



2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

5 February 2025

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

DRAFT Concept Note and Programme

Background

The 2025 Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will be held on 5 February 2025 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York under the theme, “*Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind*”. The Forum will place a special emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be reviewed at the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), namely Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being); Goal 5 (Gender Equality); Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); Goal 14 (Life Below Water); and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

In accordance with resolution [75/290A](#), the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will focus on exchanging new ideas, expectations and priorities for the work ahead for ECOSOC and the HLPF on the aforementioned theme. Furthermore, the Forum will highlight and discuss forward-looking actions by governments and other stakeholders through innovative partnerships aimed at mobilizing commitments and advancing the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (hereafter referred to as the *2030 Agenda*) while addressing new challenges.

A key takeaway from both the 2023 SDG Summit and the 2024 High-Level Political Forum, including the VNR presentations, is that despite significant challenges, those leading SDG implementation are forging effective multi-stakeholder partnerships, driving sustainable development progress worldwide.

Building on this observation, the [Pact for the Future](#) – the outcome document endorsed at the Summit of the Future in September 2024 and adopted by the General Assembly (Resolution 79/1)– further emphasizes the multi-faceted role of partnerships in addressing global challenges and implementing the SDGs. With 21 references to partnerships, the Pact underscores their significance, particularly in addressing technical issues related to UN-associated partnerships, as well as in engaging all stakeholders and leveraging diverse expertise to advance sustainable development across specific thematic areas (see Annex below).

In this context, the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will provide a key opportunity to galvanize Member States and all other stakeholders early in the ECOSOC cycle, fostering continuous engagement and dialogue among all actors and exploring ways to promote accountable and results-based partnerships.

Preparation

As requested by the General Assembly, the ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be organized in consultation with stakeholders.

1. The ECOSOC President will establish an informal **multi-stakeholder advisory group** to provide guidance on the Forum's scope, format and programme. Group members should have extensive experience in sustainable development, particularly in implementing the SDGs, as well as in related policies, actions, and partnerships.
2. UN DESA will also conduct a **global online stakeholder consultation** to solicit views, experiences and proposals from all stakeholders on how to strengthen partnerships and stakeholder engagements to accelerate the implementation of the *2030 Agenda*.
3. **SDG action segments** will be organized in collaboration with relevant UN entities and recognized stakeholder networks, associations, major groups, or stakeholder constituencies with expertise in the specific SDGs in focus.

Format

The 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be a **one-day** meeting, chaired by the ECOSOC President.

- **Plenary sessions:** Member States and stakeholders will alternate in taking the floor to outline their priorities and recommendations for accelerating progress on the implementation of the SDGs. They will also share their experiences and vision for the role of partnerships, aligned with the *2030 Agenda* and with consideration of the agreements established in the *Pact for the Future*.
- **SDG action segments:** The Forum will also include four **SDG action segments**, each dedicated to one of the Goals slated for review during the HLPF 2025, namely Goal 3, Goal 5, Goal 8 and Goal 14. The action segments would focus on scaling up concrete and innovative partnerships that drive SDG implementation while highlighting their crucial role in fostering collaborative, concrete actions.
- **Side events:** An open call will be issued for side events to be organized by governments, the private sector, UN system entities, inter-governmental organizations, as well as NGOs and other organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC on the margins of the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum. Side events will be held either in-person (within the UN Headquarters or at external venues arranged by the organizers) or in a virtual format.

The plenary and SDG action segments will be broadcast via [UN web TV](#) (TBC).

Outcome

A consolidated analytical Joint Summary will be prepared by the Council President, in consultation with the ECOSOC Bureau, to capture the key policy messages of the Partnership Forum and those of the Coordination Segment. The summary will serve as an input to the July 2025 HLPF, under the auspices of the ECOSOC. The summary can also provide additional inputs to the preparations of other global events, including the 2025 Second World Summit for Social Development, the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, as well as the overall work of the ECOSOC and other key inter-governmental processes of the UN throughout 2025.

The key messages and recommendations of the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be presented at the 2025 ECOSOC Coordination Segment (6-7 February) to inspire its discussions.

Website & Outreach

All information pertaining to the ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be available at a dedicated website: <https://sdgs.un.org/2025ECOSOCPartnershipForum>

A public Trello board will be set up for the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, where users can access and download materials such as save-the-dates, digital cards, countdowns and other communication assets.

The Forum will also be promoted through various mailing lists and social media platforms, including the X accounts @SustDev and @UNECOSOC.

Draft Programme

Time	Session	
08:30 AM – 09:45 AM	Virtual side events	
10:00 AM – 10:40 AM	Opening (Venue - Trusteeship Council Chamber) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of ECOSOC • H.E. Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General (TBC) • Keynote addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Aluki Kotierk, President of the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) (TBC). - TBD 	
10:50 AM -11:50 AM	SDG action segment for Goal 3 (Venue – TBD)	SDG action segment for Goal 5 (Venue – Trusteeship Council Chamber)
12:00 PM -1:00 PM	SDG action segment for Goal 8 (Venue – TBD)	SDG action segment for Goal 14 (Venue – Trusteeship Council Chamber)
01:15 PM – 02:30 PM	On-site / virtual side events	

3:00 PM – 3:20 PM	Dialogue/reporting of SDG Action Segments (with President as moderator)
3:20 PM – 5:30 PM	Plenary Session (Venue - 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
05:30 PM – 06:00 PM	Closing (Venue - Trusteeship Council Chamber) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks by Mr. Li Junhua, Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (TBC) • Closing remarks by H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of ECOSOC

Annex – Partnerships and the Pact for the Future – Insights for the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Technical Recommendations for UN-associated Partnerships:

Under **Action 55**¹, Member States commit to **strengthen partnerships to deliver on existing commitments and address new and emerging challenges** including by creating enabling environments for UN-associated partnerships encouraging to:

- (a) Ensure that relevant stakeholders can meaningfully participate, in their respective roles and responsibilities, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure, in relevant United Nations processes and that **Member States have access to the views and expertise of those partners**;
- (b) Leverage existing channels and strengthen **communication between United Nations intergovernmental bodies and civil society**, allowing for ongoing dialogue and exchange of information;
- (c) Encourage the contribution of the **private sector** to addressing global challenges and strengthen its **accountability** towards the implementation of United Nations frameworks;
- (d) Deepen **United Nations engagement with national parliaments** in United Nations intergovernmental bodies and processes, in accordance with national legislation, including through building on the efforts of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to engage parliamentarians to maintain support for the implementation of relevant United Nations agreements and resolutions;
- (e) Request the Secretary-General to provide recommendations on how **engagement with local and regional authorities** could advance the *2030 Agenda*, particularly the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, by the end of the seventy-ninth session for Member States' consideration;

(f) Enhance **cooperation between the United Nations and regional, subregional and other organizations**, within their respective mandates, which will be critical to maintaining international peace and security, promoting and protecting human rights and achieving sustainable development.

The Role of Partnerships in Addressing Thematic Issues:

Additionally, partnership is highlighted as a crucial instrument across thematic areas within the Pact, including:

- **To support countries facing debt crises and humanitarian emergencies:** To this end, two references² focus on the importance of strengthening partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs), in particular.
- **To enhance private investment and accountability of the private sector:** Partnerships are seen as vital to catalyzing private investment in developing countries³, while the private sector is expected to increase its contributions to sustainable development, with an emphasis on accountability⁴.
- **To promote peace and conflict resolution:** The role of partnerships is crucial to bring a more strategic approach and greater coherence and impact to national and international peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts⁵.
- **To build inclusive society and accelerate social integration:** The Pact further stresses the need for intergenerational partnerships to promote meaningful participation of youth⁶. The annexed [Declaration on Future Generations](#) also notes the need for promoting intergenerational partnerships to safeguard the interests of future generations⁷.
- **To address technological challenges:** Finally, partnerships are highlighted as essential for managing the potential risks posed by science and technology⁸. The annexed [Global Digital Compact](#) also stresses the importance of partnerships in addressing digital divides⁹; advancing SDG solutions¹⁰; and building capacity in artificial intelligence¹¹.

2 Ops 22b, 36d.

3 Op 23k.

4 Op 80d.

5 Op 72.

6 Op 62b.

7 Op 29.

8 Op 50.

9 Op 10.

10 Op 17f.

11 Op 60.