



# 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
5 February 2025, UNHQ, New York

## Concept Note and Programme

### Background

The 2025 Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC Partnership Forum) 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.

## An inclusive approach

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

1. The President of ECOSOC has established an informal **Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group** to provide guidance on the Forum's scope, format and programme. On 25 November 2024, an Expert Group Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group to the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum was convened virtually. Summary and bios of members are available [here](#).
2. UN DESA conducted a **global online stakeholder consultation** to solicit views, experiences and proposals from stakeholders worldwide on how to strengthen partnerships and stakeholder engagements to accelerate the implementation of the *2030 Agenda*. The consultation received 339 responses from 85 countries. The summary report is available [here](#).
3. **SDG action segments** are 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. More information is available [here](#).

## Format

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

- **Opening Session:** Mr. Guy Bernard Ryder, Under-Secretary-General for Policy at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), will deliver opening remarks. The keynote speakers are Ms. Aluki Kotierk, former President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), and Ms. Dayana Blanco Quiroga, 2023 Future Rising Fellow and Founder of the Uru Uru Team.
- **Plenary:** 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.
- **Multi-stakeholder panel** on the theme "Investing in Partnerships: Catalyzing Action for SDG 17" will spotlight the pivotal role of strategic investments and strategies in partnerships as a cornerstone for advancing the 2030 Agenda.
- **SDG Action Segments:** The Forum will feature four thematic 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.
- **Closing Session:** Ms. Lotta Tähtinen, Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UN DESA, will deliver closing remarks, followed by H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of ECOSOC, who will deliver the final remarks and adjourn the meeting.

- **Side events:** A limited number of side events organized by governments, the private sector, UN system entities, inter-governmental organizations, as well as NGOs and other organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC in the margins of the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum. Side events will be held either in-person (at UN Headquarters), at external venues arranged by the organizers, or in a virtual format.

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

## Outputs

- A consolidated analytical **Joint Summary** will be prepared by the President of ECOSOC, 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 President of ECOSOC will also release a one-page **Information Note** in the days following the conclusion of the Forum, which will be made available on the Forum website.

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 is available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2025ECOSOCPartnershipForum>

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

## Programme

*A number of virtual and off-site side events will be held on 4-5 February. The side event programmes will be posted on the Forum's webpage.*

| Time                    | Session   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 10.00 a.m. - 10.40 a.m. | <p><b>Opening - Trusteeship Council Chamber</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of ECOSOC</li> <li>• Mr. Guy Bernard Ryder, Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG).</li> <li>• Keynote addresses:</li> </ul> |

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|-------------------------|--|---|
|                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms. Aluki Kotierk, former President of the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI)</li> <li>○ Ms. Dayana Blanco Quiroga, 2023 Future Rising Fellow and Founder of Uru Uru Team</li> </ul>  |   |
| 10.50 a.m. - 11.50 a.m. | <p><b><u>SDG Action Segment for Goal 8 - ECOSOC Chamber</u></b></p> <p>Organized by UNIDO, ILO, Business and Industry Major Group, Workers and Trade Unions Major Group</p>  | <p><b><u>SDG Action Segment for Goal 3 - Trusteeship Council Chamber</u></b></p> <p>Organized by UNAIDS, WHO, Stakeholder Group on Ageing, Economic Commission for Europe Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism</p> |
| 12.00 p.m. - 01.00 p.m. | <p><b><u>SDG Action Segment for Goal 14 - ECOSOC Chamber</u></b></p> <p>Organized by UNEP, UNESCO-IOC, Scientific and Technological Community Major Group, Major Group for Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples Major Group</p>  | <p><b><u>SDG Action Segment for Goal 5 - Trusteeship Council Chamber</u></b></p> <p>Organized by UN Women, UNFPA, Women's Major Group, Sendai Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism, Local Authorities Major Group</p>         |
| 01.15 p.m. - 02.30 p.m. | <b>Side events - on-site</b>   |   |
| 03.00 p.m. - 03.20 p.m. | <p><b>Key insights from SDG Action Segments - Trusteeship Council Chamber</b></p> <p>A synthesis of major themes and lessons on partnership effectiveness and investment strategies related to SDGs 3, 5, 8, and 14, presented by Segment rapporteurs (<i>from the lectern</i>) (4 Minutes each)</p>   |   |
| 03.20 p.m. - 03.50 p.m. | <p><b><u>Multi-stakeholder panel - Investing in Partnerships: Catalyzing Action for SDG 17 - Trusteeship Council Chamber</u></b></p> <p>This session will spotlight the pivotal role of strategic investments in partnerships as a cornerstone for advancing SDG 17 and the overall 2030 Agenda. It will explore how innovative financing models, resource mobilization strategies, and cross-sectoral collaboration can be scaled to unlock transformative action.</p> <p><u>Moderated by</u> H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of ECOSOC</p> |   |
| 03.50 p.m. - 05.45 p.m. | <p><b>Plenary session - Trusteeship Council Chamber</b></p> <p>The plenary session will feature statements by Member States, observers, UN entities, and stakeholders, highlighting new ideas, priorities, and forward-looking actions for the Council cycle and the HLPF, while showcasing innovative partnerships to advance the 2030 Agenda.</p>  |   |
| 05.45 p.m. - 06.00 p.m. | <p><b>Closing - Trusteeship Council Chamber</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Lotta Tähtinen, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UN DESA</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Bob Rae, President of ECOSOC</li> </ul>   |   |

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

### *Technical Recommendations for UN-associated Partnerships:*

Under **Action 55**<sup>1</sup>, 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 references<sup>2</sup> focus on the importance of strengthening partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs), in particular.

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<sup>1</sup> Op 83.

<sup>2</sup> Ops 22b, 36d.

- **To enhance private investment and accountability of the private sector:** Partnerships are seen as vital to catalyzing private investment in developing countries<sup>3</sup>, while the private sector is expected to increase its contributions to sustainable development, with an emphasis on accountability<sup>4</sup>.
- **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 efforts<sup>5</sup>.
- **To build inclusive society and accelerate social integration:** The Pact further stresses the need for intergenerational partnerships to promote meaningful participation of youth<sup>6</sup>. The annexed [Declaration on Future Generations](#) also notes the need for promoting intergenerational partnerships to safeguard the interests of future generations<sup>7</sup>.
- **To address technological challenges:** Finally, partnerships are highlighted as essential for managing the potential risks posed by science and technology<sup>8</sup>. The annexed [Global Digital Compact](#) also stresses the importance of partnerships in addressing digital divides<sup>9</sup>; advancing SDG solutions<sup>10</sup>; and building capacity in artificial intelligence<sup>11</sup>.

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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.