

Mr. President, distinguished colleagues,

Croatia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU, and I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

In order to overcome the far-reaching consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and ensure the implementation of the SDGs, we have to consolidate within the UN and cooperate successfully with a wide range of partners. Within its convening power, ECOSOC has the capacity to incite stronger cooperation between the UN main bodies – especially the General Assembly and the Security Council, as well as to catalyse collective action to address global and regional development challenges through a substantive dialogue with the World Bank, the IMF and the WTO.

Among others, ECOSOC can help to address the root causes of instability, conflicts and atrocity crimes. By helping to reduce inequality within and between states, and by furthering economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, it can provide more stability and resilience. In this sense Croatia, as the new member of ECOSOC, strongly supports holding an ECOSOC event under the title **STRUCTURAL MEASURES TO PREVENT CONFLICTS AND ATROCITY CRIMES**. The idea is to link the activities of ECOSOC, General Assembly, Security Council, HRC, Peacebuilding commission, and the World Bank, with the SG's initiatives on prevention reflected in Our Common Agenda.

Speaking of linkages and synergies, in the light of ***Building back better***, I would like to emphasise the importance of the **One Health Approach** for the future pandemic preparedness. This approach fosters interlinkages between the health of humans, animals and the planet, and underlines the urgent need for continued close cooperation of the FAO, OIE, WHO and the UNEP, together with other relevant parts of the United Nations system as well as governments and civil society stakeholders.

Finally, we must explore innovative ways to strengthen ties between the ECOSOC, governments, local governments and civil society. We acknowledge that the civil society's participation has been especially affected by the pandemic. That is precisely why including its representatives, especially NGOs, academia and the private sector in building back better is central for the successful recovery.

Thank you