



## ECOSOC Partnership Forum

30 JANUARY 2024



## ECOSOC Coordination Segment

31 JANUARY - 1 FEBRUARY 2024

# Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council

## Introduction

The Economic and Social Council convened its annual [Partnership Forum](#), chaired by the President of the Council, H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez (Chile), on 30 January 2024 and the [Coordination Segment](#), chaired by H.E. Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin (Kazakhstan), Vice-President of the Council, on 31 January - 1 February 2024. Both meetings addressed the main theme of the 2024 session of the Council and the 2024 High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), “*Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.*”

The Partnership Forum and the Coordination Segment, held back-to-back, constitute the first group of segments and forums of the ECOSOC cycle, as mandated by General Assembly [resolution 75/290 A](#). They aim to inform and inspire the meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, as well as raise collective ambition and rally all stakeholders throughout the remainder of the Council’s cycle, culminating in July with the HLPF and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC. Moreover, this year they sought to contribute to the preparations for 2024 upcoming events, with particular attention to the Summit of the Future in September.

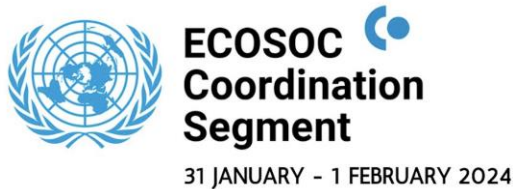
The present factual summary has been prepared by the President of ECOSOC in consultation with the Bureau of the Council. It reflects discussions during the Partnership Forum and the Coordination Segment and the strategic proposals made during the Coordination Segment, as mandated by GA [resolution 75/290 A](#).

The [Partnership Forum](#) brought together Member States, UN system representatives and over 450 stakeholder participants, providing a “unifying” platform for all towards the advancement of sustainable development through multi-stakeholder, participatory discussions and sessions. To prepare for the Partnership Forum in an inclusive and participatory manner, the President of ECOSOC had set up an informal Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group. The event was also informed by the outcomes of an online global stakeholder consultation conducted by DESA, which received over 220 inputs across all sectors and regions.<sup>1</sup>

The opening session of the Partnership Forum featured remarks by the President of the Council and the Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, on behalf of the UN Deputy Secretary-General. Keynote remarks were delivered by Ms. Mariana Mazzucato, Professor of University College London (UCL) and Ms. Charitie Ropati, Arctic Youth Ambassador and Girl Rising Fellow. In their plenary statements, 26 representatives of the UN Member States and 11 stakeholder speakers (selected from over 230 requests received through an open call) alternated to take the floor to deliver statements.

The Partnership Forum also featured four [SDG Action Segments](#) co-organized by the UN system and stakeholder partners on the SDGs that will be under review at the 2024 HLPF: Goal 1 (No Poverty); Goal 2 (Zero Hunger); Goal 13 (Climate Action); Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) as a cross-cutting issue. The co-organizers of SDG Action Segments included UNDP, UNEP, UNDRR, FAO, UNESCO, UNODC, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Public-Private Partnerships and Islamic Social Financing, Local Authorities Major Group (MG), Women’s MG, Business and

<sup>1</sup> The summary report can be found [here](#).



Industry MG, NGO Committee on Financing for Development, MGCY, Science and Technology MG, SDSN, Volunteers MG and the NGO MG.

The closing session heard reports on the four SDG Action Segments by Ms. Anita Thomas, Chair of NGO Committee on Financing for Development (Goal 1); Mr. Joseph Bangura, Major Group for Children and Youth (Goal 2); Ms. Maria Teresa Bento Parreira, Reboot (Goal 13); and Ms. Priya Sood, UNDP Global Policy Centre for Governance (SDG 16). The Under-Secretary-General of DESA and the President of ECOSOC made closing remarks.

The [Coordination Segment](#) brought together Member States, UN system entities, including specialized agencies, and ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to discuss innovative, resilient and sustainable solutions and seek coordinated action to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To support the discussions, and as mandated by GA resolution 75/290 A, the Secretariat prepared an [informal note](#) with an integrated analysis of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and UN entities' work in 2023, on various dimensions of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at a time of multiple crises, putting forward recommendations for action by the Council, its subsidiary bodies, UN system entities and Member States.<sup>2</sup>

The Vice-President of ECOSOC made opening remarks, followed by the Chef de Cabinet, EOSG, on behalf of the Secretary-General, and the President of the Council, who presented the key messages of the Partnership Forum. The discussions on the SDGs under review at the Segment also aimed to build on those held at the Partnership Forum, by having UN system entities leading the SDG Action Segments providing an overview of their main messages. In addition, the Segment featured a conversation with Executive Secretaries of UN regional commissions and Chairs of functional commissions and expert bodies, as well as a panel on "Closing the digital divide towards achieving a global digital transformation" which aimed to address the impact of the surge of artificial intelligence and other frontier technologies in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. A final panel on "The Way Forward: From the 2023 SDG Summit to the Summit of the Future," sought to highlight pathways to translate commitments into action towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, bridging the follow-up to the [Political Declaration](#) of the 2023 SDG Summit with the upcoming Summit of the Future.<sup>3</sup>

### Partnership Forum: Multiple crises and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In their interventions at the [Partnership Forum](#), many speakers stressed the need for [effective and inclusive partnerships](#) to address the confluence of multiple global crises that threaten the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Drawing inspiration from the 2023 SDG Summit, the Forum attendees called for a [renewal of collective commitments and actions towards achieving the SDGs](#).

Many attendees recognized the importance of the ECOSOC Partnership Forum as a unique convening platform that brings together a broad spectrum of diverse actors to discuss how to [strengthen synergistic partnerships and stakeholder engagement](#) in support of sustainable development with a view to informing the planning of ECOSOC sessions and other intergovernmental meetings in the year ahead, including: the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (27-30 May 2024); the third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) (18-21 June 2024); the high-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of the ECOSOC (July 2024); and the Summit of the Future (September 2024). Some participants suggested that the Council's extensive subsidiary mechanism should

<sup>2</sup> [Key messages](#) of the Informal Note by the Secretariat are also available on the Coordination Segment's [website](#).

<sup>3</sup> The full programme, biographies of speakers and statements delivered are available on the Segment's [website](#).



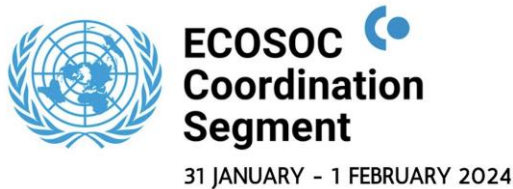
hold meetings similar to the 2024 Partnership Forum, showcasing how effective partnerships can accelerate sustainable development and following the inclusive practices observed in the 2024 Partnership Forum.

The **principle of "leaving no one behind"** resonated strongly across the discussions, with an emphasis on the essential need for **equality, equity, inclusivity** and **participation** in all efforts and processes related to sustainable development. Speakers highlighted the importance of prioritizing the sustainable recovery and development of **countries in special situations**, such as least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). Speakers also outlined a number of targeted measures and initiatives in this regard, including funds aimed at **addressing losses and damages** caused by climate change as well as **technical assistance / scholarship programs** tailored for countries facing geographical and inherent vulnerabilities. Additionally, an **investment support** program was presented that has been developed based on an **innovative public-private partnership (PPP) model** that aids governments in securing favorable terms during negotiations with foreign investors.

Participants also stressed the critical importance of actively **engaging all segments of society**, particularly vulnerable groups, allowing them to contribute their innovative and **grassroots solutions** in the pursuit of sustainable development, especially during times of crisis. The importance of engaging **youth** from marginalized and grassroots communities in sustainable development decision-making was also stressed. There was also a call for Member States to financially support youth participation in key UN events (e.g. ECOSOC Youth Forum). Some participants also stressed the importance of adopting a **human-centered, rights-based approach** across all stages of life. Many attendees highlighted the value of fostering **collaborative partnerships with civil society**; and a call was made for the UN system to provide transparent information regarding how **inputs from CSOs and other stakeholders** are being incorporated into policies and practices.

During the Forum, participants acknowledged the critical importance of **poverty eradication**, recognizing the interlinkages that SDG 1 has with all the other SDGs, while expressing concern over the slow progress in its achievement. To uplift 1.1 billion people from multidimensional poverty, speakers proposed a number of strategies and measures including: adopting a comprehensive approach to **address job creation, social protection and financial inclusion coherently**; utilizing **education** to break the cycle of inter-generational poverty; working towards **outcome-oriented economies**; and mobilizing **social and solidarity economy (SSE) solutions** to provide vulnerable groups with access to means of production. Addressing the impacts of **environmental challenges** on marginalized communities; scaling **evidence-based, locally-grounded solutions**; and **tailoring strategies to meet the specific needs** of countries and communities were also emphasized. Ensuring that **older persons** – both today's and future generation's – are not left behind was another critical point raised. Some participants pointed out the **private sector's strategic role in poverty eradication**, citing research showing that in 73 out of 93 countries surveyed, job creation was identified as the key to eliminating poverty.

Many participants expressed serious concerns about increasing **global food insecurity**. The Forum attendees highlighted the need to boost **local food production and supply** by encouraging the engagement of **grassroots actors** such as small producers, artisanal fishermen, rural women and indigenous and local communities. Additionally, there was a call for the design of sustainable food supply chains and connecting



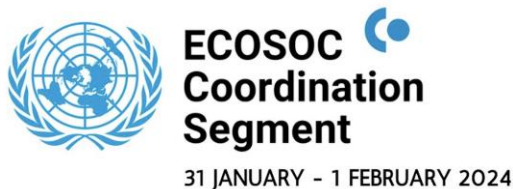
food security issues with the rule of law ("right to food"). Participants also advocated for **collaboration between the Security Council and the ECOSOC** to effectively address the complex challenges of food crisis.

A number of speakers noted that **strong partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental actors** are essential to tackle **climate change challenges**, especially for LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and other countries facing unique challenges. The need to create **fiscal space** for developing countries to encourage investment in **just transition** initiatives was also highlighted. The need of forming partnerships among all actors including the international financial institutions (IFIs), multilateral development banks (MDBs) and creditors to enhance developing countries' access to **climate finance** was noted. Additionally, the severe long-term **consequences of glacier loss on future food security** were highlighted, with reference being made to the forthcoming International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation scheduled to be held in 2025 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Moreover, some participants noted that adopting comprehensive **whole-of-government, whole-of-society partnership approaches** towards sustainable development can serve as an effective strategy for **peacebuilding**. The critical importance of **engaging civil society and traditional / informal justice actors** in enhancing the rule of law and access to justice at a local level was stressed. A few participants recognized the importance of **promoting gender equality**, highlighting it as an essential precondition to sustainable development and peace. One speaker proposed to initiate an annual review of SDG 16 at the HLPF, noting its fundamental role in addressing multiple crises. Additionally, several attendees emphasized the need to enhance **institutional capacities** as a crucial step to maximize the effectiveness of public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships in promoting sustainable development and peace.

At the 2024 Partnership Forum, there was a strong consensus on the need to **rekindle the spirit of global solidarity and international cooperation** to enhance the access of countries to financing for sustainable development amidst various global challenges. Noting that several LDCs face **debt distress** and a significant number of LDCs are at high risk of distress, participants noted with concern the pressing need for more bold international measures to address the problem of unsustainable external debt burdens. In this connection, development partners were urged to commit to rechanneling 100 billion USD in Special Drawing Rights (SDR) to ensure that the external debts of LDCs remain sustainable. The establishment of a sovereign debt authority to comprehensively address unsustainable and illegitimate debt, including through extensive debt repudiation, was also suggested.

The meeting also highlighted the unmet **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** commitments and the irreplaceable role ODA plays in the sustainable recovery and development of developing countries. Also, there was a strong emphasis on the need to enhance access for developing countries to various forms of **concessional financing**, while ensuring that it does not impose additional burdens (e.g. administrative, reporting) on them. Several speakers welcomed the early completion of the **Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)** as a measure to improve access to finance for countries with specific vulnerabilities. Additionally, the importance of **innovative financing** solutions was recognized, including strategies to attract more **private sector investments** and deploying various mechanisms (e.g. debt-for-nature, climate swaps) to address the substantial **SDG financing gap**.



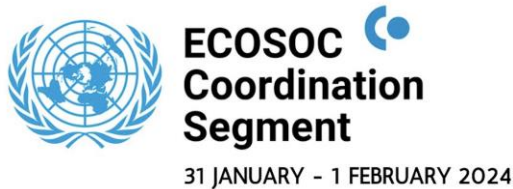
Many participants underlined the urgent need for a **revitalized global partnerships** and more multi-stakeholder partnerships to close the **gaps in fiscal, data, technical and technological capacities** as well as in **development opportunities**. Effective partnerships at all levels can help **diversify economies** and catalyze new economic growth avenues (e.g. green/blue/creative industries); enhance the **productive capacity** of micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs) to integrate into the formal economy; improve data capacity and access while addressing **digital divides**; and facilitate **skills development** and **transfer of technologies**, among others. One speaker highlighted the importance of linking the global standardization framework with the SDGs and development finance structures. Another participant emphasized the critical role of effective data collaboration, particularly between National Statistical Offices and civil society organizations, in data collection.

Throughout the 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, a recurring theme was the **essential role of bottom-up, multi-stakeholder and multi-level partnerships as a collaborative framework for pooling resources, sharing knowledge, building capacities and organizing actions towards achieving sustainable development**. Many speakers stressed the need for inclusive engagement, ensuring that all stakeholders are deemed equal partners, while recognizing transparency, accessibility and ongoing monitoring and follow-up as crucial elements for any meaningful engagement and partnership.

Several participants noted that addressing the **misalignment of incentives** between the private and public sectors, including in investment, research and development (R&D) and the development and adoption of emerging technologies, is vital for fast-tracking **demand-driven solutions**. The importance of partnerships among science, policy, and societal was also discussed. Furthermore, the need for **aligning human rights and development systems and processes** as well as of maximizing the positive impacts of **migration** in all collaboration efforts was acknowledged.

Several participants acknowledged the critical roles of **regional and local governments** in localizing the SDGs. Given their close proximity to the citizens, sub-regional governments are ideally situated to understand and meet the needs of the community effectively. Speakers emphasized the importance of prioritizing solutions led by the community and of fostering local ownership, noting the need for ensuring **equitable, inclusive engagement of local stakeholders**. It was underscored that the outcome document of the 2024 Summit of the Future should recognize the importance of local ownership and present ways to amplify the voices of local actors in global processes. Amidst the challenges of **shrinking civic space** and rising attacks on activists, the need for protective measures for genuine partnerships was noted, with the **UN's Community Engagement Guidelines** suggested as a possible foundational tool. Participants also pointed out the critical importance of adhering to **development (and partnership) effectiveness principles** including — country ownership, inclusive partnerships, mutual accountability and focus on results — to foster transformative partnerships for sustainable development. It was noted that the essence of the upcoming third United Nations Conference on LLDCs entitled "Driving Progress through Partnerships" would revolve around the importance of partnerships.

Furthermore, many participants noted the importance of **reforming the global financial architecture**. Speakers underlined the need for increasing the representation of the global South in international financial architecture, including through the reform of the boards of the multilateral development banks.



## Coordination Segment: The power of interlinkages to turbocharge the SDGs

The **Coordination Segment** witnessed rich discussions focusing on the SDGs to be reviewed at the 2024 HLPF. The **interlinkages** between these and the other SDGs, as well as major trends such as technological advancement and population dynamics, were front and center throughout the Segment. **Coordination** was identified as key to break silos and tap on the interlinkages to create multiplier effects in actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

The work of the **Council's subsidiary bodies** was prominent throughout the Segment. The depth and breadth of the work of the Council's subsidiary bodies was displayed, showing how these bodies are **advancing the implementation** of the 2030 Agenda within the scope of their respective mandates, including in areas such as environmental sustainability, economic resilience, social protection, governance, and human rights. The Chairs and the Executive Secretaries called for **increased coordination to amplify positive outcomes** and reported on their efforts to collaborate more effectively in innovative ways, including through utilizing **interlinkages as pathways for acceleration**.

### Increasing coordination for urgent progress on SDG 1 and SDG 2

During the discussions, there was a sense of urgency of action and coordination to **accelerate poverty reduction** and **tackle food insecurity**. The importance of the interconnectedness of these two issues was emphasized, as well as their interlinkages with **inequality**. Therefore, they need to be addressed concomitantly. Participants expressed concerns about the current multiple crises and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which have impeded and even reversed previous achievements in poverty reduction. **Leaving no one behind** was mentioned prominently, while recognizing the importance of including the ones furthest behind in the efforts to achieve the Agenda 2030.

Participants emphasized the necessity for **cohesive policies** that consider the varied impacts of multiple crises on **vulnerable populations**. It was stressed that urgent action is needed to further poverty eradication efforts in **sub-Saharan Africa**, which is highly vulnerable to climate change and where agriculture is crucial for livelihoods. Furthermore, speakers highlighted that **Indigenous Peoples** are affected in multiples ways, especially by the **climate crisis** that is viewed to be caused by overconsumption, exploitation of natural resources and minerals. The integration of their languages, rights, and knowledge into problem-solving and policy-design processes, including poverty alleviation efforts and climate action, is critical to devising effective solutions. Some Member States pointed to the significance of **robust national public policies**, including education, healthcare, social protection systems, decent jobs and recognizing the rights of women and girls, both for poverty reduction and tackling persistent inequality. It was stressed that poverty eradication should be at the center of the **Pact for the Future**.

The inadequacies of current **food systems**, which perpetuate **inequality** and fail to meet nutritional needs, particularly among children, were highlighted as areas needing urgent reform through **collaborative, rights-based approaches**. In 2022, 2.4 million people lacked regular access to nutritious and safe food despite the world producing enough to feed everyone. Efforts must go beyond boosting agricultural production of a limited number of crops and through food aid to address populations' caloric deficiencies. Rather, there should be greater emphasis on improving nutrition and focusing on children's needs. Addressing the epidemic of **childhood obesity**, affecting approximately 135 million school-aged children, and high levels of child **stunting**, affecting approximately 140 million children, requires interventions along **supply chains** to reduce the cost of good nutrition, in tandem with stricter **public institutional regulations** of unhealthy foods. Addressing **child malnutrition** should be made a priority.



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**Sustainable food systems** must integrate strategies for **resilience** against climate change, conflict, economic downturns, limited resources, and major events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Achieving **global consensus** on transforming food systems was seen as paramount to improve their resilience against frequent uncertainties. **Stronger data and insight-driven institutions** are also necessary to improve preparedness and resilience in managing crises. In addition, the importance of considering the impact of **demographic trends**, such as aging, migration and population growth on food systems was underlined. Some Member States emphasized that addressing hunger, poverty and malnutrition through the implementation of sustainable food systems leads to better quality of life and **directly links** to achieving **all other SDGs**. In this context, the **adoption of a human rights approach to food systems**, emphasizing the importance of considering the aging population, gender equality and children's rights, was recognized as critical to combating poverty, malnutrition and hunger. This approach aligns with the broader objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Programme of Action of the **International Conference on Population and Development**, offering clear and holistic solutions for sustainable food systems reform so as to address the current and future needs of the global population.

The need for prioritizing peacebuilding efforts in **conflict-affected regions**, in connection with efforts to promote social justice, poverty eradication and environmental management, was discussed. Greater efforts must be made to broker peace and **integrate humanitarian, development and peace efforts**. Some Member States highlighted **organized and transnational crime** as well as **migration** as additional layers that exacerbate poverty and impede the achievement of the SDGs, calling for comprehensive, data-driven, and inclusive policies that bridge the gap between development, environmental stewardship, and societal well-being.

Recognizing interlinkages with climate action, gender equality, and strong, effective and just institutions

Some Member States emphasized the **interconnectedness** of **climate action** with **sustainable development** and **poverty eradication** (SDG 1 and SDG 13). Moreover, harmonizing **international food security** with efforts to combat climate change and environmental degradation is crucial for achieving sustainability. A key aspect of this endeavor involves enhancing **water efficiency and governance**, which in turn strengthens the **resilience** of food systems against various shocks. This approach not only addresses the immediate challenges of resource management but also aligns with broader sustainability goals by mitigating the adverse effects of environmental pressures on global food supplies.

The significance of integrating SDG 5 and SDG 16 in these efforts cannot be overstated. Participants noted that the current global crises disproportionately affect women, with projections indicating that an additional 236 million women and girls could be pushed into poverty and become more vulnerable to food insecurity by 2050. To bridge the **gender poverty gap**, it is imperative to implement public finance management systems, policies and laws through a **gender-responsive budgeting** lens. Furthermore, building **effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions** that employ **whole-of society approaches** is essential to cater to the specific needs of women and girls, thereby contributing to the realization of SDG 5 and SDG 16. Institutions also must become **more agile, adaptable and innovative**. This can be done through **data- and evidence-driven policies**, as well as **enhanced collaboration** with diverse stakeholders, to improve countries' preparedness and resilience in managing crises and ensure that people's needs and concerns are met. The role of **geospatial information** in this regard was also highlighted.

The critical role of institutions is amplified in the context of global poly-crises and increasing political polarization in many parts of the world, which hinder efforts towards the SDGs. In this regard, the role of



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**social and political trust** in fostering sustainable development was stressed. Restoring trust can enhance **social cohesion** and promote **peaceful and inclusive societies**, which in turn reinforce trust in government. These efforts require a whole-of-society approach that acknowledges and supports the role of non-governmental and other domestic organizations in increasing **accountability**. Some Member States also highlighted the importance of evidence-based policymaking at all levels to counteract politicization and **mis- and disinformation**. Some participants also emphasized the **correlation between climate, peace and security**, noting that the climate crisis can both exacerbate and be fueled by conflicts. The necessity of investing in climate initiatives to bolster resilience was underscored and calls were made for the integration of climate risks into common country analyses by UN Country Teams to ensure effective action.

The importance of building capacity and adopting a rights-based approach

Institutions are also pivotal in fostering **effective partnerships** between investors, technology companies, and regulators, so as to promote **investments** of significant transformative magnitude. Moreover, the inefficacy of siloed implementation strategies was noted, as was the need for **multi-dimensional systems-thinking approaches** in enabling sustainable development and driving transformative change. Such methodologies are essential for integrating environmental sustainability, gender equality and institutional integrity, thus effectively addressing the complex, interconnected crises and systemic inequalities of today. **Aligning public policies and the private sector**, including for the **adoption of rights-based approaches**, will be key to achieve the SDGs.

Speakers also highlighted the urgent need for developing **new skill sets** and fostering more **collaborative, people-centered mindsets** within the public sector as well as in society as a whole. Public institutions were urged to adopt comprehensive and multistakeholder approaches and become more future-focused in order to **build institutional capacity and resilience** towards current and future challenges. This involves fostering **agility** and policy **entrepreneurship**, using **strategic foresight** to plan for diverse future scenarios, and leveraging **data** and **geospatial** data frameworks to enable countries to develop and implement inclusive and sustainable development strategies. In addition, speakers emphasized action being taken to **strengthen capacities** for governance, social dialogue and domestic resource mobilization, including the “Great Environmental Push” to scale-up productive development policies in key sectors such as **energy transition, circular economy, carbon markets, regional value chains, food security** and **sustainable tourism**. Globally harmonized provisions for the **safe transport and management of dangerous goods**, with technical and policy coordination between organizations to ensure safe handling and trade, were also addressed.

The urgency to protect our planet has never been greater

The World Meteorological Organization declared **2023 as the hottest year on record**, with global temperatures averaging 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, edging closer to the critical 1.5-degree Celsius threshold. This escalation not only poses a significant natural threat but also presents substantial economic challenges, particularly for developing countries. Participants underscored the urgent need for **integrated responses** that address both the environmental and socio-economic dimensions of climate change, and called for **coordinated global action** to address this unprecedented warming. They emphasized the need for a unified approach that leverages **financing, technology, evidence-based policymaking, and capacity-building**, in line with the Paris Agreement. This encompasses a variety of solutions aimed at fostering **decarbonization** and enhancing **resilience** across diverse sectors, and also multi-level collaboration to foster investment to close **adaptation and emissions gaps** and facilitate **access to climate funds**. Participants emphasized the necessity of **collaborating through and across existing bodies,**





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**mechanisms and platforms**, including the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), highlighting the critical role of **international partnerships** in advancing just transitions, as well as the importance of **early warning systems**.

The importance of halting and reversing **deforestation**, investing in **forest resilience** and adaptive capacity, and promoting **nature-based solutions** for combating climate change and achieving sustainable development was also underlined. Several ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and UN entities are collaborating to protect forests while integrating considerations of **geospatial information management**, **indigenous rights**, and **women's rights**. **Gaps in data** on vulnerable groups, including Indigenous Peoples, are concerning and efforts are underway to address them. Speakers highlighted that **safeguarding, promoting and restoring indigenous geographical names** into databases can contribute to the recognition of Indigenous Peoples and, in turn, strengthen democracy and the protection of biodiversity, and called for the United Nations entities, including at the regional level, to support Indigenous Peoples in accordance with international commitments.

Furthermore, **gender-responsive climate action** was emphasized as a critical accelerator for implementing climate goals. Speakers stressed the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls, especially in the poorest regions, highlighting the **intersectional nature of climate-related challenges**, including unpaid care work, water scarcity and gender-based violence. Urgent action to prioritize women's rights and voices in climate solutions was called for, emphasizing the need for climate finance mechanisms to **recognize non-economic losses and damages**, and for prioritizing **women's economic empowerment**. It was proposed that a **climate justice framework** be established to ensure a gender-responsive transition. Speakers also emphasized the importance of **meaningful youth inclusion** in climate action and called on Member States and stakeholders to take into account the COP28 Global Youth Statement.

Speakers highlighted the critical interplay between climate change and **disaster risk reduction**, noting a troubling trend of reduced investment in the latter despite the increasing frequency of disasters. The integration of disaster risk reduction strategies in national sustainable development plans was considered essential to safeguard lives, preserve livelihoods and reduce vulnerabilities. Participants also emphasized the importance of implementing **early warning systems** to enhance responsiveness and adaptation, citing resilience of food systems as one example where this is critical. Participants underscored the need to build resilience to climate change and disasters through **infrastructure** and the importance of **climate funds**, noting the 300 billion dollars required for adaptation and the nearly 6 trillion dollars needed annually by developing countries to implement their climate action plans by 2030. Participants highlighted the urgency of implementing low-carbon infrastructure, increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy use. They emphasized the critical role of financing and policy design in this regard while noting that **investment needs** are particularly acute in Africa. Some Member States underlined the importance of collaborative projects and public-private **partnerships** for climate action, which were seen as crucial for meeting the financial demands of climate action. The importance of increased investment in climate action to enhance countries' **resilience** against climate shocks and reduce the risk of **climate-related conflicts** was emphasized. Participants stressed the need for **stronger collaboration between ECOSOC and the Security Council** in addressing climate change and food security, referencing the Pact for the Future and the New Agenda for Peace.

Data and science, technology and innovation are fundamental in every way to further the SDGs

As the world confronts increasingly severe weather conditions, the urgency for sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions becomes paramount. While **mature technologies** like biomass and solar photovoltaics offer straightforward solutions through simplicity and affordability, they face market incumbency challenges. On the other hand, **emerging technologies** like green hydrogen offer room for innovation and opportunities



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for disruption but demand substantial research and technical capabilities, often lacking in developing countries. **Smart manufacturing and service technologies** can be employed to monitor environmental standards, optimize logistics with reduced carbon emissions, increase operational efficiency with lower energy consumption, and enhance the design of more environmentally friendly modes of production. Moreover, **digital frontier technologies**, including big data analytics, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and blockchain technology, may revolutionize the **global value chain** by making production processes greener and more efficient. Participants underscored the importance of a synergistic approach that combines **green and digital technologies** to advance climate action effectively, and highlighted the critical need for global efforts to **overcome barriers to the adoption and diffusion** of innovative solutions in developing countries.

In preparation for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)** in 2025, and in line with the efforts towards a **Global Digital Compact** as part of the preparations for the upcoming Summit of the Future, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) will continue to review progress made so far in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS and discuss the WSIS+20 review.

Participants underscored the importance of **comprehensive data coverage** to ensure no one is left behind, highlighting that the **interlinkages between socio-economic development and governance accountability** play a crucial role in this regard. The power of data in generating new **insights** and guiding efforts to **direct resources** and expertise was emphasized, noting that the Global SDG 16 Progress Report relied on a dataset for all the Goal's 24 indicators for the first time. Moreover, there was a call for **responsible data management, cooperation** and **comprehensive strategies** that ensure everyone has access to digital technologies and services so as to bridge the **digital divide** and foster **inclusivity**. Enhancing **data** and **digital skills**, particularly among women and girls, **strengthening institutions**, bolstering **political leadership**, enhancing **geospatial data management**, boosting **regional digital cooperation**, and ensuring **universal access to digital infrastructure** were seen as pivotal steps in this direction. Considering issues such as connectivity, affordability, content, data and frontier technologies are crucial to finding tailored solutions for the **multiple dimensions of the digital divide**. The necessity of addressing the digital divide within the context of sustainable development as well as of peace and security was highlighted. Participants noted that international cooperation in **sharing knowledge and technology** among countries should be strengthened, and emphasized the need for enhancing capacity-building in science, technology and innovation in developing countries.

As **artificial intelligence** redefines the **future of work**, potentially affecting 40% of jobs, it is becoming clear that work practices must undergo transformation to adapt, and so must multilateral institutions. Speakers discussed the **potential** of this technology to facilitate the reallocation of resources towards development, including by lowering transition costs that prevent low-income countries from accessing capital markets, while at the same time emphasizing **risks**, such as exacerbated inequalities between nations and the need for **robust regulatory frameworks** to mitigate them. Participants emphasized the importance of considering privacy rights in the digital transformation process.

A reformed international financial system to enable adequate and sustained financing for the SDGs

**Financing** is a crucial enabler for the required transformations to achieve the SDGs to take place. The need for an **international financial system** that creates the conditions for countries to implement sustainable and coherent policies for the SDGs was emphasized. **Adequate financing** is essential to address critical gaps, promote advances and protect previous achievements. There is also the need for international mechanisms that promote **technology diffusion and sharing**, especially for developing countries. In addition, participants

Commented [NP1]: The discussion on data seems to appear in many places throughout the summary. Better to streamline it in a succinct way



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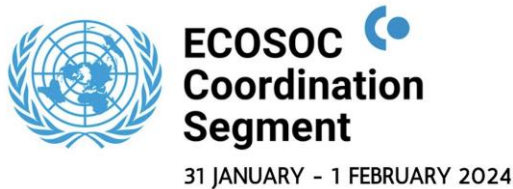
noted that progress needs to be safeguarded against losses stemming from **corruption** and **violence** as well as other forms of transnational and **organized crime**, which currently drain trillions of dollars annually. Therefore, participants underscored the critical need for reforms in the **international financial system**, increased **tax cooperation**, and expansion of **fiscal space** with a gender-lens, in addition to **sustained investment** in comprehensive, **gender-responsive** policies forming a **context-specific blend of universal and targeted focus**. These will help to address diverse needs and effectively bridge gaps across varying situations.

Speakers underscored the complexity of implementing the 2030 Agenda while facing deep **fiscal constraints** and added pressure from **debt service** obligations, which are prevalent in developing countries. **International tax cooperation** is vital for encouraging **fair taxation** and ensuring an **equitable distribution** of its benefits, as well as for enabling countries to use taxation as a **leveraging tool** for sustainable development. Speakers also discussed how **technology** can be used for taxation reform and execution at the national level. Participants stressed that efforts to create a **level playing field** in tax treaty negotiations and supporting developing countries in navigating complex tax issues are key steps forward. The establishment of a regional tax cooperation platform in Latin America and the Caribbean was mentioned as a high-impact initiative in the context of **regional and global integration**, on matters of international tax cooperation, fighting illicit financial flows, corporate accountability and combating tax evasion and avoidance. Some Member States highlighted the crippling effects of debt and tax evasion on efforts to pursue the 2030 Agenda in Africa, particularly SDGs 1 and 2, and urged for the **reform of multilateral systems** to address these financial burdens and enable sustainable development, calling also for **better synergies between ECOSOC and the Bretton Woods institutions**.

Multilateralism is integral to achieve the 2030 Agenda

All speakers stressed the need for **multilateralism**, **cooperation** and **adequate and sustainable funding** to assist developing nations in achieving the SDGs, emphasising the critical role of partnerships across all actors and sectors. It is fundamental to strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation to allow each country to perform at their best and their peoples' aspirations to be achieved, and thus achieve the 2030 Agenda leaving no one behind. **Breaking through silos** and seeking stronger **global alignment** were seen as critical for tackling poverty and inequality, building sustainable food systems, addressing the triple crises of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss, improving data governance and ensuring a just and inclusive digital transformation, developing fair and inclusive tax systems and international financial architecture, institution-building and environmental management in the context of peacebuilding and conflict-affected countries, and enhancing the role of science, data and geospatial data systems in support of all Goals. Some Member States emphasized that international cooperation is key to create effective and balanced **international governance and normative frameworks**, which are in turn essential for **concerted action** and thus for the effectiveness of national institutions and policies. Member States also highlighted the importance of international cooperation in **mobilizing new partnerships and political and financial support**, including through innovative financing mechanisms, as well as for **accountability**.

Participants also highlighted that **coordination within the UN system**, and between UN entities and **governments at all levels**, is critical to enhance institutions and advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Several UN entities and ECOSOC subsidiary bodies shared examples of collaboration among them and with Member States to foster implementation of the SDGs. Regional and functional commissions and expert bodies also highlighted preparations for further collaborative work, including through the regional sustainable development forums and other meetings, and emphasized their full engagement in the upcoming



2024 HLPF and in the [Summit of the Future](#). The need for the preparations for these meetings to reflect a [commitment to deeper collaboration](#) was emphasized.

## Recommendations from the discussions at the Coordination Segment

- The **ECOSOC system** should:
  1. Strive to break silos and deepen coordination and collaboration among the different entities and bodies, and also between them and governments at all levels, to advance the 2030 Agenda in multiple fronts.
  2. Strengthen collaboration with all other relevant actors to boost implementation of the SDGs, and continue to foster support for inclusive, participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches that ensure that all voices are heard and all interests are balanced.
  3. Sustain collective, united and effective action to implement the SDG Summit Political Declaration.
  4. Fully utilize the regional forums on sustainable development to accelerate progress.
  5. Take a holistic socio-ecological approach to actions on the ground.
  6. Streamline risks caused by climate change into macroeconomic and other socio-economic analyses and policy recommendations.
  7. Foster data literacy, including the use of foresight and behavioural science, in their operations.
  8. Promote partnerships for innovation and facilitate the adoption of technologies, including technologies developed by and more fitted to developing countries' realities.
  9. Strengthen capacity-development to support countries in skills enhancement to respond to current and future requirements.
  10. Take into consideration the adaptive capacity needs of local stakeholders and work to build trust in communities.
  11. Highlight the importance of:
    - (i) Global financial innovation and inclusive partnerships in this regard.
    - (ii) Policy guidance from the international community to avoid solvency issues stemming from near term liquidity pressures.
    - (iii) Coordinating international and domestic resource mobilization efforts.
    - (iv) Scaling up climate financing as outlined in COP28.
- The **Economic and Social Council** should:
  1. Call for accelerated action by all partners for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and emphasize the importance of considering efforts as a whole and as interconnected challenges, not individual ones.
  2. Ensure that its subsidiary bodies and other UN entities work in synergy and interlinked through a better coordination that help Member States with their sustainable development efforts.



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3. Promote collaboration through and across existing bodies, mechanisms and platforms, so to leverage existing resources, technologies and agreements.
4. Strengthen collaboration with the Security Council to promote coordinated action within the larger framework of sustainable development and peace and security, so that all their dimensions and intersections can be considered.
5. Strengthen synergies with the Bretton Woods institutions to address international economic and financial matters and support financing for sustainable development in a comprehensive, inclusive, coherent and effective manner.
6. Ensure that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) plays a vital role in the action of the UN system and performs its mandate and functions, supported by sustainable, predictable and adequate funding.
7. Continue to advocate for the importance of citizen participation and feedback and to engage all actors in its work, with emphasis on participation of civil society, youth and local authorities.
8. Support the establishment of innovation and technology funds in collaboration with international donors or multinational development banks to facilitate the acquisition of necessary technologies and the development of local innovation capabilities, complemented by foreign direct investment.
9. Consider expanding the membership of CSTD and establishing a follow-up mechanism at the Council's level to increase accountability.
10. Promote collaboration and dialogue towards defining minimal requirements for infrastructure that ensure universal access to the internet.
11. Facilitate coordinated efforts towards bridging the digital divide, maximizing the benefits of artificial intelligence for sustainable development, and improving the availability and accessibility of geospatial information for all Member States, including by:
  - (i) Foster increased collaboration among diverse stakeholders.
  - (ii) Prioritizing capacity-building initiatives to enhance investment and skills of countries in data and data technologies.
  - (iii) Work towards creating a sound and enabling legal and policy environment for geospatial information management.
12. Strengthen frameworks and platforms for the exchange of best practices and successful initiatives, and that promote regional and interregional dialogue and the mobilization of resources.
13. Promote the strengthening of the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) at the HLPF towards:
  - (i) Being more analytical.
  - (ii) Focusing on key challenges.
  - (iii) Including feedback loops from lessons learned from implementation.
  - (iv) Incorporating and assessing core transformative elements of the 2030 Agenda.
  - (v) Emcompassing more transparent processes, including through the incorporation of civil society reports.

- **Member States** should:



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1. Uphold multilateralism and reaffirm international commitments.
2. Strengthen efforts to accelerate action for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda 2030.
3. Apply comprehensive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches in policy design and implementation.
4. Reinforce the exchange of best practices and successful policies and initiatives while discussing lessons learned from failed ones.
5. Design policies that incentivise healthy food production, including taxing unhealthy foods, implementing warning labels on unhealthy foods targeted at children and caregivers, develop marketing regulation of unhealthy foods and banning them in school environments.
6. Consider the creation of local skills development centers as a possible element in the strategy to enhance skills in the adoption, adaptation and creation of technologies.
7. Emphasize long-term sustainability in ecosystem-based adaption policies and strategies.
8. Develop governance frameworks that promote inclusiveness comprehensive and collaborative approaches.