as ensuring gender equality. Protecting the well-being of all people is also about safeguarding the natural environment on which everyone depends, including future generations, and tapping into synergies across the SDGs.

COVID-19 has tragically laid bare shortfalls in many areas and threatens to push millions of people back into poverty. Pandemic response efforts and long-term development plans must work to eliminate



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poverty and hunger; reduce inequalities in opportunities; ensure access to quality health care and reduce exposure to disease; increase access to quality education and other services; and address persistent gender inequality.

All of this is demonstrably possible, but recovering and building back better will require cooperation, collaboration and dialogue among multiple stakeholders to ensure no one is left behind, including the most vulnerable.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- What are some promising actions to support progress toward advancing human well-being that generate synergies across Sustainable Development Goals and Targets? Are there trade-offs from these actions and if so, how can they be mitigated?
- What are the most critical interventions and partnerships needed over the next 2 years, 5 years, 10 years to protect and advance human well-being and end poverty?
- Which groups are especially vulnerable to poverty and lack access to capability enhancing services?
- What are ways to ensure that actions leave no one behind? How might COVID-19 facilitate or complicate efforts to reduce vulnerabilities among marginalized groups?
- Are there examples of successful partnerships and initiatives for advancing human well-being? Can these be scaled up or adjusted to fit other contexts?
- How can science and technology support well-being in the context of COVID-19 and in the future?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Ambassador Omar Hilale**, Morocco, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Keynote speaker:

- **Mr. David Nabarro**, WHO Special Envoy on COVID-19

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Cristina Duarte**, former Finance Minister of Cabo Verde and member of Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and the UN High-Level Advisory Board (HLAB) on Economic and Social Affairs

### Resource persons:

- **Ms. Imme Scholz**, Professor and Deputy Director, German Development Institute
- **Mr. Githinji Gitahi**, Global CEO and Director General, AMREF Health Africa Group



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### Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris**, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head of the New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- **Ms. Jane Miano**, Founder and Coordinator, Focus of Disabled Persons, Kenya (Stakeholder Group of Ageing / Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities)

Followed by interactive discussion

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Mr. Vladislav Smrz**, Deputy Minister for Policy and International Relations, Ministry of the Environment, Czech Republic
- **H.E. Ms. Eryka Mouynes**, Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation, Panama

**Tuesday, 7 July 2020, 3:00 PM-4:00 PM**

### **Building back better after COVID-19 and acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs**

#### **Ending hunger and achieving food security**

(Most closely related SDGs: SDG 2, SDG 3 and SDG17)

Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) of the 2030 Agenda aims to “*end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*”. Progress has been made over the last couple of decades, however, the slow-down in progress towards hunger reduction and food security since 2015, the persistently high numbers of hungry and those suffering from under-nutrition and the emergence of obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases worldwide are adding complexity and urgency to the challenge. Our food systems are managed in an environmentally unsustainable manner and have become a major contributor to GHG emissions. Landscape degradation is already severe, and the pace of land use change, deforestation, overfishing and environmental degradation is alarming.

Simply scaling up current actions to meet the world needs for food, fibre and energy for a growing and more affluent world population will be incompatible with sustainable utilization of natural resources and will create significant trade-offs within SDG2, but also with other SDGs and targets, including SDG3 and SDG 17, as well as with the Paris Agreement for climate change. In addition, the current COVID-19 pandemic has added to and amplified existing challenges facing food systems, especially in vulnerable countries, as evidenced by the near breakdown of food supply chains, the food shortages in many developing countries and the sharp increase in people suffering from acute food insecurity as a result of COVID 19. Food systems have been unprepared to face such emergencies.

Protecting and preserving biodiversity and natural habitats is essential for protecting health. Putting food systems on a sustainable path will contribute to meeting a large number of SDGs.

Transitioning towards sustainable food systems will take policy action and individual and collective behavioural change throughout the food systems. Policies and actions should promote sustainable



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agriculture production and consumption, including reducing food loss and waste, providing decent livelihoods for all actors, including women and girls, minimizing the climate and environmental impacts and increasing the resilience of food systems.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- Which areas and socio-economic groups are especially vulnerable to poor nutrition and food insecurity, including women and girls, and what are ways to ensure that food systems transformations leave no one behind?
- What fundamental changes are needed to make our food systems an engine for inclusive growth and contribute to accelerating progress towards ending hunger and achieving food security for all in the Decade of Action?
- How might COVID-19 affect the implementation of needed food systems changes?
- What knowledge and data gaps need to be filled for better analyzing current successes and failures in food systems and the trade-offs and synergies, across SDGs, in implementing food systems changes to fix these failures?
- What means of implementation, including STI, and partnerships are needed to harness synergies and/or reduce trade-offs in food systems?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Ambassador Omar Hilale, Morocco**, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram**, former Assistant Director-General for Economic and Social Development of FAO and former Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development of UNDESA

### Resource person:

- **Ms. Endah Murniningtyas**, Co-Chair of the Independent Group of Scientists for Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2019 and former Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Indonesia
- **Mr. Bernard Lehmann**, Vice-chairperson of the Steering Committee of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), and former Director of the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), Switzerland

### Lead discussant:

- **Ms. Andrea Carmen**, Executive Director, International Indian Treaty Council, US (Indigenous Peoples Major Group)

Followed by interactive discussion



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### Respondents:

- **H.E. Mr. Luis Bastera**, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Argentina
- **Mr. Qu Dongyu**, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- **Mr. Gilbert F. Hounbo**, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- **Ms. Valerie N. Guarnieri**, Assistant Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP)

Tuesday, 7 July 2020, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

### **Transformative pathways to realize the 2030 Agenda: a whole of society approach taking into account the impact of COVID-19 (Stakeholder perspective)**

The 2030 Agenda and the UN General Assembly established ambitious modalities for the participation of Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) in the HLPF (paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda and paragraphs 14 and 15 of General Assembly Resolution 67/290). MGoS are crucial to the successful implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda. In preparation for the 2020 HLPF, they contributed to review processes at all levels, including at the regional forums on sustainable development and through national review mechanisms.

This session, organised in collaboration with the HLPF Coordination Mechanism of Major Groups and other Stakeholders, offers MGoS an opportunity to raise their critical concerns and concrete proposals for Decade of Action as well as highlight their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will focus on the recommendations of MGoS on the implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda, placing particular emphasis on the theme of the 2020 HLPF and the impact of COVID-19. It will also review the contributions of MGoS themselves to the overall successful implementation of the Agenda, especially at the national level and during ongoing national review processes.

The session will have an interactive discussion format. It will be divided into two segments. The first section will focus on key strategies and systemic reforms to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and advance the Decade of Action, while the second one will expose challenges related to the shrinking democratic space for MGoS engagement.

### **Proposed guiding questions:**

- Which key systemic reforms and action agenda can be critical to unlock real progress in advancing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement?
- What kind of multilateral system is necessary to effectively face the multi-layered crises exposed and further triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How to strengthen the centrality of human rights and reaffirm principles and modalities for democratic participation of rights-holders and all relevant societal constituencies at global, regional, national and local levels?





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### Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Maria Theresa Nera-Lauron**, Advisor for United Nations Programme, Center for International Dialogue and Cooperation, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Philippines

### Resource persons:

- **Mr. Haaziq Kazi**, Grade VIII Student, Indus International School Pune (MGCY)
- **Mr. Refat Sabbah**, President, Global Campaign for Education (EASG)
- **Ms. Limota Limotat Goroso Giwa**, Board Member, Huairou Commission (Sendai Group SEM)
- **Ms. Alessandrabree Chacha**, TransSmart Trust (LGBTI SG)

### Lead discussant:

- **Mr. Rilli Lappalainen**, Director of Sustainable Development, Finnish Development NGOs (speaking on behalf of the Delegation of Finland)

Followed by interactive discussion

## Wednesday, 8 July 2020

Wednesday, 8 July 2020, 9:00 AM -10:00 AM

### **Building back better after COVID-19 and acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs:**

### **Responding to the economic shock, relaunching growth, sharing economic benefits and addressing developing countries' financing challenges**

(Most closely related SDGs: SDG 5, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 10, and SDG 17)

Economic activity provides livelihoods, jobs, incomes and the means to attain many other elements of a better life. However, in recent decades, economic growth has been accompanied by increasing or persistently high levels of inequality within countries – between the rich and poor, women and men, and different groups within society, such as between migrants and nationals. It has also been accompanied by growing environmental degradation. With current production and consumption systems threatening the well-being of present and future generations. Such trends seem set to continue and many have been brought to the fore with the differential impact of COVID-19 on different population groups, and national responses to it.



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A fundamental reconfiguration is needed in economic policymaking and the production and consumption of goods and services, in tandem with a diminished environmental footprint and greater distributional justice that prioritizes gender equality, access to decent jobs, and social protection for all. Achieving this in line with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development will require leadership from both the public and the private sector, shifts in social norms, and engagement with civil society and the science community.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- What are some promising actions to support progress toward sustainable economic growth and sharing economic benefits that generate synergies across Goals and targets? Are there trade-offs from these actions and if so, how can they be mitigated?
- Which groups are especially vulnerable to missing out on economic benefits and decent work, and what are ways to ensure that actions leave no one behind?
- How might responses to COVID-19 facilitate or complicate efforts to reduce these vulnerabilities including for informal workers and the working poor?
- What long-term policy measures and social protections are necessary to promote the resilience of the most marginalized groups to economic and environmental shocks?
- Are there examples of successful partnerships and initiatives to harness synergies and/or reduce trade-offs in economic systems?
- What steps can be taken to promote the sustained participation of civil society organizations, women's and girls' organizations, youth-led organizations and national human rights institutions? Can these be scaled up or adjusted to fit other contexts?
- What role can science, technology and innovation (STI) play in the transformation to sustainable and equitable economic systems, and how do we prevent STI from expanding inequalities within and among groups vulnerable to being left behind?

### Chair:

- **H. E. Ambassador Mher Margaryan**, Armenia, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin**, Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### Resource persons:

- **Ms. Carolina Sanchez Paramo**, Global Director for Poverty, World Bank
- **Mr. Arunabha Ghosh**, CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, India, and Member of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP)

### Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary of ESCAP
- **Mr. Mamadou Diallo**, Deputy General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation, Senegal (Workers & Trade Unions Major Group)



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Followed by interactive discussion

**Respondent:**

- **Mr. Saad Alfarargi**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to development

Wednesday, 8 July 2020, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### **Mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action and embarking on new pathways to realize the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway: Small Island Developing States**

COVID-19 has exacerbated the existing challenges confronting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) resulting in a new array of challenges which could potentially inhibit the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SAMOA Pathway.

The COVID-19 pandemic is first a health crisis. With their relatively weaker healthcare services and systems, SIDS require support in order to respond to this crisis. COVID-19 also can have cascading and scarring effects on economies and societal systems, and its economic impact is already hard felt in many countries. Policy responses need to be implemented with great urgency to address immediate challenges, with the ultimate objective to build back better so as to be resilient to future crises and to embark on accelerated progress towards sustainable development.

Significant financial and other support will be necessary to bolster SIDS' efforts to respond to COVID-19 and boost economic and other resilience. New and innovative financial instruments that incentivizes ex-ante resilience building are required. In this regard, the support of the international multilateral financial community and other multilateral and bilateral partners are necessary to realize the magnitude of resources required at this time.

In addition, there is emphasis on the need for immediate solutions and effective commitments for long-term debt relief for SIDS. Whilst there has been some support for the suspension of debt repayments for IDA eligible countries, most SIDS do not fall into this category. There is a need to address debt relief and restructuring in all SIDS, with greater flexibility in the assessment of developing countries' fiscal situations, and extended credit facilities.

This session will feature resource persons and country representatives from across the three SIDS regions, who will share their challenges, strategies and approaches in response to COVID-19 and for realizing the transformational change necessary for building resilience in these economies. It will also explore the channels of support currently available, identify where gaps exist, and how the required resources can be leveraged from the international community.



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### Proposed guiding questions:

- What kinds of policy reforms are required to ensure that SIDS build back better in the aftermath of COVID-19 and remain on track with the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda?
- What are the channels of support currently available for such efforts? How can the required resources be leveraged to effectively assist SIDS?
- What innovative and other financial approaches, including support for debt restructuring and debt relief, are needed to complement international development assistance?
- How can SIDS' efforts be best supported to ensure effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SAMOA Pathway at national and regional levels?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Ambassador Munir Akram**, Pakistan, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu**, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

### Keynote Speaker:

- **H.E. Mr. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum**, Attorney-General, Minister for Economy and Minister responsible for climate change, Fiji

### Resource persons:

- **H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maldives
- **Ms. Alicia Barcena**, Executive Secretary of ECLAC
- **Ms. Terri Toyota**, Head, Sustainable Markets Group, World Economic Forum

### Lead discussant:

- **Ms. Karol Alejandra Arambula Carrillo**, Executive Director and Founder, MY World Mexico (NGO Major Group)

Followed by interactive discussion

### Respondent:

- **H.E. Ms. Marsha Caddle**, Minister, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment, Barbados



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Wednesday, 8 July 2020, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

### **Building back better after COVID-19 and acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs:**

#### **Protecting the planet and building resilience**

(Most closely related SDGs: SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, and SDG 17)

The 2030 Agenda is rooted in the idea that human development and wellbeing cannot be achieved without simultaneously safeguarding and investing in nature — otherwise development gains will be short lived and unequally distributed. Biodiversity loss, land and forest degradation and climate change, and more frequent and intense natural hazards, among other, are threatening the planet and human life and wellbeing. Actions to advance economic and social development need to address these threats and build resilience, including through sustainable consumption and production practices and accounting for the true value of nature.

The past decade—including the COVID-19 crisis—has revealed the systemic nature of risk and the cascading impact of disasters, crossing economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and affecting countries in all corners of the globe. The natural environment is humanity's first line of defence against hazards of all kinds, and nature-based solutions (NBS) enable us to protect and work with nature to build resilience and reduce risks at all scales. These concerns are addressed directly in SDGs 12, 13, 14, and 15, but they also animate the entire Agenda, including health, food security and economic growth and livelihoods. The current session will highlight opportunities, innovation and solutions to safeguard the planet, managing risk and building resilience.

#### **Proposed guiding questions:**

- What are the fundamental systems transformations needed to halt nature degradation, reverse loss and manage risk, while eradicating poverty, ensuring food security for a growing population, including women and girls, securing livelihoods and promoting resilience? How can we scale up the use of nature-based solutions to achieve these transformations? How can we promote sustainable consumption and production?
- How can the public and the private sector work better together to manage disaster risk across systems, in line with the Sendai Framework, and to protect the global environmental commons? What tools are instrumental towards this aim?
- What does the COVID-19 crisis reveal about the human-nature relationship and systemic risk creation? How can nature-based solutions contribute to a post-COVID-19 economic and social recovery that is more sustainable, equitable and resilient?
- How can we redirect financial flows and direct recovery efforts to create better outcomes for people, prosperity and planet? Which nature-related investments should the international community prioritize in the next 1-2 years?
- How can we increase efforts to combat climate change as we respond to COVID-19?

#### **Chair:**

- **H.E. Ambassador Munir Akram**, Pakistan, Vice President of ECOSOC



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### Moderator:

- **Mr. Shaun Tarbuck**, CEO of the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF)

### Resource persons:

- **H.E. Ms. Adjany Costa**, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Environment, Angola
- **Ms. Sandra Diaz**, Co-chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

### Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Takeuchi Kazuhiko**, President of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Project Professor of the Institute for Future Initiatives (IFI), University of Tokyo, Japan
- **Mr. Theo De Jager**, President, World Farmers' Organisation (Farmers Major Group)

Followed by interactive discussion

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Ms. María Claudia García**, Vice Minister of Environment acting as a Minister in charge, Colombia
- **H.E. Ms. Eva Svedling**, State Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Sweden
- **H.E. Ms. Kitty Sweeb**, Chair of the Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF16), Permanent Representative of Suriname to the UN
- **Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**, Executive Secretary of Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

**Wednesday, 8 July 2020, 3:00 PM-4:00 PM**

### **Building back better after COVID-19 and acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs:**

#### **Sustaining efforts to ensure access to sustainable energy**

(Most closely related SDG: SDG 7, SDG 12, SDG 13, and SDG 17)

Energy lies at the heart of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. As governments worldwide tackle the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, we must not lose sight of the critical need for an accelerated clean energy transition. Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 will open a new world of opportunities for billions of people through new economic opportunities and jobs, empowered women, children and youth, better education and health, more sustainable, equitable and inclusive communities, and greater protections from, and resilience to, climate change impacts.



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Achieving SDG 7 will catalyze actions to combat climate change and advance targets of other SDGs and will contribute to accelerate transition to carbon neutral economy.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- How does/will the COVID-19 crisis and associated volatility in oil prices affect the energy sector?
- How can clean energy investments contribute to a better and stronger recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How do we deploy the four “levers” identified in the GSDR - governance, economy and finance, science and technology, and individual and collective action – to accelerate the clean energy transition?
- How do we accelerate the clean energy transition, while expanding access to electricity, achieving progress on clean cooking and ensuring the increase in transport movements is sustainable?
- How can we mainstream decarbonization, decentralization and digitalization of energy systems into updated Nationally Determined Contributions to maximize synergies between the energy transition and climate action?
- What are the outstanding challenges, and best practices to mobilize finance for clean energy investments, in particular in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states?
- How do we advance the SDG Decade of Action through innovative and knowledge-based policies and partnerships? What affordable, reliable and gender-responsive energy solutions do frontier technologies offer?

### Chair:

- **H. E. Ambassador Mher Margaryan**, Armenia, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All

### Resource persons:

- **Mr. Francesco La Camera**, Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency
- **Mr. Hans Olav Ibrenk**, Policy Director, Energy and Climate Change, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Co-Facilitator of SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group
- **Ms. Sheila Oparaocha**, Executive Director, ENERGIA (international network on gender and sustainable energy)

### Lead discussant:

- **Ms. Leena Srivastava**, Deputy Director General for Science, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, India (Science & Technology Community Major Group)



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Followed by interactive discussion

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Mr. Omar Ayub Khan**, Minister of Energy, Pakistan
- **H.E. Ms. Cristina Gallach**, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean (Vice-minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Spain
- **Mr. Li Yong**, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- **Ms. Mami Mizutori**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- **H.E. Ms. Fatima Al Foora**, Assistant Minister for the Ministry of Energy, United Arab Emirates

**Thursday, 9 July 2020**

Thursday, 9 July 2020, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

### **Building back better after COVID-19 acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs:**

### **Bolstering local action to control the pandemic and accelerate implementation**

(Most closely related SDGs: SDG 9, SDG 11, and SDG 17)

In the Political Declaration adopted at the 2019 SDG Summit, Member States reaffirmed the critical role of cities, local authorities and communities in implementing and realizing the SDGs and committed to empowering and supporting them in pursuing the 2030 Agenda. While SDG 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable provides a clear set of targets and indicators for local and regional governments and communities to strive towards, their contributions will be critical throughout all the 17 SDGs.

If current trends continue, by 2050 cities will host approximately 70 per cent of the world's population and produce 85 per cent of global economic output. While rapid urbanization poses a number of challenges, cities also offer the opportunity to achieve multiple SDGs at scale and with efficiency.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has added unprecedented and unique challenges for cities, including pressure on their health care, education and safety systems, and disproportionately affected the most vulnerable groups of the society, including women and girls facing multiple discrimination. It also poses threats to rural areas that research and data has shown are often left behind in the development compared to cities.

The pandemic has highlighted the important role of local governments as the provider of services in closest proximity to people. The recovery phase from the pandemic will represent an opportunity for





## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

all levels of government, including local and regional governments, to build back more inclusive, equal, resilient and sustainable societies, as laid out in the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- How can the SDG framework support response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen preparedness for future pandemics at the local level? How have urbanization challenges changed, and what are the implications of the pandemic for urban planning, resilience strategies, deployment of technologies for connectivity? How to secure financing for the recovery?
- What are the innovative actions and partnerships that cities, local authorities and rural communities are undertaking in their SDG implementation? How can we ensure that local actions are truly transformative?
- What actions can countries take to ensure that SDG implementation at the sub-national level is effectively reported and monitored in national efforts, including VNRs? How can sub-national and local reviews support SDG implementation and what mechanisms could ensure coherence among sub-national and national actions?
- What type of capacity building and support is required to ensure that cities, local authorities and rural communities are empowered to implement the SDGs?
- How can developing countries better manage the surge of urbanisation to make cities more productive, sustainable and equitable thus enabling attainment of SDGs?
- What is the role of science, technology and innovation in the transformation to sustainable and equitable urban systems, which also incorporate and address informality and help overcome the digital divide?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Ambassador Juan Sandoval**, Mexico, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Gino Van Begin**, Secretary General, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)

### Resource persons:

- **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Executive Director of UN-Habitat
- **Mr. Yūji Kuroiwa**, Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan

### Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary of ECE
- **Mr. Santiago del Hierro**, Architect and Researcher, Ecuador
- **Ms. Mabel Bianco**, President, Fundacion para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, Argentina (Women's Major Group)

Followed by interactive discussion



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Respondent:

- **Ms. Penny Abeywardena**, Commissioner for International Affairs, New York City, US

Thursday, 9 July 2020, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

### **Are we leaving no one behind in eradicating poverty and working towards the 2030 Agenda?**

(including what COVID-19 is telling us about inequalities and the weaknesses in our social systems)

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States committed to achieving sustainable development for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. They pledged that no one would be left behind, and that they would endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.

Against this pledge, considerable progress has been made in economic and social development over the past decades. However, such progress has been uneven across and within countries and among groups of people; more than 10% of the world population are left living in poverty and the pace of poverty reduction has been decelerating in recent years.

Now, in the year 2020, the global community is facing the greatest health and human crisis since the creation of the UN 75 years ago. COVID-19 is upending billions of lives across regions and is likely to push the global economy down to the worst recession since the Great Depression in 1929; it has exposed and exacerbated vulnerabilities and inequalities in both developing and developed countries, deepening poverty and exclusion and pushing the most vulnerable even further behind.

This session will examine implications of the current crisis for the furthest behind. It will discuss comprehensive policies and strategies to “recover better” and use the recovery from the pandemic to build the kind of social and economic systems that will leave no one behind and improve the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable, including women and girls exposed to multiple discriminations.

### **Proposed guiding questions:**

- What did COVID-19 show us about our social and economic systems’ ability to cope with shocks and their impact on the poorest and most vulnerable?
- How can we resume and accelerate progress towards SDGs while leaving no one behind, in particular by eradicating poverty and building more just, equitable and inclusive societies?
- What lessons have we learned from the implementation of the SDGs and the response to COVID-19 thus far? How can we take advantage of policies and measures already being introduced to implement the 2030 Agenda, to address systemic vulnerabilities and recover better towards more sustainable, just, equitable and inclusive societies?
- Which groups are especially vulnerable during and in recovering from the COVID-19 crisis? What are some promising actions to improve the situations of these groups and leave no one behind? How can we ensure that actions taken to respond to COVID-19 leave no one behind?



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- What kind of mechanisms (i.e., early-warning systems, rapid response funds) are necessary to enable coordinated actions at global, regional and national levels and among all segment of society to mitigate risks and enhance resilience of individuals, groups and communities in vulnerable situations, amid the current crisis?

### Chair:

- **H. E. Ambassador Mher Margaryan**, Armenia, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Diane Elson**, Professor Emeritus, University of Essex, UK, and Research Affiliate, Centre for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University, US, and Member of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP)

### Resource persons:

- **Ms. Winnie Byanyima**, Executive Director of UNAIDS
- **Ms. Ifeyinwa Ofong**, National Coordinator, WorldWIDE Network Nigeria and Board Member of the Habitat International Coalition, Nigeria

### Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary of ESCWA
- **Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen**, Chair of the Internet Governance Forum's Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group, South Africa
- **Ms. Sophia Bachmann**, German UN Youth Delegate on Sustainable Development
- **Mr. John Patrick Ngoyi**, Director, Justice, Development and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Ijebu-Ode, Nigeria (Together 2030)

Followed by interactive discussion

### Respondents:

- **Ms. Natalia Kanem**, Executive Director of UNFPA
- **Mr. Paul Ladd**, Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

Thursday, 9 July 2020, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action and embarking on new pathways to realize the 2030 Agenda and respond to COVID-19: African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries**



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying global economic recession will cause a rise in poverty, global economic inequality and inequitable distribution of development gains within and among countries. The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and African countries will bear the heaviest burden of these impacts. These countries are already vulnerable due to the fragility of their health systems, limited coverage of their social protection systems, limited financial and other resources, vulnerability to external shocks, and significant dependence on international trade and financing.

In many of these countries the effects of the pandemic are amplified by the ongoing conflicts, instability and climate crisis. The poorest and most vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees and informal sector workers.

Preparations for the fifth UN conference on LDCs in Doha, Qatar (21-25 March 2021) have been slowed down due to COVID-19 but are picking up again. The Conference will provide an opportunity to shape a new action plan for LDCs to build back better, smarter and resilient in the next decade. The mid-term reviews of the Vienna programme of actions led to further commitments to improve the situation of LLDCs.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- How can the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects be used as an opportunity for enhancing resilience and structural transformation in LDCs, LLDCs and African countries?
- What structural and other changes are needed to address the impacts of COVID-19 such as rising external debt, drop in remittances and tourism or impact on food security? How can they be accelerated for realizing the decade of action for the SDGs?
- What specific policy measures and international support are needed to protect medium and small-scale enterprises and their role in the economies of some of these vulnerable countries?
- What strategies can we use to build back better, smarter and resilient in LDCs, LLDCs and African countries?
- What recommendations would you make for the next decade in the context of the future programme of action for LDCs?
- How can we resume and accelerate progress in achieving the SDGs and delivering on the programmes of action for LDCs and LLDCs and NEPAD?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

### Keynote speaker:

- **Ms. Agnes Kalibata**, former Minister of Agriculture of Rwanda, President of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and Special Envoy for the 2021 Food System Summit



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Fahmida Khatun**, Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh

### Resource persons:

- **H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki**, former Prime Minister of Niger and CEO of AUDA-NEPAD
- **H.E. Mr. Khalifa bin Jassim Al-Kuwari**, Director General, Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD)
- **Mr. Ahmed Ouma**, Deputy Director of Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention

### Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Vanessa Chivizhe**, Junior Parliament of Zimbabwe
- **Mr. Trymore Karikoga**, Acting Executive Chairperson and VIONet Zim National Coordinator, VIONet Zimbabwe (Volunteers Stakeholder Group)

Followed by interactive discussion

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Ms. Matšepo Ramakoa**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Lesotho
- **Ms. Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu**, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- **Mr. Thomas Munthali**, Director General for the National Planning Commission, Malawi

**Friday, 10 July 2020**

**Friday, 10 July 2020, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM**

**Means of implementation to match the scope of the crisis  
and the breadth of our ambition for 2030:**  
**Mobilizing well directed financing**

As economies are slowly reopening following a sudden halt of activity, countries have the opportunity to build back better by creating more sustainable, resilient and inclusive economies and societies. There is significant momentum in an increased number of countries around the notion that a reversion to the pre-COVID economy, which fueled environmental degradation, climate change and increasing inequalities, is not desirable. Many recognize the recovery from the economic fallout of the pandemic as a vital opportunity to shape a post-COVID economy that is greener, healthier, more inclusive and more resilient.



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Yet, the context for financing this recovery is challenging. Governments have seen the fiscal space for investment in a sustainable recovery significantly limited in the context of the global economic crisis. Countries are faced with a dual challenge of declining revenues due to the crisis and increased spending demands. An increasing number of countries is also facing acute debt distress. Efforts are being made to provide debt relief for all countries requesting debt alleviation. But a comprehensive solution that engages multilateral, public and private creditors is yet to be achieved. At the same time, the private sector also faces limited space to invest, as businesses have also been hit hard.

ECOSOC has taken several steps to help countries finance their response to COVID-19 and embark on a path towards a sustainable recovery. The 2020 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum adopted an outcome containing policies to support health measures, address socioeconomic impact of the pandemic and ensure building back better. The outcome represents the first universally agreed UN set of policies on COVID-19. In addition, the Council convened two meetings of the FfD Forum, on 23 April and 2 June respectively, to advocate for a comprehensive response; highlight the needs on the ground and help countries access resources available for COVID-19 response.

These discussions advocated that resources that are being made available must be aligned with the SDGs, including stimulus packages and bailouts, as well as international development cooperation in all its forms. There is also need for scaling up the availability of concessional financing for developing countries struggling to rebuild, especially the least developed and other countries in special situations. Moreover, there is the need to strengthen national and subnational capacities to manage and reduce risks and multidimensional vulnerability and advance multi-stakeholder partnerships in the efforts to build SDG-conducive economies and societies. The recovery will only be sustainable if the systemic and structural vulnerabilities exposed by the pandemic are adequately addressed, e.g. evolving durable solution to debt sustainability.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- What policy measures and financing options can enable countries to build back better and achieve a resilient and sustainable recovery?
- How can the economy be aligned with the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement, and how can the recovery preserve the environment and build resilience to climate change and other global risks?
- What steps are needed at the global level to support the most vulnerable countries and people to achieve a resilient and sustainable recovery?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Annalisa Prizzon**, Senior Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

### Resource persons:

- **H.E. Mr. Ryan Straughn**, M.P., Minister, Ministry of Finance, Barbados
- **Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva**, Director, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate
- **Ms. Sharinee Shannon Kalayanamitr**, Partner, Gobi Partners, Thailand



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Lead discussant:

- **Mr. Ambroise Fayolle**, Vice-President, European Investment Bank
- **Ms. Lidy Nacpil, Coordinator**, Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development, Philippines (Civil Society Financing for Development Group)

Followed by interactive discussion

### Respondent:

- **H.E. Ms. Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch**, State Secretary, Director of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland

**Friday, 10 July 2020, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

### **Means of implementation to match the scope of the crisis and the breadth of our ambition for 2030:** **Science, technology, innovation**

One of the key functions entrusted to the high-level political forum on sustainable development by Rio+20 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to strengthen the science-policy interface, including through the Global Sustainable Development Report and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism.

Progress in science, technology and innovation (STI) continues to accelerate, promising significant benefits but also risks to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Science, technology and innovation will continue to have broad impacts on the economy, society and environment. Rapid technological advances have rarely been neutral and can present extraordinary policy and societal challenges. It is important to ensure that they are to the benefit of all, in line with the ambitions of the SDGs.

The Decade of Action explicitly recognizes that STI are essential ingredients as part of any feasible transformative pathway towards the SDGs. This is underscored by their role in understanding, responding to, and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Timely research, analysis and information are essential to allow identification, dissemination and adaptation of critical technology solutions. At the same time, a greater engagement with stakeholders across society is needed to ensure that these make a real and lasting difference, and that potential trade-offs across goals and targets can be resolved.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed new innovations and forms of collaboration. The crisis has been a wake-up call for a better science-policy-society interface, for more effective international technology cooperation, and for building public trust in science related to all areas of sustainable development. Rapid improvements in these areas – improvements that are commensurate with the far-reaching



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

rapid technological progress – are essential to realize the full promise of STI and to ensure that no one is left behind.

### Proposed guiding questions:

- What are the most promising technology solutions, innovations, and transformative technology pathways towards the SDGs?
- What are the challenges and opportunities faced in developing and deploying STI for emerging challenges such as COVID-19 pandemic?
- How can we mobilize science, technology and innovation to improve the lives of the furthest behind, and reduce inequalities, especially during rapid technological change?
- How can we strengthen international cooperation on science, technology and innovation to better deal with sustainability challenges?

### Chair:

- **H.E. Ambassador Juan Sandoval**, Mexico, Vice President of ECOSOC

### Moderator:

- **Mr. George Essegbey**, Director, Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI), Council of Science and Industrial Research, Ghana

### Resource persons:

- **Mr. Vaughan Turekian**, Senior Director, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, US, and Co-Chair of the 10 Member Group to Support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism
- **Ms. Helen Rees**, Chairperson, Executive Director, Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (WRHI), University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Board Member of GAVI, South Africa

### Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Teresa M. Stoepler**, Executive Director, InterAcademy Partnership, and member of Global Young Academy
- **Ms. Elenita Dano**, Co-Coordinator, ETC Group, Philippines (Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Organization Engagement Mechanism)

Followed by interactive discussion

### Respondents:

- **H.E. Ms. Mariya Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, European Commission
- **H.E. Mr. Afework K. Gizaw**, State Minister, Ministry of Science and High Education, Ethiopia





## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **H.E. Mr. Viktor Nedovic**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Serbia, representative of Mr. Mladen Sarcevic, Minister of Education and Science, Serbia
- **H.E. Mr. Kekgonne Baipoledi**, Chair of Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, Botswana

**Friday, 10 July 2020, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

### **Voluntary National Reviews**

As part of its follow-up and review architecture, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages Member States to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country led and country driven” (paragraph 79). These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF, meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.

The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned. With a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.

47 countries will conduct VNRs at the 2020 HLPF.

#### **Chair:**

- **H. E. Ambassador Mher Margaryan**, Armenia, Vice President of ECOSOC

#### **Remarks:**

- **Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, key messages from the voluntary national reviews
- **H.E. Ambassador Juan Sandoval**, Mexico, Vice President of ECOSOC, in his capacity as Chair of the Group of Friends of the Voluntary National Reviews and Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda

Panel: Armenia, Samoa

Ecuador, Honduras, Slovenia



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Monday, 13 July 2020**

**Monday, 13 July 2020, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

### **Voluntary National Reviews**

**Chair:**

- **H.E Ambassador Omar Hilale**, Morocco, Vice President of ECOSOC

Panel 1: Nepal, Georgia,

Panel 2: Kenya Nigeria, Uganda

Bangladesh, India, Morocco, Niger

**Monday, 13 July 2020, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

### **Voluntary National Reviews**

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Ambassador Juan Sandoval**, Mexico, Vice President of ECOSOC

Panama

Panel 1: Benin and Costa Rica

Panel 2: Peru and Argentina



***Theme: Accelerated action and transformative pathways:  
realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development***

**Tuesday, 14 July 2020**

Tuesday, 14 July 2020, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

**Opening of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC / Ministerial Segment of HLPF**

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

**Opening remarks:**

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council
- **Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande**, President of the General Assembly

**Keynote Speaker:**

- **H.E. Ms. Sanna Marin**, Prime Minister of Finland

**Youth representatives (statement on behalf of youth):**

- **Ms. Farai Lwandile Mubaiwa**, Co-Founder of Afrika Matters Initiative (AMI) and Lead at Youth Employment Service (YES), South Africa
- **Ms. Tina Hocevar**, Vice President of the European Youth Forum

Tuesday, 14 July 2020, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

**HLPF**

**Voluntary National Reviews**

**Chair: H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of ECOSOC

Finland, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Burundi, Gambia



**Tuesday, 14 July 2020, 3:00 PM-3:15 PM**

**HLPF**

**Keynote by the President of UN Environment Assembly**

The UN Environment Assembly contributes to the full integration and effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, acknowledging that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for sustainable development. In his allocution, the President of the UN Environment Assembly, H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn, Minister of Environment and Climate of Norway, will convey the main messages of the UN Environment Assembly and present the contributions of the Assembly to the debates of the HLPF.

The fifth UN Environment Assembly will take place in February 2021 in Nairobi.

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

**Keynote speaker:**

- **H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn**, President of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway

Followed by **H.E. Mr. Trevor Prescod**, President of the Latin America and Caribbean Forum of Ministers and Minister of Environment and National Beautification of Barbados, on messages from the region.

**Tuesday, 14 July 2020, 3:15 PM-4:15 PM**

**HLPF**

**Voluntary National Reviews**

**Chair: H.E. Ambassador Mher Margaryan**, Armenia, Vice President of ECOSOC  
Brunei Darussalam, Micronesia



## Wednesday, 15 July 2020

Wednesday, 15 July 2020, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

### HLPF

### Messages from the regions

The 2030 Agenda stressed the importance of the regional and sub-regional dimensions in the follow-up and review of the Agenda. Since the creation of the HLPF, regional forums on sustainable development have been organized by the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the forum's preparations. Their importance was recognized in the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit in September 2019.

In 2020, the regional forum for the African region was organized by ECA from 24 to 27 February. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ECE and the ESCAP regional forums on sustainable development had to be scaled down and held virtually (ECE – 19 March 2020 and ESCAP – 20 May 2020). The regional forums on sustainable development of ECLAC and ESCWA had to be postponed and were held through virtual consultations, knowledge platforms, publication of various documents as well as summaries from different meetings in the respective regions.

The session will discuss the findings and recommendations from the regional forums on sustainable development.

It will start with presentations by the regions' spokespersons and Ministerial Chairs of the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development followed by interactive discussion with participants.

The session will address the following general questions:

- As we enter the Decade of Action and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, were regions delivering on the 2030 Agenda aspirations? What were the critical gaps and opportunities for action at the regional level to make progress towards the achievement of the SDGs?
- What is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the different regional trajectories towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda?
- What are the key opportunities and potential for building back better in the regions?

#### **Chair:**

- **H.E Ambassador Omar Hilale**, Morocco, Vice President of ECOSOC

#### **Moderator:**

- **Ms. Vera Songwe**, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, and Coordinator of Regional Commissions



**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Mr. Paul Mavima**, Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe, and Chair of the 6th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
- **H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Malmierca**, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment, Cuba, and Chair of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development
- **H.E. Ms. Lolwah Al-Khater**, Assistant Foreign Minister and Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State of Qatar
- **H.E. Mr. Vaqif Sadiqov**, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the UN, Geneva, and Chair of the 4th session of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region
- **H.E. Ms. Samantha K. Jayasuriya**, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to ESCAP, and Chair of the 7th session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

**Respondent:**

- **H.E. Ms. Nezha El Ouafi**, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Morocco

**Wednesday, 15 July 2020, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM**

**HLPF**

**Voluntary National Reviews**

**Chair:**

**H.E. Ambassador Mher Margaryan**, Armenia, Vice President of ECOSOC (10:00 AM-12:00 PM)

**H.E. Ambassador Omar Hilale**, Morocco, Vice President of ECOSOC (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)

Estonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Austria, Seychelles, Syrian Arab Republic

**Wednesday, 15 July 2020, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM**

**HLPF**

**Voluntary National Reviews**

**Chair: H.E. Ambassador Juan Sandoval**, Mexico, Vice President of ECOSOC

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea



## Thursday, 16 July 2020

Thursday, 16 July 2020, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

### HLPF

### Voluntary National Reviews

**Chair:**

**H.E. Ambassador Omar Hilale**, Morocco, Vice President of ECOSOC (9:00 AM-11:00 AM)

**H.E. Ambassador Mher Margaryan**, Armenia, Vice President of ECOSOC (11:00 AM-1:00 PM)

DRC, Comoros, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malawi, Zambia Republic of Moldova

Thursday, 16 July 2020, 2:30 PM-4:00 PM

### HLPF

### Voluntary National Reviews

**Chair: H.E. Ambassador Juan Sandoval**, Mexico, Vice President of ECOSOC

Liberia, Barbados, Solomon Islands

Thursday, 16 July 2020, 4:00 PM-4:30 PM

### Closing of the HLPF

**Chair: H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

“Adoption” of the Ministerial Declaration<sup>1</sup>

Closing remarks of **Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Closing remarks of **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

Conclusion of the HLPF

<sup>1</sup> The Ministerial Declaration is expected to be agreed through a silence procedure.



***Theme: Accelerated action and transformative pathways:  
realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development***

**Friday, 17 July 2020**

**High-level Segment of ECOSOC**

*(Continued)*

**Friday, 17 July 2020, 9:00 AM -9:45 AM**

**Where are we heading: Visions and scenarios for the future of the SDGs  
following the COVID-19 crisis**

This session will focus on future trends, projections and scenarios around the ECOSOC theme of “*Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*” following the COVID-19 crisis.

The General Assembly decided that the ECOSOC High-level Segment would focus on “*future trends and scenarios related to the Council theme, the long-term impact of current trends, such as contribution of new technologies, in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realization of the SDGs based on the work of the UN and other regional and international organizations and bodies as well as other stakeholders.*” (resolution 72/305)

This year, as part of this discussion, the High-level Segment will address the current COVID-19 pandemic and its economic, social and environmental effects on the SDGs. The COVID-19 outbreak has mobilized emergency action at local and national level. The reports of the Secretary-General on the theme of ECOSOC 2020 and on “long term future trends and scenarios -impacts in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals” will provide background for the session.

To advance the thinking around transformative pathways that can advance the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, the first report discusses particular accelerated actions required during and beyond the response to COVID-19 along pathways for reducing income inequality and eradicating extreme poverty, as well as reducing CO2 emissions to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The second report presents a set of best-case, aspirational long-term scenarios in line with the SDGs and contrasts them with business-as-usual and worst-case scenario outcomes for 2030 and 2050. It also explores the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as new Internet technologies and artificial intelligence.





**Proposed guiding questions:**

- What are the long-term implications of current and near-term decisions, such as those to address COVID-19 or the impacts of new Internet and artificial intelligence technologies? How will they influence our capacity and available options to deal with other great sustainability challenges that humanity is facing in the longer run?
- How can governments turn the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity to “build back better”? What are the most important policies and actions to overcome the current global economic crisis and put the world on a pathway towards the SDGs, eradicating extreme poverty, saving the environment, and “leaving no one behind”? What could be achieved with much higher water, energy and materials efficiencies?
- How can governments better shockproof healthcare, social protection and other key systems and institutions for unexpected events like COVID-19?
- What role can governments and the United Nations play in the coming decade to strengthen solutions-oriented international cooperation on sustainable development?

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Michael Obersteiner**, Executive Director, The Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, UK

Presentation on the Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2020 by **Mr. Stefan Schweinfest**, Director of the Statistics Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Resource Persons:**

- **Mr. Nebojsa Nakicenovic**, Executive Director, The World in 2050 (TWI2050), former Deputy Director and CEO of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
- **Ms. Claudia Martínez**, Executive Director of E3- Ecología, Economía y Ética, Colombia, and Co-chair of the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) country programs

**Lead discussant:**

- **Mr. Kostas Stamoulis**, former Assistant-Director General of the Economic and Social Development Department, and Senior Adviser to FAO

**Respondents:**

- **H.E. Mr. Omar Sultan Al Olama**, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, United Arab Emirates
- **H.E. Mr. Jochen Flasbarth**, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
- **Ms. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes**, Special Envoy of the UNSG on Disability and Accessibility



Friday, 17 July 2020, 9:45 AM -11:30 AM

## **Multilateralism after COVID 19: what kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?**

ECOSOC will hold a high-level conversation among leaders on global solidarity and renewed multilateralism during times of crisis and in the continuing pursuit of long-term sustainable development. The session is a substantive contribution of ECOSOC to the 75th Anniversary Commemoration of the United Nations to be held under the overall theme of *“The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism.”*

This session will reflect on the kind of multilateralism needed today to deliver a forward looking and effective collective response to global crises such as COVID-19 and long-term challenges such as climate change, while accelerating progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Central to the discussion will be the role of the UN and its institutions in charting the way forward towards more trusted and impactful international cooperation.

Against the backdrop of a changing international environment, the session will focus on critical forces shaping the trajectory of multilateralism and explore ways to reinvigorate the multilateral agenda through strong multilateral leadership, effective international institutions and an enhanced focus on global public goods and justice for all.

The event will also consider how to evolve towards a more “inclusive multilateralism” by strengthening the voices and participation of civil society, the private sector, academia and other non-state actors in the work of the United Nations.

### **Proposed guiding questions:**

- What concrete steps could the international community take, through the United Nations, to enhance global solidarity and international cooperation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- In light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, what would an “ideal United Nations” look like and how can we get there?
- What actions would need to be taken to make the work of the UN more open and inclusive?
- Looking ahead, what is the role and contribution of ECOSOC in a reinvigorated and strengthened multilateral system that is fit for addressing short and long-term global challenges, including the provision of global public goods and justice for all?

**9:45 AM – 10:30 AM:** Opening and panel

### **Chair:**

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council



**Remarks:**

- **Mr. Antonio Guterres**, Secretary-General, United Nations

**Moderator:**

- **H.E. Mr. Kevin Rudd**, Former Prime Minister of Australia, International Peace Institute

**Resource persons:**

- **Mr. Angel Gurría**, Secretary-General of the OECD
- **H.E. Ms. Yasmine Fouad**, President of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- **Mr. Zhang Xinsheng**, President, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- **Ms. Sanda Ojiambo**, CEO and Executive Director, UN Global Compact
- **Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake**, Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
- **Ms. Julia Sanchez**, Chair of the Board of CIVICUS

**10:30 AM-11:30 AM:** Statements by Member States

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

**Statements:**

Heads of State or Government

**H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg**, Prime Minister, NORWAY

**H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi**, Prime Minister, INDIA

**H.E. Mr. Wang Yi**, State Councilor and Foreign Minister, CHINA

**H.E. Mr. Pedro Brolo**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, GUATEMALA

**H.E. Ms. Gila Gamliel**, Minister of Environmental Protection, ISRAEL

**H.E. Ms. Maria Ubach Font**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, ANDORRA

**H.E. Ms. Kamina Johnson Smith**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, JAMAICA

**H.E. Mr. Carmelo Abela**, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, MALTA

**H.E. Mr. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, PAKISTAN

**H.E. Mr. Jorge Arreaza**, Chancellor, BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

**H.E. Ms. Alexandra Hill**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, EL SALVADOR

**H.E. Mr. Christian Guillermet**, Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs, COSTA RICA

**H.E. Ms. Martha Delgado Peralta**, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, MEXICO

**H.E. Ms. Erika Mouynes**, Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation, PANAMA

**H.E. Ms. Norma Allegra Cerrato**, Vice-minister for International Cooperation and Promotion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras, HONDURAS



**H.E. Ms. Sevinj Hasanova**, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, AZERBAIJAN  
**H.E. Ms. Rosemarie G. Edillon**, Undersecretary of the National Economic and Development Authority, PHILIPPINES

KAZAKHSTAN (On behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries)

EUROPEAN UNION

DENMARK

AFGHANISTAN

SWITZERLAND

ETHIOPIA

MOROCCO

INDONESIA

SIERRA LEONE

AUSTRALIA

THAILAND

PARAGUAY

FRANCE

EGYPT

BANGLADESH

MADAGASCAR

NEPAL

PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

JORDAN

**Friday, 17 July 2020, 2020, 11:30 AM -12:00 PM**

### **Introduction of reports**

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

**Presentations:**

- **Mr. José Antonio Ocampo**, Chair of the Committee on Development Policy (CDP), introduction of the CDP report
- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, introduction of SG reports on the theme of HLPF and ECOSOC and on long term impact of current trends on SDGs



Friday, 17 July 2020, 12:00 PM -12:30 PM

**Closing of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC**

**Chair:**

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

“Adoption” of the Ministerial Declaration<sup>2</sup>

**Closing remarks:**

- **H.E. Ms. Mona Juul**, President of Economic and Social Council

Conclusion of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC

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<sup>2</sup> The Ministerial Declaration is expected to be agreed through a silence procedure.