

Review of ECOSOC & HLPF First Informal Session

Remarks delivered by Canada on behalf of CANZ

15 February 2024

Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words during this first consultation session on ECOSOC and HLPF review.

I am taking the floor on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand – CANZ.

It goes without saying that our countries attach great importance to ECOSOC and its work. And we believe that a regular review of ECOSOC and HLPF is both necessary and beneficial.

We note some of the changes implemented at UNGA75, including the establishment of the coordination segment, and deeper coordination with the PBC, and welcome them.

On this year's review process, we have the following comments to make:

- We are conscious that the UN agenda is rapidly expanding and there are more and more demands on the time of Member States. We would welcome thinking around ensuring that every segment of ECOSOC/HLPF really does deliver results and contribute in the most effective way to the 2030 Agenda.
- COVID-19, conflict and climate change have laid bare the shortcomings of our systems and institutions. If new mechanisms, entities, bodies and funds are required to keep up with today's realities, we would do well to think about leaving obsolete or duplicative ones behind. We cannot afford – figuratively and literally – to simply add to what already exists.
- In this respect, we note that some commissions were created before the establishment of the HLPF and their mandates could be re-examined to avoid duplication and ensure added value in the work of ECOSOC.
- We should therefore not shy away from serious reform.

On specific segments and subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, we have the following points to make:

On the Coordination Segment

- We would like to see a more streamlined coordination segment and reflecting on whether a 1-day or 1.5-day meeting would be more appropriate to the current 2-day format.

On the Operational Affairs Segment:

- We also believe that a technical interactive session could be integrated to facilitate better engagement and oversight.

- We think this segment should take a greater oversight role over the UN Development System and the resident coordinator system.

On the annual theme and SDGs for ECOSOC:

- It would be preferable that the annual theme be adopted on a yearly basis so as to remain as relevant as possible and could be done via short procedural resolution in the ECOSOC management segment.

On the Commission of Population and Development

- Is there an opportunity to use this review to look at the mandate of the Commission and in particular, whether its functioning would be strengthened if UNFPA had a more direct role in the Commission?

Finally, this review process, while being Member State-driven, should consider the views of the Major Group and Other Stakeholders as key participants in most ECOSOC processes.

We look forward to engaging constructively in this process and in due time, to seeing the issues paper which you will prepare.

I thank you for your kind attention.