

Draft Concept Note for 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum
2 February 2022

Further to General Assembly resolution 75/290A on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be held on 2 February, back-to-back with the Council's new coordination segment. It will be held under the main theme of the ECOSOC and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) *"Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda"*.

The Partnership Forum will feature an exchange of new ideas, expectations and priorities for the work ahead for the Council cycle and the HLPF held under the auspices of the Council. The Partnership Forum will also discuss forward-looking actions by countries and all relevant stakeholders as well as innovative partnerships that can mobilize commitments and actions to advance the 2030 Agenda.

Because of its timing in early February, the 2022 Partnership Forum will be a key opportunity to galvanize Member States and all other key stakeholders, including the UN system, international financial institutions, as well as international organizations, parliamentarians, local governments, NGOs, the private sector, civil society, scientists, academia, women, youth and other stakeholders, early on in the ECOSOC cycle.

It will include a series of short "spotlight sessions"¹ organized virtually in collaboration with diverse partners to engage a broad range of stakeholders around the world to (i) reflect on the expectations and priorities ahead, share new ideas and make action-oriented policy recommendations around key issues related to building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, such as financing, social protection floors, and combating climate change (*track 1*); and to (ii) feature forward-looking actions by Governments and stakeholders that are making an impact on the SDGs on the ground (*track 2*).

In resolution 75/290A, the General Assembly also decided that the Partnership Forum should be organized in consultation with stakeholders. To ensure that the views of stakeholders are captured in the design of the Partnership Forum, DESA is proposing to set up an informal Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group to the President of ECOSOC. The Advisory Group would consist of select Member States and other stakeholders. The Partnership Forum will be preceded by an engaging preparatory process, including a retreat organized in collaboration with the UN Foundation to bring together key stakeholders to share their views and ideas, and a virtual global consultation process with stakeholders to solicit their proposals and that will be compiled into a document that will be before Forum.

In connection with the Partnership Forum, there would be space for Member States and other entities to organize side events.

Format

The ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be a one-day meeting, chaired by the ECOSOC President. The opening, plenary and closing sessions would be held in-person and live-streamed. The "spot-light sessions" and the "Partnership Exchange" would be held as virtual zoom sessions using a dedicated online platform to solicit broad and inclusive participation from around the world.

Outcome

An analytical summary will be prepared to capture the key policy messages of the Forum along with the messages of the coordination segment. The summary will serve as an input to the 2022 HLPF as well as ECOSOC and other key inter-governmental processes throughout 2022.

¹ Such "spotlight sessions" can take different formats, including keynotes, fireside chats, panel discussions etc.

Background documents

As input to the Partnership Forum, DESA will conduct a virtual consultation with stakeholders globally, the results of which will be compiled into a document and presented to the Partnership Forum

Draft programme

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	<i>Side Events</i>		
9:00 – 9:45 a.m. (9 a.m. start time to be confirmed by DGACM)	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video • Opening remarks by the President of ECOSOC • Remarks by the Deputy Secretary-General • Keynote address 		
9:45 – 11:00 a.m.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements by Member States and stakeholders including on new ideas, expectations and priorities for the work ahead for the Council cycle and the HLPF held under the auspices of the Council 		
11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Virtual Spotlight Session (Track 1)	Virtual Spotlight Session (Track 1)	Virtual Partnership Exchange
12:00 – 1 p.m.	Virtual Spotlight Session (Track 2)	Virtual Spotlight Session (Track 2)	
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	<i>Side Events</i>		
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Virtual Spotlight Session (Track 1)	Virtual Spotlight Session (Track 1)	Virtual Partnership Exchange
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Virtual Spotlight Session (Track 2)	Virtual Spotlight Session (Track 2)	
5:15 – 5:45 p.m.	Closing Session		

- *Spotlight Sessions to be organized by Governments, UN system entities and stakeholders. UN DESA to draft general guidance for the format.*