

AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Partnership Forum

Statement by the Republic of Austria

Delivered by

H.E. Alexander MARSCHIK

Permanent Representative of Austria

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Check against delivery

Mr. President of ECOSOC, Amb. Collen Vixen Kelapile,

Madam Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed,

Dear colleagues,

- Austria fully aligns itself with the statement *[to be]* delivered on behalf of the European Union and its member states.
- At the outset, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for convening us to the first edition of the reinvigorated ECOSOC Partnership Forum. Today, our focus should lie on bringing the voices of stakeholders into our discussions here at the United Nations, so I will keep my intervention short and focused.
- In my role as co-facilitator of the ECOSOC/HLPF Review which concluded in June 2021, I was honoured by the invitation to participate in the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group on the Partnership Forum. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, the Secretariat and all stakeholders involved for the thorough, engaging and inclusive preparation process leading up to today's meeting.
- In the ECOSOC/HLPF Review process, my co-facilitator Amb. Cheikh Niang of Senegal and I were guided by the aim to strengthen both ECOSOC and the High-Level Political Forum and make them fit for today's complex challenges. The reinvigorated Partnership Forum, organized back-to-back with the Coordination Segment starting tomorrow, were among our proposals to bring all key actors together at the start of the ECOSOC season, and to ensure that the whole ECOSOC system works in unison in the preparations towards the HLPF.

- I have underlined this point in the meetings of the Advisory Group and would like to stress it once again: We need everyone on board to deliver in the remaining years towards 2030. I congratulate you, Mr. President, to the active engagement of so many different groups as represented in today's programme. I sincerely hope it can give impetus for new partnerships to take form as we head into this year's ECOSOC season.
- I am pleased to see that recommendations by stakeholders regarding the thematic focus of the Forum were taken on board and are reflected in dedicated sessions on "Promoting vaccine equity" and "Closing the digital divide". I also welcome that other spotlight sessions will focus on the SDGs under review at this year's HLPF and look forward to their conclusions.
- I hope the conclusions of today's forum will inspire our discussions over the coming days. It is on all of us to make the new format a success and to integrate the ideas presented today into our work over the upcoming cycle.
- I thank you, Mr. President and look forward to fruitful discussions.