Draft Concept Note for 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum
31 January 2023

Background
The 2023 Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will be held on 31 January 2023, back-to-back with the Council’s Coordination Segment, under the main theme of the 2023 ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.”

The 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be focused on the exchange of new ideas, expectations and priorities for the work ahead for ECOSOC and the HLPF on the theme. Following the success of the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, the 2023 Forum will showcase and discuss forward-looking actions by countries and all relevant stakeholders through innovative partnerships that can mobilize commitments and actions to advance the 2030 Agenda and address new challenges, including those resulting from the war in Ukraine.

Because of its timing in late January, the 2023 ECOSOC 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 also be an important moment to galvanize stakeholder attention towards the 2023 SGD Summit.

Preparations
As requested by the General Assembly, the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be organized in consultation with stakeholders. As an informal consultative mechanism to help guide and support the organization of the Forum, it is proposed that the ECOSOC President, H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, will set up a high-profile Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group that will provide guidance and views on the scope and format of the Forum.

DESA will undertake the following measures as part of the preparations for the Partnership Forum:

- The members of the Multi-Stakeholders Advisory Group will be invited to attend one or two envisaged Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) in the lead up to the Forum to provide guidance and views on the scope, format and programme of the event.

- A virtual global survey will be undertaken to ensure that the views of stakeholders are well captured in the design of the 2023 Partnership Forum (please see Annex for more information).

- In collaboration with key partners including the UN Foundation, a number of preparatory events/consultations/roundtables will be organized in the lead-up to the ECOSOC Partnership Forum.

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1 In accordance with the resolution 75/290A
to engage stakeholders and other actors in discussions on the role of partnerships in recovering better from COVID-19 and putting the SDGs on course (please see Annex for more information).

**Format**

The ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be a one-day meeting, chaired by the ECOSOC President. Similar to the 2022 Forum, it is proposed to constitute both “formal” (in-person) and “informal” (virtual) sessions. During the formal (plenary) sessions, to be held in-person, Member States and stakeholder speakers will alternate taking the floor to outline their priorities and recommendations for accelerating progress toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and their experience and vision for the role of partnerships, in the context of upcoming mid-point review of the 2030 Agenda at the SDG Summit.

The informal sessions, to be held virtually on a dedicated event platform to solicit broad and inclusive participation from around the world, will include (i) a series of short “Spotlight Sessions” organized by selected partners from the UN system and stakeholders around priority topics to both mobilize forward-looking actions and shine the spotlight on solutions; and (ii) a hands-on “Partnership Exchange” as a platform to share knowledge and expertise around the design and implementation of multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the SDGs.

Throughout both the formal and informal sessions, the Forum will seek to shine the spotlight on partnerships that are successfully accelerating the achievement of the SDGs, including the five SDGs which will be under in-depth review in HLPF 2023: Goals 6 (clean water and sanitation); 7 (affordable and clean energy); 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure); 11 (sustainable cities and communities); and 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

In addition, there would be space for Member States and other entities to organize side events.

**Outcome**

The key messages and ideas of the Partnership Forum will be presented to inspire the discussions at the Coordination Segment of ECOSOC the following day, whose task is to coordinate the work of functional commissions, expert bodies and the UN system. 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 July 2023 HLPF and the 2023 SDG Summit as well as the overall work of the ECOSOC and other key inter-governmental processes throughout 2023.

**Background documents**

The results of the global virtual consultation with stakeholders will be compiled into a document and presented to the 2023 Partnership Forum.
ANNEX

Proposed series of Stakeholder Consultations to prepare for the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

To ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement in preparations for the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, DESA will set up a series of stakeholder consultations to solicit views, experiences and proposals related to the theme of the event from all stakeholders and make them widely available in advance.

As the year 2023 will mark the mid-point in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDG, the consultations can also provide additional, informal inputs to other on-going processes targeting stakeholder participation, including the preparations for the UN High-Level Political Forum (July 2023) and the SDG Summit (September 2023).

The series of stakeholder consultations would include:

1. Global online stakeholder consultation
   - The global online consultation will be open to all stakeholders through a dedicated online form.
   - Questions will focus on the main theme for the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, recommendations about how partnerships have been contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and good practices.
   - Contributions will be shared broadly including by making them available online at (sdgs.un.org).
   - A summary of key inputs/messages will be prepared by UN DESA and made publicly available.
   - Timeline: Launch: 1 November 2022 – Close: 18 November 2022 – Summary: by 9 December 2022 (TBC)

2. Stakeholder Partnership Roundtables/Dialogues - in collaboration with the key partners including UN Foundation
   - In collaboration with key partners, DESA will seek to host ‘stakeholder roundtables’ to compile inputs for the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, with a focus on regional, national and sub-national realities and recommendations.
   - DESA would prepare a template with questions for consideration and, whenever possible, attend the discussions.
   - Each roundtable will generate a short summary, to be published at the ECOSOC Partnership Forum webpage.
   - DESA will prepare a short review of the main inputs.
   - Timeline: November and December 2022 (TBC)

3. Global Youth Voices on Partnerships
   - Open call for 30 second videos from youth addressing one question related to the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum main theme
   - All relevant videos will be made available at the ECOSOC Partnership Forum page
   - Best videos will be compiled into a short video to be shown during the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum (TBC).
   - Timeline: December 2022 (TBC)