



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
8-17 July 2024

Secretariat Concept Note

“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”

The United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) will take place from Monday, 8 July to Wednesday, 17 July 2024, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This includes the three-day ministerial segment of the Forum from Monday, 15 July to Wednesday, 17 July 2024, as part of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC. The last day of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC will take place on Thursday, 18 July 2024.

This note outlines key aspects of the provisional programme of the 2024 HLPF and its preparations. The programme of the 2024 HLPF and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC is available at <https://hlpf.un.org/2024/programme>.

A. Focus of the HLPF

The 2024 HLPF will address the theme *“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.”*

The HLPF in 2024, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), will review in-depth: Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

The HLPF in July 2024 will be the first HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC to be held after the 2023 SDG Summit - the HLPF convened under the auspices of the General Assembly. The 2024 HLPF will follow up on the Political Declaration and other outcomes of the SDG Summit. It will also contribute to the preparations for the Summit of the Future, to be held in September 2024.

The HLPF will draw on the lessons learned, good practices, and experience of the 38 countries conducting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

B. Key features of the HLPF programme

The President of ECOSOC has prepared the provisional programme in consultation with the Bureau of the Council. The various sessions in the programme will focus on:

- **From the SDG Summit to the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions:** This session will set the stage for the Forum. It will address key strategies for transformation and for accelerating implementation in follow-up to the 2023 SDG Summit. It will seek to harness synergies, strengthen interlinkages and minimize trade-offs for realizing the SDGs. It will exchange experiences and good practices from countries presenting Voluntary National Reviews, as well as from other countries and stakeholders, on strengthening sustainability, resilience and innovation.
- **Reviewing the five SDGs in special focus in 2024:** dedicated thematic sessions will address:
 - **SDG 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
 - **SDG 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
 - **SDG 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
 - **SDG 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
 - **SDG 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Each session will conduct an in-depth review of the status of the respective SDG, including progress and challenges. Discuss will focus on transformative policies and actions to achieve the SDGs amidst multiple crises and how they can build on the interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs with other SDGs to accelerate implementation of the Goals.

- **SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals:** SDG 17 will be addressed throughout the programme and through two dedicated sessions:
 - One session will focus on unlocking investment in the SDGs. It will follow up on the financing commitments from the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit and the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, as well as the recommendations of 2024 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development.
 - The second session will be on science, technology and innovation: triggering transformation and sustaining science-driven solutions. It will hear key messages from the May 2024 STI forum, on promoting STI partnerships for transformation to support the SDGs and on follow up commitments from the Political Declaration

of the SDG Summit on bridging the STI divides. Consideration will be given to the use of STI as drivers for sustainable development.

- **Countries in special situations:** The HLPF will dedicate two sessions to addressing the challenges faced by those countries: one on African countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) (“Building resilience and capacity in times of crises and transition”) and the other on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (“How can the HLPF advance the outcomes of the fourth International Conference on SIDS?”). Additionally, a session on overcoming barriers in achieving SDGs in the middle-income countries is included in the programme.
- **Messages from the regions:** This session will hear key messages from the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development, organized by the UN regional commissions. It will aim to mobilize regional action and leverage regional frameworks to support countries in overcoming crises to ensure full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow up to the SDG Summit.
- **Messages from the UN Environment Assembly:** This session will hear the main messages from UNEA relating to the theme of the HLPF and follow up to the SDG Summit.
- **Acting at the local level:** The session will focus on transformations which are underway at the local level, to overcome crises and shift towards the full implementation of the SDGs. It will discuss measures to further localize the SDGs and advance integrated planning and implementation at that level.
- **Perspectives from major groups and other stakeholders:** As in the past, this session will be organized by the major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS). They will share views on implementation of the SDG Summit Political Declaration, and on strengthening engagement of MGoS to overcome the impacts of crises and resume SDG progress.

An Annotated Programme that includes background, format, key questions, and speakers for each session will be prepared. An online interactive programme with additional information will be available at the HLPF website: <https://hlpf.un.org/2024/programme>.

C. Voluntary National Reviews

Thirty-eight countries will conduct Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Countries presenting for the first time will have 15 minutes for their presentation and those presenting for the second or third time will have 10 minutes for each presentation. The VNRs will be presented from 12 to 17 July 2024. More information on VNRs is available at <https://hlpf.un.org/vnrs>.

D. General debate

A general debate of the ministerial days of the HLPF and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC will be held in-person, in parallel with the VNR presentations, from 15 to 17 July 2024. The general debate will focus on the theme “**From the SDG Summit to the Summit of the Future,**” with participation by ministers and other high-level officials, representatives of United Nations observers, specialized agencies and other entities of the UN system, and by representatives of accredited non-governmental organizations, major groups and other stakeholders. It will facilitate the exchange of experiences, lessons learned, policy guidance, transformative actions and initiatives on follow up to the SDG Summit, as well as the sharing of priorities and expectations for the Summit of the Future. Inscription on the list of speakers will be opened closer to the date of the meeting.

E. Preparations for the HLPF

Several meetings and events are being convened by the UN system and other international and regional organizations to prepare for the 2024 HLPF thematic reviews of the SDGs. These include the regional forums on sustainable development, convened by the UN regional economic commissions. Several expert group meetings are supported by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and UN system entities bringing together governments, the UN system, various experts and stakeholders to discuss the five SDGs under review and their interrelations. More information is available at: <https://hlpf.un.org/2024/preparation>.

Global and regional workshops are also organized by UN DESA and the UN regional commissions to support countries preparing their VNRs. More information is available at: <https://hlpf.un.org/2024/vnrs>.

The Group of Friends of VNRs, co-chaired by the Permanent Representatives of Morocco and the Philippines, will assist countries conducting VNRs in pairing with other countries to prepare for the interactive discussions on their VNR at the HLPF.

F. Documentation and inputs

Several reports and inputs will support the reviews and discussions at the 2024 HLPF. These include the Secretary-General’s progress report on the SDGs, synthesis of submissions by ECOSOC functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, compilation of main messages for the 2024 voluntary national reviews, as well as the discussion papers on the theme of the HLPF, submitted by the major groups and other stakeholders.

The Forum will also benefit from the reports of the Secretary-General on the theme of the 2024 ECOSOC and HLPF and on the long-term impact of current trends on the realization of the SDGs; report of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up; the Co-Chairs’ summary of ECOSOC Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals; the reports of the regional forums on sustainable development; the

Progress Report on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns; and the report of the Committee for Development Policy.

Background notes will be prepared for each thematic session, with longer briefs provided on the SDGs under review. More information is available at: <https://hlpf.un.org/2024/documentation>.

G. Outcomes

The HLPF and the ECOSOC High-Level Segment will adopt a Ministerial Declaration at the end of the ministerial days. The information on the intergovernmental negotiation for the Ministerial Declaration is available at the HLPF website: <https://hlpf.un.org/2024/outcomes>.

The President of ECOSOC will prepare a summary capturing key messages from the discussions at the 2024 HLPF.

H. Format

All official meetings of the 2024 HLPF and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC will be held in-person at the UN headquarters in New York.

Participating States are invited to include Ministers from various sectors on sustainable development in their delegations, including during the first five days of the HLPF. In previous years, ministerial participation has been ensured throughout the HLPF. Countries are expected to present their VNRs at the ministerial level, as done in the past.

Representatives of the major groups and other stakeholders will also participate and are encouraged to engage speakers from all sectors, background and walks of life, from the local to the global level.

Due to time constraints, there will be time limitations for speakers, which will be announced in advance. All efforts will be made to allow all participating States and other stakeholders to intervene.

Logistical information will be available at: <https://hlpf.un.org/2024/registration-participation>.

I. Last day of the ECOSOC High-Level Segment

The last day of the ECOSOC High-level Segment will be on Thursday, 18 July 2024, following the conclusion of the HLPF. It will include two sessions:

- Session one will focus on multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow: the role of ECOSOC towards a sustainable and resilient path by 2030.
- Session two will focus on current trends and their impacts: looking to the future and the

realization of the SDGs.

The discussions of the ECOSOC High-level Segment will be supported by the Secretary-General's reports on: (i) the theme of the 2024 HLPF and ECOSOC; and (ii) long-term impact of current trends on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. The report of the Committee on Development Policy will also support the discussions.

J. Special events, side events, VNR Labs and exhibitions

As in previous years, UN DESA is planning to organize a number of high-profile Special Events in collaboration with UN system partners and other actors, to galvanize the engagement of key sectors of society around the implementation of the SDGs and follow up to the SDG Summit.

DESA will also coordinate programmes of side events, VNR Labs and exhibitions. The deadline for submission of proposals for side events and exhibitions is 6 May 2024. More information, guidelines and registration links are available at the HLPF website: <https://hlpf.un.org/2024>.
