

Draft Concept Note and Programme 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 at the United Nations headquarters in New York 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.*”

In accordance with resolution [75/290A](#), 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 aforementioned theme. It 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.

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 SDG 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, the ECOSOC President, H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, set up an informal **Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group**. The Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group held a meeting on 30 November 2022 to provide guidance and views on the scope, format and programme of the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum. Information about the Group and a summary of its meeting are available on the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum website at: <https://sdgs.un.org/events/ecosoc-partnership-forum-2023>

In addition, UN DESA conducted a global online stakeholder consultation to solicit views, experiences and proposals from all stakeholders on how to strengthen partnerships and stakeholder engagement to accelerate the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. All responses are available on the afore-mentioned Partnership Forum [website](#) and a summary report will be made available in early 2023.

Finally, UN DESA has conducted a call for side events to be organized by governments, UN system entities, intergovernmental organizations, and NGOs and other organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC on the margins of the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, held either in-person (inside the UN headquarters; or in outside venues arranged by the organizers), or in virtual format. The side events are related to the overall theme of the Partnership Forum and more details including a schedule will be made available on the Partnership Forum website.

Format

The 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be a one-day meeting, chaired by the ECOSOC President. Similar to the 2022 Partnership Forum, it will be composed of both plenary and informal sessions. During the

plenary session, to be held in-person, Member States and stakeholders 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 the upcoming mid-point review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the 2023 SDG Summit.

In addition, a series of six informal parallel “Spotlight Sessions” will be organized in hybrid format by selected partners from the UN system and stakeholders on priority topics to both mobilize forward-looking actions and shine the spotlight on solutions.

Both the plenary and informal sessions will be broadcast via [UN web TV](#).

Preceding the Forum, on 30 January 2023, an informal virtual Partnership Exchange event will be organized for the purpose of sharing knowledge and expertise around the design and implementation of multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the overall theme of the Forum.

Outcome

The key messages and recommendations of the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be presented to inspire the discussions at the ECOSOC Coordination Segment the following two days, on 1 and 2 February. A consolidated analytical summary will be prepared by the Council President, in consultation with the Bureau, to capture the key policy messages of the Forum and those of the Coordination Segment. The summary will serve as an input to the July 2023 HLPF, under the auspices of the Council, and the September 2023 SDG Summit, under the auspices of the General Assembly, as well as the overall work of the ECOSOC and other key inter-governmental processes throughout 2023.

Draft programme

8:15 – 9:30 am	<i>Side Events</i>		
10:00 – 10:25 am	Opening Remarks (Trusteeship Council Chamber) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of ECOSOC • Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General • Keynote address by Ms. Mia Kami, Artist, Storyteller, and Climate Justice Activist 		
10:25 am – 1:00 pm	Plenary Session (Trusteeship Council Chamber) Statements by Member States, observers, UN entities and stakeholders including on new ideas, expectations and priorities for the work ahead for the Council and the HLPF		
12:00 – 1:00 pm		Informal Spotlight Session 1 (CR 5): <i>“Unlocking financing for SDG implementation: the role of the private sector and partnerships at all levels”</i> Lead organizer: International Organisation of Employers (IOE)	Informal Spotlight Session 2 (CR 11) <i>“Providing affordable and quality public services at local level: how can multi-stakeholder partnerships help”</i> Lead organizer: United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
1:15 – 2:30 pm	<i>Side Events</i>		
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Informal Spotlight Session 3 (Trusteeship Council Chamber): <i>“SDG Summit: Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to accelerate sustainable recovery and development”</i> Lead organizer: UN Foundation	Informal Spotlight Session 4 (CR 11): <i>“Youth Driving Change: intergenerational collaboration for SDG implementation”</i> Lead organizer: UNDP	
4:15 – 5:15 pm	Informal Spotlight Session 5 (Trusteeship Council Chamber): <i>“Enhancing capacities for transformation: Building partnerships to harness science, technology and innovation”</i> Lead organizer: Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)	Informal Spotlight Session 6 (CR 11): <i>“Bringing Accountability to Partnerships, Including to Leave No One Behind”</i> Lead organizer: Major Groups & other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism (MGOS CM)	
5:30– 5:45 pm	Closing Remarks (Trusteeship Council Chamber) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Li Junhua, Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs • Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Assistant Secretary-General and CEO of the United Nations Global Compact • H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, President of ECOSOC 		