

Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group to the ECOSOC President on the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Expert Group Meeting 15 -16 December 2021 SUMMARY

<p>Key Links</p> <p>2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum webpage</p> <p>Global Online Stakeholder Consultation webpage</p>	<p>Day 1: Recovering from COVID-19 guided by the SDGs - Joining up efforts and leaving no one behind</p> <p>Key Messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN as a co-creator and promoter of partnerships. Need to see which are the needs to finance partnerships in a sustainable way. UN as enabler and facilitator of partnerships - be a laboratory of ideas, experimentation and risk to create and co-create a sustainable development community. The best collaboration comes from incentives, not enforcement. Platform for mutual learning, communication and opportunity to share best practices. 	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Key messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to highlight actions that need partners. Importance to engage SMEs in the discussions too. Beyond statements, more creative session that lead to dialogues and promote trust. Engage Research funders - efforts from the UN launched last year has already mobilised USD 24 million in research dollars that will be aligned with research efforts. ECOSOC Partnership Forum could focus on partnership who focus on the particular linkage between recovery and SDGs under review at the 2022 HLPF. Not building back to what we were before, must be better. Leaving no one behind - doesn't just leave people behind, people are being pushed behind. Need less speeches, more action. 	<p>Day 1: The New Partnership Forum- Expectations and Suggestions</p> <p>Key Messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership Forum should be forward looking, reflect and anticipate on the next cycle of ECOSOC and HLPF. Should be inclusive and participatory, 2030 Agenda will not be implemented without a participatory approach. ECOSOC should be keeping opening up, by giving more space to other actors, from different sectors. Should allow for interactive, free and unrestrained discussions between different stakeholders. HLPF, especially VNRs, should be a good place for setting up partnerships. Bringing all stakeholders in the 	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Key Messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-think how to best reach certain stakeholder groups. ECOSOC Partnership Forum could consider incorporating a dedicated session around local and regional governments and their role in recovering from the pandemic. Energy should be a priority for discussion at the Partnership Forum, as energy is basis for all - clean water, cooking, transportation, etc. Further efforts have to be made for participation of stakeholder groups - bring more voices of grass root organizations. The digital divide is a key issue to address. How do discussions like this really contribute to decision making? An important question for stakeholders, especially 	<p>Partner Materials</p> <p>Release of new publication on strengthening UN and private sector collaboration</p> <p>SWP Dossier on SD Partnerships</p>	<p>Day 2: The New Partnership Forum: Proposals for the thematic focus of discussions</p> <p>Key messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and teaching transformation is necessary. Young generation will take over leadership soon, therefore their participation and education is key. The world is transitioning to a digital economy, we must accelerate toward inclusive digital education, particularly in low income countries. Business and management schools are a key towards creating sustainable corporations. Promote awareness of SDGs in corporate institutions. Cannot build strong and just institutions without ethical code. Transparency in the public and 	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Interim/early 2022 meeting opening sequence of ECOSOC cycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can we ensure that everything that happens up to HLPF is synchronized. Discussions should feed into coordination segment. Include member states early on in discussions. Discuss ideas that are cross-cutting, yet often compartmentalized. Focus on adaptation and innovation of climate change, not just mitigation. Environmental degradation is inter-generational. Time for exceptional action. Economic recovery. Partnership Forum should be practical: Where are we? What meetings will come up and how can we ensure that all these meetings contribute in the way? Look at the Common Agenda. 	<p>Day 2: Organization and format of the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum and its preparations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage many platforms to allow others to be heard and provide dialogue space to review gaps and priorities around the world. Applications on solutions from diverse regions. Voice of Youth, time to walk the talk. Every panel one youth representative! All round tables and panels should have at least one youth representative. Have to have discussion on vaccine equity, health care equity and gender equity. Discussion on financing: need to look at entire stream of financial flow, what is actually available for countries? Look at upstream and downstream financial flows. 	<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim/early 2022 meeting opening sequence of ECOSOC cycle How can we ensure that everything that happens up to HLPF is synchronized. Discussions should feed into coordination segment. Include member states early on in discussions. Discuss ideas that are cross-cutting, yet often compartmentalized. Focus on adaptation and innovation of climate change, not just mitigation. Environmental degradation is inter-generational. Time for exceptional action. Economic recovery. 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EXPERT GROUP MEETING

15-16 December 2021

Summary

As of 20 December 2021

1. Background

Based on the recent resolution adopted by the General Assembly on the strengthening of the ECOSOC (A/RES/75/290A), the [2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum](#) will be held on 2 February. The Partnership Forum will bring together governments and other stakeholders to debate new ideas and solutions on the main theme of the ECOSOC and the HLPF “*Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda*”.

In order to support inclusive preparations, the ECOSOC President, H.E. Ambassador Collen Kelapile, has established an informal Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group to advise him on the organization of the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum. On 15-16 December 2021, Members of the Multi-Stakeholders Advisory Group attended a virtual two-day Expert Group Meeting (EGM) where Members provided inputs to the Partnership Forum programme, recommendations for the organization and format, and shared ideas for the promotion and mobilization of actions to be showcased at the Forum.

The meeting was organized by UNDESA and the UN Foundation.

A summary of the discussions during the EGM can be found below.

More information:

- About the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum: <https://sdgs.un.org/events/ecosoc-partnership-forum-2022>
- Members of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory on the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum: <https://bit.ly/EGMMembers>
- Padlet with highlights from EGM discussions, ppts and other materials: <https://bit.ly/StakeholderGroup1516Dec>
- Side-Events: Information can be found [here](#). Apply by 5 January 2022 here: <https://bit.ly/2022PartnershipForumSide>

2. Day 1 – 15 December 2021

2.1. Opening remarks

H.E. Ambassador Collen Kelapile (President, ECOSOC) expressed his gratitude to all participants representing stakeholders across different sectors, reinforcing that bold leadership from, and partnerships between all actors and sectors of society are strongly needed to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic in an inclusive way. Ambassador Kelapile reminded that multi-stakeholder engagement is a central tenet of the 2030 Agenda and highlighted the 2022 Partnership Forum as an important opportunity to recall this commitment, share good practices and proactively promote new initiatives that deliver on the ambition, complexity and scope of the SDGs. He called upon all members of the advisory group to propose innovative strategies on how to best support an enabling environment for inclusive partnerships at all levels and make the renewed ECOSOC Partnership Forum a success.

Ms. Sofia Borges (Senior Vice President and Head of the New York Office UN Foundation) noted that the pandemic had exposed significant gaps in the financial architecture, data, policymaking and international cooperation and impacts to the most vulnerable. Ms. Borges flagged that only through joint efforts, global solidarity and collaboration will it be possible to build back better from COVID-19 while advancing the 2030 Agenda. The 2022 Partnership Forum offers a strategic space for all stakeholders, from Member States, to the United Nations system, to international organizations and the civil society, to spotlight and exchange new ideas, expectations and priorities around sustainable recovery. It also creates space for new partnerships that can mobilize commitments and actions to advance the 2030 Agenda. Ms. Borges called for partnerships to be part of the systemic and seismic change needed to transition towards inclusive, green economies that work for all and ensure an equitable future for everyone.

Ms. Marion Barthélemy (Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UN DESA) stressed that multi-stakeholder partnerships are essential for addressing the multiple complex challenges faced by humanity, including combating climate change and helping societies recover and rebuild from the negative impacts of COVID-19. Ms. Barthélemy shared information about the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, to be held on 2 February, back-to-back to the Coordination Segment. A number of formal sessions (opening, closing and plenaries) are expected to be held in-person and webcast by UN WebTV. In addition, to provide an opportunity for stakeholders from around the world to actively engage, short virtual “Spotlight Sessions” and “Partnership Exchanges” will be organized by different partners through a dedicated online event platform. Furthermore, an open call for Side Events (deadline 5 January 2022) has been widely circulated and is published on [the Partnership Forum website](#).

2.2. Remarks from Ex-Officio Members

H. E Ambassador Alexander Marschik (Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations) and **H. E. Ambassador Mr. Cheikh Niang** (Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations) joined the EGM as Ex-Officio members.

Ambassador Marschik noted that when co-facilitating the ECOSOC/HLPF review process together with Ambassador Niang, there was one overriding objective: to make ECOSOC and HLPF more politically relevant, operationally effective and open – in terms of both transparency and inclusivity. The co-facilitators had sought to change the ECOSOC annual cycle and make the Council fit for today’s challenges. According to Ambassador Marschik, the ECOSOC Partnership Forum should aim to (1) Assess and strengthen the follow-up to the work of ECOSOC and HLPF from the previous year, including follow-up to the Ministerial Declaration; (2) Bring the whole UN system including the subsidiary bodies and all

stakeholders together in a rallying moment to focus and kick-off the Council's annual substantive work; and (3) Identify and provide policy guidance on the priorities of ECOSOC' work throughout its segments, leading up to the HLPF.

Ambassador Niang stressed the importance of including stakeholders in the preparatory process of the Partnership Forum and welcomed the Expert Group Meeting in this regard. Ambassador Niang noted that ECOSOC should keep opening up to stakeholders, and have stakeholder participation as a principle, while retaining its intergovernmental character. Only through an inclusive and participatory approach would the ECOSOC Partnership Forum become a forward-looking platform. Ambassador Niang also noted that the HLPF was another important space for setting up partnerships.

2.3. Session 1: Recovering from COVID-19 guided by the SDGs – Joining up efforts and leaving no one behind

In this session, speakers were invited to share insights about their experience with cooperation and partnerships among various stakeholders for recovering from COVID-19 and for SDG implementation, with a focus on strategies and initiatives that are inclusive and aim to leave no one behind.

Ms. Robeliza (Robie) Halip (Secretariat of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group, IPMG) emphasized the worsening inequalities between and within countries. Ms. Halip reported that some government measures taken during the pandemic had further marginalized those who were already left behind, including indigenous peoples. Ms. Halip highlighted the urgent need to remove systemic barriers to sustainable development and to empower marginalized groups with transformative actions. In relation to partnerships in advancing the implementation of the SDGs, the Indigenous Peoples Major Group has set up “The Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples”, grounded on the principles of inclusiveness, social justice and empowerment of indigenous communities and women, which is directly linked to several SDGs. She flagged the importance of institutionalizing multi-stakeholder mechanisms to boost the participation of peoples and of increased partnerships with CSOs and grass-roots organizations, the need for financial support and capacity building, as well as the need for data disaggregation (e.g. by ethnicity, disability status) and a strong accountability system. Ms. Halip concluded by calling for human rights to be at the center of all recovery plans and efforts.

Mr. Philipp Schönrock (Director, CEPEI) underlined the importance of effective engagement of stakeholders in recent UN reform process, with different scopes and types of engagement at international, regional, country and local levels. Mr. Schönrock noted that effective partnership mechanisms demand an enabling environment, financing and capacity, and noted the strategic role of the UN as a facilitator and an enabler, including through its unique convening power, to bring together various stakeholders to build evidence and strengthen collaborative efforts around building back better. He concluded by discussing the challenge of how to interconnect the dots with a view of providing better analytical, operational and political support for post-COVID 19 partnerships efforts going forward.

Mr. Ola Goransson (Sustainable Development Officer, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, DSDG, DESA) shared the outcomes of a recent study on partnerships that had emerged in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, done by Oxford University and commissioned by UNDESA. Mr. Goransson summarized the findings, including that pre-existing networks, flexibility by partners, digital technologies and innovative practices were some of the key success factors for rapid partnering, while vision, trust, alignment of interests, flexibility, commitment and adaptive governance structures played crucial roles too. The study notes the need to rethink the procedures for developing partnerships, including through combining and leveraging a wide range of partnerships across the sectors. Noting that there is no one-size-fits-all formula

for forming rapid partnerships, Mr. Goransson encouraged the participants to visit the [Partnership Accelerator website](#) for more information and materials.

2.3.1. Discussion

Some key messages from the discussions can be found below:

- A call for the Partnership Forum to not only highlight good practices but also those that would need additional partners.
- Importance of working with partners on the ground, including, for instance, grassroots movements, UN Resident Coordinator Offices and Small and Medium enterprises (SMEs).
- Importance of focusing on real people and real problems; thinking “out of box”; experimenting with different formats; and engaging with people through dialogues.
- Engage with “research funders” – an example included the “[UN Research roadmap for COVID-19](#)”. Launched in 2020, it has already mobilized over 24 million.
- Sessions of the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum could focus on the SDGs under review at the 2022 HLPF (SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17) and also assess new partnership instruments (for instance, COVAX).
- The discussion could be moved beyond “building back better”, towards “building something different”. Some government measures used to address the pandemic had lowered the well-being of some of the most vulnerable, pushing them further behind.
- Partnerships focusing on new industrial policies could also be discussed.
- The move towards using new technologies risks pushing those who are already vulnerable and marginalized even further behind. The ECOSOC Partnership Forum could promote discussions on how to address the digital divide and support collaboration efforts towards equipping and mobilizing marginalized people in innovative ways.

2.4. Session 2: The New Partnership Forum – Expectations and Suggestions

In this session, speakers were invited to share expectations about the new ECOSOC Partnership Forum, based on the mandates established at A/RES/75/290.

Ms. Marianne Beisheim (Senior Research, SWP Berlin) encouraged the ECOSOC to provide action-oriented policy guidance for transformative, effective and legitimate multi-stakeholder partnerships, which should be based on lessons learned. Ms. Beisheim also recommended learning from partnerships that have not delivered, and emphasized the need for more partnerships in LDCs. She suggested using the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum as a mechanism for follow-up and review of partnerships globally. In addition, Ms. Beisheim suggested to link the Forum to the Secretary-General's Common Agenda and while avoiding “multi-stakeholderism”.

Ms. Lotta Tahtinen (Chief, Outreach and Partnership Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, DSDG, UN DESA) presented results from an online global consultation which was open to all stakeholders and conducted by DESA over the period from 16 November to 3 December 2021. The aim of the consultation was to mobilize stakeholders from different sectors around the ECOSOC Partnership Forum and solicit their views on expectations and priorities ahead of the ECOSOC cycle and the 2022 HLPF. All results can be viewed [here](#).

In total, 265 inputs have been received with participation from over 56 countries. The inputs came from all different sectors across society, with the biggest participation of NGOs (almost 70%), followed by education and academic entities, and women's organizations. The priority areas that had emerged in the consultation include capacity building, the digital divide, the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs, and vaccine equity. In addition, stakeholders emphasized the need for policies that focus on health, education and inclusive participation. Some stakeholders emphasized that ECOSOC should become a stronger platform for youth and women engagement, offering a space for regular dialogue and peer learning.

2.4.1. Discussion

Some key messages from the discussions can be found below:

- Importance of focusing on sustainable energy, which is crucial to SDG implementation overall.
- ECOSOC Partnership Forum should consider the role of local and regional governments in SDG implementation, and their role in the COVID-19 recovery.
- Considerations should be given on how to address the digital divide and involve stakeholders without proper Internet access. Attention should also be given to accessibility and multiple languages.
- Importance of focusing on mobilizing new partnerships, especially with and for Youth (both in the preparatory process and during the Forum).
- Spotlight sessions could emphasize the voices from grassroot movements and from practitioners working on the ground.
- Spotlight sessions could focus on community-led partnerships that have demonstrated impact, including on what constitutes good partnerships, barriers and challenges.

3. Day 2 – 16 December 2021

3.1. Session 1: The New Partnership Forum: Proposals for the thematic focus on discussions

In this session, participants discussed proposals for the thematic focus of the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, including strategies for recovering from COVID-19 that promote the SDGs and build on their interlinked nature as well as processes that support multi-stakeholder actions and partnerships for a sustainable recovery. Participants were invited to share specific topics that would deserve attention during the Partnership Forum and of the ECOSOC as a whole, including perspectives of moving from emergency measures to strengthening social protection systems, improving jobs and generating new cooperation and partnerships that can accelerate implementation of the SDGs, among others.

Ms. Josephine Satyono (Executive Director at Indonesia Global Compact Network, IGCN) proposed to focus on education, including strategic investments for the future. The education sector must accelerate its efforts towards inclusive and digital education. In this regard, partnerships with academia, including business and management schools, are key in shaping the skills of future generations. Ms. Satyono highlighted [the Principles for Responsible Management Education \(PRME\) initiative](#). Furthermore, Ms. Satyono reminded that governments and businesses are called upon to build trust, transparency and accountability. In this regard, it is essential that ethics and integrity are prioritized during the Forum.

Ms. Bhumika Muchhala (Senior Policy Analyst, Third World Network, TWN) discussed the role of the UN and the urgency of multistakeholder participation, inclusiveness and openness. She called on the Partnership Forum to address issues related to structural drivers of inequality, human rights, new social contract, global new deal, and sharing the benefits of globalization. She also elaborated on the growing

gender inequalities and suggested to link SDGs 1, 3, 4, 8 and 5 as cross-cutting central lines to SDG 17. She suggested to focus discussions on health and education, social protection programmes, labor rights programmes, care economy and women as shock absorbers during the pandemic. In addition, the debt pandemic of developing countries should be discussed too.

3.1.1. Discussion

Some key messages from the discussions can be found below:

- The Partnership Forum could promote discussions on how to use financing from the private sector more effectively.
- Discussions could consider international tax collaboration, tackling illicit financial flows, reducing debt burdens for developing countries, and burden sharing between creditors and debtors. Additionally, a focus on “plugging in all the leaks” so developing countries can have sufficient fiscal space to take on the primary responsibility to fund their SDG implementation.
- The Partnership Forum should not repeat discussions in other fora, including the FFD forum and various initiatives from the UN Secretary General.
- Focus on education, especially digital education and inequality.
- Equitable access to vaccines, including access to information and combating misinformation.
- A balance is required between depth and number of topics to be covered during the Forum.
- The ECOSOC Partnership Forum should have a practical approach and provide a space for stakeholders to make policy recommendations that relate to the work of the ECOSOC machinery over the first 6 months of 2022 until the HLPF.
- Importance of including Member States earlier in the discussions.
- The ECOSOC Partnership Forum should try to avoid duplicating discussions and focus on addressing interlinked issues of relevance (examples: natural resources disputes and environmental degradation or ethics, especially in supply chains and how they impact the quality of jobs, the availability of jobs).

3.2. Session 2: Organization and format of the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum and its preparations

In this session, participants discussed ideas and recommendations for the organization and format of the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, including for in-person and online activities that mobilize a broad range of sectors and stakeholders’ representatives.

Ms. Rosa Malango (Director of the United Nations Regional Commissions’ Office) noted that inclusiveness, equity and justice are key requirements. The Partnership Forum should bring empathy and dignity to the delivery of SDG implementation and be a place for pragmatic discussions informed by existing partnership forums. In addition, Ms. Malango encouraged to provide a political statement that is inclusive and gives a space to those we typically do not hear from. In this regard, the Forum should give voice to the youth by making sure every round table has at least one youth speaker. Ms. Malango also highlighted the need to address inequalities in vaccine development and healthcare, as well as finance for development.

Mr. Khaled Emam (Organizing Partner, Children and Youth Major Group, MGCY) suggested highlighting forward-looking actions by governments and various stakeholders that are making an impact on the ground during the Forum. In addition, Mr. Emam proposed that, to ensure that youth-led CSOs can come together, act collectively through partnerships, and engage with decision-makers and stakeholders to strengthen human rights, a specific session focusing on youth participation should be organized. In

addition, he also suggested having at least one youth representative present in each session and making the sessions as inclusive and interactive as possible. Furthermore, Mr. Emam emphasized the need for financial support for the work of youth led CSOs and their efforts to implement the SDGs.

3.2.1. Discussion

Some key messages from the discussions can be found below:

- Careful not to overload Programme of the Forum with too many topics.
- In-person participation of stakeholders is foreseen but still uncertain.

3.3. Session 3: Ideas to support with outreach and promotion of the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

In this session, participants discussed ideas to increase the mobilization and outreach of Member States and stakeholders towards the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Mr. Kofi Kankam (President and the Chief Executive Officer of Elizka Relief Foundation) recommended considering speakers and participants from diversified demographic and geographical backgrounds during the formal sessions of the Partnership Forum. He also encouraged to explore more engaging and interactive features on the virtual platform, in addition to livestreaming on UN WebTV. Mr. Kankam suggested allocating sufficient time for discussions, interaction and engagement, rather than presentations. He called for resources to sponsor in-person participation of stakeholders, especially from vulnerable groups and LDCs, and encouraged to promote the Forum through existing networks and major groups, while focusing on effective participation from African countries.

3.3.1. Discussion

Some key messages from the discussions can be found below:

- Efforts should be taken to make discussions more accessible to vulnerable groups and those lacking resources and digital access.
- DESA will follow up with UNRC offices on using their network to share the information about the forum as well as to facilitate gatherings of grassroots groups, especially those lacking digital access.
- Members of the Advisory group were invited to offer ideas and proposals for the spotlight sessions.
- The UN Foundation offered to support outreach efforts through the UN Associations and other partners.
- If possible, support in-person participants from remote areas of different regions and groups.
- Mr. Satyono offered to coordinate with the UN RC Office in Indonesia to organize a virtual event with them.
- A central, overarching narrative for the Partnership Forum should be developed, including definition in terms of issues to be discussed and structure of the sessions. In this regard, the UN's unique convening power could be emphasized.
- Sessions could also spotlight some UN Member States with experience in dealing with multiple, inter-linked challenges imposed by the pandemic.

4. Review of Discussions and Next Steps

Ms. Lotta Tahtinen (Chief, Outreach and Partnership Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, DSDG, UN DESA), reflected on the discussions and provided some follow up proposals:

- 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum is the first renewed Forum among many to come and an opportunity to experiment and develop lessons learned for 2023 and beyond. UN DESA was counting on the support and insights of all advisory group members to think outside the box and propose innovative proposals on the organization of the Forum.
- An overall theme of the Forum has already been decided by the GA (*“Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda”*), and the programme of the Forum should be designed around it, to provide early inputs and feedbacks to the work of the ECOSOC in the first half of 2022 and leading into the HLPF. The concept note and draft programme can be found on the website: [here](#). Updates will be posted at the 2022 [ECOSOC Partnership Forum page](#).
- Participants were reminded that the SDGs to be reviewed at the 2022 HLPF were: 4, 5, 14, 15 & 17 and the Forum could take a particular focus on these goals.
- DESA would be inviting Members of the advisory group to specific thematic topics in writing, and to indicate their interests to co-organize the spotlight sessions, and proposed potential speakers.
- DESA is preparing a comprehensive outreach package and will share it with all members, which could be utilized by all partners to promote the forum and raise public awareness.
- As proposed by several members, DESA, working closely with UNF, will organize another EGM in early January 2022 focusing on the next steps of preparations for the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, including fine-tuning the programme.

5. Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, **the President of ECOSOC H.E. Ambassador Collen Kelapile** expressed his appreciation to all Members of the group for sharing their innovative ideas and recommendations, which are crucial for the organization of the Partnership Forum. Ambassador Kelapile highlighted some key topics that had stood out during the discussions, including accelerating efforts towards more inclusive and digital education and the importance of ethics and integrity to build trust and enhance transparency. The issue of vaccine equity was stressed again, as the only way to get us out of the pandemic. Ambassador Kelapile also noted the concerns shared on a pandemic of gender equality, with a focus on women as shock absorbers, as well as a “debt pandemic”, which touches on the issue of financing in a broader sense.

Ambassador Kelapile noted the call for stronger youth engagement in the Forum, such as by organizing a youth-specific session and including youth speakers in formal sessions. Finally, ambassador Kelapile echoed the point of Ambassador Marschik that the Partnership Forum should have a pragmatic purpose, to look at the next six months of the ECOSOC cycle towards the HLPF in July. Therefore, it is key to channel the stakeholder contributions and ensure that all the upcoming meetings are contributing in the best possible way.
