



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. Mr. Bob Rae (Canada), on 5 February 2025, and its Coordination Segment, chaired by H.E. Mr. Anatolio Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea), Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, on 6-7 February 2025. Both meetings addressed the main theme of the 2025 session of the Council and the 2025 High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), “*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 present factual summary has been prepared by the President of ECOSOC in consultation with the Bureau of the Council, as mandated by General Assembly [resolution 75/290A](#).

ECOSOC Partnership Forum: Catalyzing Collaboration for 2025

The [2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum](#) brought together Member States, the UN system and a diverse range of stakeholders to exchange ideas and highlight forward-looking actions and innovative partnerships to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To organize the Partnership Forum in consultation with stakeholders¹, the President of ECOSOC established a 23-member informal advisory group, spanning regions and sectors, and convened an expert group meeting (EGM) in mid-November 2024 (click [here](#) for summary). In addition, DESA conducted a global online stakeholder consultation to solicit views, experiences and proposals from all relevant stakeholders on the role of partnerships in advancing the 2030 Agenda, which received inputs from 331 stakeholders across 83 countries (click [here](#) for summary report). The Forum was also informed by DESA’s Partnership Snapshot (click [here](#)) providing an overview of various exemplary partnerships.

The Opening Session of the Partnership Forum featured remarks by the President of the Council and the Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Mr. Guy Rider, on behalf of the Secretary-General. Keynote remarks were delivered by Ms. Aluki Kotierk, former President of the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (Canada) and Ms. Dayana Blanco Quiroga, 2023 Future Rising Fellow and Founder of Uru Uru Team (Bolivia).

The deliberations of the 2025 Partnership Forum centered on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be reviewed at the 2025 HLPF, with a series of SDG Action Segments focused on Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being); Goal 5 (Gender Equality); Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); and

¹ [A/RES/75/290 A](#), Paragraph 15.



Goal 14 (Life Below Water), alongside a multi-stakeholder Panel discussion on Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The SDG Action Segments were co-organized by UN system entities in collaboration with stakeholder partners, including representatives from ten Major Groups and other stakeholder constituencies. The outcomes of the SDG Action Segments were reported to the Partnership Forum by Mr. César Núñez, UNAIDS (Goal 3); Mr. Albert Lladó, Local Authorities Major Group, United Cities and Local Governments (Goal 5); Ms. Shea Gopaul, IOE Permanent Representative to the UN and Co-Chair of the Business and Industry Major Group (Goal 8); and Ms. Maitreyi Koduganti Venkata, Fellow, PlanAdapt (Goal 14).

A multi-stakeholder panel, moderated by the ECOSOC President, focused on strategies to enhance investments in partnerships and catalyze action for SDG 17. The panelists included H.E. Mr. Niels Annen, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, Ms. Heather Grady, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and Mr. Darian Stibbe, Executive Director of The Partnering Initiative.

During the plenary session, 43 interventions were delivered. Amid ongoing interconnected global crises, speakers reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the SDGs, recognizing the need for inclusive and reinvigorated multilateral collaboration to address these challenges. Many viewed 2025 as a pivotal year marked by milestone high-level meetings, including the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (10-21 March 2025), the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (30 June - 3 July 2025), the Third UN Ocean Conference (9-13 June 2025) and the Second World Summit for Social Development (4-6 November 2025). Speakers underscored the need to build synergies and continuity across these interlinked agendas, emphasizing the critical role of ECOSOC in fostering renewed international cooperation and solidarity. In this context, participants saw the ECOSOC Partnership Forum as a strong and inclusive start to 2025, helping to shape discussions and mobilize partnerships in the lead up to these vital meetings.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage remained key priorities, with many speakers emphasizing the need to bolster **health infrastructure** and ensure **equitable access**, particularly for vulnerable populations. South-South cooperation was highlighted as an important mechanism for expanding healthcare access in developing nations. Addressing **broader social determinants of health** - including education, water, housing, gender equality and economic stability, among others - is essential for sustainable health outcomes and is closely linked to progress across all SDGs.

Some participants noted that effective partnerships for advancing SDG 3 require **better alignment across actors** leveraging expertise and resources to maximize impact while addressing governance gaps and competing priorities. Several successful models, including **public-private and constituency-based partnerships**, demonstrated the power of collaboration in driving health solutions. One speaker underlined the critical need for **investing in nursing and healthcare personnel** to sustain strong public health systems.



SDG 5: Gender Equality

Many speakers reaffirmed their commitment to gender equality, outlining policy reforms and financial investments to close gender gaps and promote women's economic empowerment. They stressed the need for gender-responsive policies that **integrate disaster risk reduction, ensure sustained funding, and strengthen accountability** through data transparency, digital advocacy and community-led insights. **Structural measures**, including gender-responsive budgeting, were highlighted as essential for expanding economic opportunities for women. Many also emphasized the importance of policies that advance **women's leadership** and **workforce participation** as key drivers of national prosperity, economic resilience and sustainable development.

SDG 5 must be central to governance, financing and accountability across all SDGs, ensuring that gender equality remains a core priority in all sustainable development efforts. **Women's leadership and gender-responsive partnerships** are key to translating commitments into action, particularly in the face of shrinking civic space, underfunding and limited access to decision-making, which disproportionately affect women and marginalized groups. **Bridging global commitments with local action** is essential to ensuring that **local governments** and **grassroots organizations** - especially women's groups - can actively shape policies that advance gender equality. Some speakers also underscored the importance of **intergenerational partnerships** in mobilizing youth as key actors in driving progress on SDG 5. The **Fourth World Conference on Women and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** (10-21 March 2025) were identified as critical opportunities to accelerate progress and reinvigorate global momentum for gender equality.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Decent work and economic growth remained central to discussions, with strong calls to support **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** by enhancing their access to finance and improving their resilience, while also strengthening **labor rights** in an evolving global economy, in particular. Some speakers noted the **green economy's** potential to support job creation and long-term, sustained growth, emphasizing the benefits of targeted investment in relevant sectors. Enhancing **youth workforce readiness** requires investments in skills development and expanded employment opportunities to equip young people for an evolving labor market and ensure their full participation in the economy.

Amid shifting job markets and rapid technological change, a few speakers emphasized the need for **balanced policies** that uphold workers' rights while ensuring business sustainability. To optimize the benefits of economic and technological advancements, growth policies should adopt an inclusive, demand-driven approach, with multistakeholder partnerships playing a key role at all stages, from policy consultation and design to implementation and impact assessment. Participants also stressed the importance of moving beyond traditional engagements by fostering **inclusive, networked dialogues** that bring together governments, UN entities, employers and employees - including those with disabilities - to promote meaningful collaboration and informed decision-making.



SDG 14: Life Below Water

Many delegations reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable ocean economies and marine biodiversity conservation. Countries prioritized stricter fisheries management and environmental protections while stressing the need for greater global support to combat ocean degradation, with several countries promoting the blue economy as a sustainable driver of growth. To mobilize sustainable finance for SDG 14, it is critical to leverage private finance; promote blended finance while equitably sharing benefits and risks; and invest in innovative financial solutions such as **blue bonds** and **debt-for-nature swaps**. Speakers noted the importance of **bridging knowledge and data gaps** in ensuring that scientific, traditional and local expertise informs policy development, resilience planning and resource management in a complementary and mutually reinforcing manner.

Advancing SDG 14 also relies on effective **cross-sectoral partnerships** that foster integration, resource alignment and coordinated action across all levels. Ensuring the equitable **inclusion of indigenous peoples, local communities and other underrepresented groups**, such as small island developing states (**SIDS**), is vital to reflecting national needs in global ocean governance, particularly for countries most reliant on ocean resources. In this context, the **Third United Nations Ocean Conference** (9-13 June 2025) was highlighted as a key milestone in this effort.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

A number of countries highlighted the **debt challenges of developing countries**, calling for a more comprehensive, inclusive and effective debt solution framework and relief for developing countries, including through innovative debt forgiveness measures.

Many delegations urgently called for **reforming the global financial architecture** to amplify the voice and participation of developing nations in economic decision-making process, with some stressing the system's outdated and inequitable structure while advocating for stronger, more inclusive, and better-resourced multilateral development banks (MDBs).

Many countries stressed the need to enhance **official development assistance (ODA) and development cooperation**, urging fulfillment of commitments to the 0.7% ODA target while also emphasizing the importance of improving its effectiveness and impact. Several countries highlighted the role of **South-South and triangular cooperation** in advancing capacity building and technology transfer; some noted South-South investments in technology and financial contributions to UN cooperation mechanisms, while one speaker stressed the importance of leveraging support from the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Global Compact.

Several countries emphasized the need for **innovative financing** for sustainable development, with debt-related measures highlighted as key tools for climate action.

Countries highlighted the role of science and technology in sustainable development, emphasizing capacity building, technology transfer and digital inclusion, alongside calls for enhanced development cooperation. Many participants underscored the importance of **ethical, community-driven approaches to technology** to ensure locally sensitive solutions and transparent governance. Speakers highlighted the private sector's pivotal role in advancing **responsible technological progress**, calling for **demand-driven**



and **people-centered innovation**. Strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration among governments, civil society and the private sector was recognized as essential to ensuring that technology **aligns with public priorities and needs, complements local and Indigenous solutions** and **upholds accountability and transparency** in its development and deployment.

Discussions highlighted the role of trade as a key driver of sustainable development in fostering industrialization, job creation and sustainable economic growth. Many countries advocated for **fairer trade policies and global financial systems** to ensure equitable access to resources and development opportunities, particularly for developing economies. **Regional trade agreements** were noted by several delegations as opportunities to strengthen labor rights, eliminate child and forced labor and enhance economic cooperation. Investments in infrastructure, value chain development, and skills training were emphasized as essential to unlocking the full potential of trade for sustainable development. The importance of development cooperation and resource mobilization were underscored, along with the need for **inclusive partnerships** among governments, businesses, trade unions and labor organizations to foster an open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system.

Underscoring the need for **long-term, flexible, and non-earmarked funding** to sustain development programmes and initiatives, some speakers highlighted the growing role of **private sector engagement**. Blended finance and high-impact investments were noted as potential strategies for scaling development initiatives, while **philanthropic organizations** were also recognized for their role in providing technical assistance, guarantees and seed funding.

Systemic challenges – such as bureaucratic barriers, power imbalances and paternalistic development cooperation structures – were identified as major obstacles to effective partnerships. The need for **standardized monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) frameworks** were highlighted as crucial steps towards ensuring accountability and maximizing development impacts.

A number of delegations emphasized that a data-driven approach is essential for fostering innovation, inclusivity, and informed policymaking; some noted that strengthened cross-sectoral **data partnerships** can enhance the evidence base for the UN's decision-making process.

The **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development** (30 June - 3 July 2025) was recognized as a key platform to advance SDG 17 by mobilizing resources, promoting sustainable financing and strengthening international cooperation for sustainable development.

Other Distinctive Issues

Ensuring **no one is left behind** remained a key theme, with calls to empower indigenous peoples, women, youth, persons with disabilities, refugees, migrants and those in conflict-affected countries. Many urged greater representation of countries in special situations including least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and SIDS in key multilateral decision-making processes. Many also highlighted the need for stronger multilateral cooperation, tailored support and better access to resources.

The **Second World Summit for Social Development** (4-6 November 2025) was recognized as an opportunity to advance global social policies, inclusion and partnerships.



[Recommendations from the discussions during the Partnership Forum](#)

The discussions at the Partnership Forum recommended the following for **ECOSOC**:

- Foster cooperation to mobilize necessary resources and create a more equitable landscape for development financing, while contributing to the adoption of a strong outcome for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Spain.
- Ensure the active participation of civil society in its deliberations.
- Promote inclusive partnerships to implement the Pact for the Future and accelerate SDG progress, translating outcomes from key high-level conferences into tangible actions at all levels;
- Promote synergies between ECOSOC, the General Assembly and specialized UN agencies to avoid duplication of efforts;
- Develop reporting frameworks to track the impact of international partnerships and encourage best practice sharing among states;
- Support technology transfer and innovation-driven partnerships;
- Facilitate investment partnerships that mobilize private sector contributions toward sustainable development projects; and
- Mobilize networks, including with philanthropic organizations and impact investors.

ECOSOC Coordination Segment: Breaking silos to increase impact

The [Coordination Segment](#), chaired by H.E. Mr. Anatolio Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea), Vice-President of the Council, gathered Chairs of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies, Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, Heads of UN system entities, including specialized agencies, and representatives of other stakeholders to share key insights in seven panel discussions. This included the in-person participation of three Executive Secretaries of regional commissions, nine Chairs of functional commissions and expert bodies, and thirteen Heads or Deputy Heads of UN agencies, including specialized agencies. The Segment also featured eleven Ambassadors as lead discussants in their capacity of Chairs of Groups of countries or facilitators/hosts of intergovernmental processes relevant for each discussion.

As mandated by GA resolution 75/290 A, the Secretariat prepared an [informal note](#) to inform the discussions at the Segment, featuring an integrated policy analysis of the work of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and UN system entities in support of an accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda in 2024 and offering recommendations for action by the Council, its subsidiary bodies, UN system entities and Member States.

At the opening, the Vice-President (Equatorial Guinea) underscored the importance of the Council's coordination role in addressing global challenges and accelerating progress on the SDGs, calling for strengthened multilateral cooperation, innovative financing and more integrated, evidence-based approaches to ensure a cohesive and impactful response to pressing global issues. The President of the Council presented the key messages of the Partnership Forum while also highlighting the need for extraordinary efforts to address the existential crises facing the global system. The President urged a shift away from bureaucratic silos toward more efficient, results-driven collaboration to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and underscored the fundamental role of the UN Charter in



promoting international economic and social cooperation, reaffirming the commitment to multilateralism as a means of ensuring stability, human rights and sustainable progress. Mr. Guy Ryder, Under Secretary-General for Policy, emphasized ECOSOC's unique role in implementing the Pact for the Future by driving bold and transformative policymaking, promoting inclusive and evidence-based solutions, and reforming the international financial architecture to address systemic inequities. He highlighted ECOSOC's capacity to mobilize stakeholders, harness innovation and develop actionable recommendations to accelerate progress toward the SDGs, ensuring that multilateral efforts translate into tangible, life-changing results.

The opening was followed by a conversation with Executive Secretaries of regional commissions and Chairs of functional commissions and expert bodies and six other panel discussions focusing on sustainability and intergenerational equity; investing in healthy, inclusive and resilient societies; creating employment and decent work opportunities for all; harnessing data and STI to advance digital progress; financing solutions particularly focusing on countries in special situation; and strategic foresight for impactful decision-making. The panels highlighted interlinkages between the SDGs in review this year and those reviewed last year, responding to the Segment's mandate, while also exploring the role of the Council in the implementation of the Pact for the Future and its contribution to key intergovernmental processes taking place in 2025.

During the conversation with the Chairs of functional commissions and expert bodies and Executive Secretaries of regional commissions participants underscored the **urgent need for coordinated, cross-sectoral action** to accelerate SDG implementation. They emphasized that reaching this goal requires **stronger governance, inclusive policies, sustainable financing and innovative technologies**, underpinned by **data-driven decision-making** and **enhanced global cooperation**. Urgent action is needed to **reform financial systems, bridge inequalities, harness science and technology, and scale up climate resilience**, ensuring no one is left behind while aligning efforts with global commitments from the Summit of the Future and upcoming high-level events.

Speakers stressed the need for better coordination across ECOSOC's functional and regional commissions and expert bodies to ensure strengthened **global and regional governance mechanisms**, emphasizing the key role these bodies play in aligning global commitments with national priorities. In addition, these bodies can be integral for stronger **policy coherence, knowledge-sharing and peer learning mechanisms** with regional commissions uniquely positioned to facilitate cross-regional collaboration and best practices exchange.

Delegations stressed the **need for stronger coordination and transformative strategies** to accelerate SDG implementation, while also emphasizing that the **Coordination Segment is at the core of providing coherent guidance** in this regard. Some delegations noted that it was important to increase the **integration of the work of specialized agencies**, in the discussions in New York. The efforts to **revitalize the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** were highlighted as an opportunity to strengthen the Commission as a key driver of actionable policies on gender equality. The upcoming review by the General Assembly of resolution [A/RES/75/290 A](#), on the strengthening of ECOSOC, was flagged as an opportunity to **strengthen the Council and its subsidiary bodies**.



The following key messages on advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the SDGs and leaving no one behind emerged throughout the discussions, reflecting key priorities and recommendations shared across the Segment.

Scaling Up Climate Action: Responsible Critical Mineral Use, Sustainable Blue Economy and Inclusive Decision-Making

The key to unlocking sustainable development lies in balancing the three pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals—economic, social, and environmental—while ensuring that actions are equitable, transformative, and politically feasible. Participants emphasized the urgency of managing trade-offs and the need for bold political will. Meaningful systems change can only happen when all stakeholders push for action, laying the foundation for real progress toward the SDGs. Participants called for a renewed multilateral system, with the UN at its core, and a whole-of-society approach to tackling environmental challenges, including through harnessing digital transformation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data to enhance policy design, crisis response and climate adaptation.

The agriculture and energy sectors are two of the largest contributors to global emissions, underscoring their importance in driving transformative solutions. Participants emphasized that climate resilience, energy transition and environmental sustainability must be at the heart of sustainable development strategies and explored ways to minimize trade-offs and externalities while maximizing benefits. The agriculture sector offers high returns on investment by increasing productivity, reducing inefficiencies and lowering emissions. Simultaneously, investment to transform the food systems must also strengthen the resilience of people and ecosystems, including through universal social protection.

Member States stressed the need for stronger ocean governance and building a sustainable blue economy to support food security, poverty eradication, and environmental sustainability. With 4.3 billion people relying on aquatic foods for at least 20 per cent of their protein intake, sustainably managed ocean resources, biodiversity conservation, and responsible fisheries and aquaculture are essential. The ocean is also a key ally in combating climate change, prompting calls to mainstream climate protection and adaptation issues in relevant ocean processes. Broad and inclusive participation in effectively implementing the [BBNJ Agreement](#) is critical to achieving the goal of protecting at least 30 per cent of the ocean by 2030. Several Member States reaffirmed commitments to sustainable ocean governance and the **2025 UN Ocean Conference** as well as the need to reinforce the **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities** (CBDR) principle to ensure fair climate governance and burden-sharing.

Achieving the 1.5°C climate goal requires a six-fold increase in critical energy minerals by 2050. Many speakers stressed that phasing out fossil fuels, expanding renewable energy and increasing climate financing are top priorities. Clean energy solutions must not deepen inequalities, violate rights or create new environmental stresses. To address this, the Secretary-General launched the [Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals](#) in April 2024 to promote responsible mineral value chains and demand management. This calls for public-private partnerships, direct support to local communities and Indigenous Peoples, particularly in the poorest countries, and the use of science, natural and intangible assets. Moreover, forests and biodiversity play a crucial role in addressing climate change, land degradation and poverty, and increased investment in sustainable forest management and restoration is necessary.



The revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) presents a key opportunity for Member States to close the finance gap, strengthen adaptation strategies and drive inclusive climate action. Participants underlined the need to integrate the Paris Agreement, Global Biodiversity Framework and Land Degradation Neutrality targets into national policies to ensure sustainable development. COP 30 will serve as a platform to drive implementation in five critical pillars: mitigation, adaptation, climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building; it is an opportunity to showcase the effectiveness of multilateralism.

Indigenous People and local communities have long preserved the balance of marine and terrestrial ecosystems through their knowledge, practices and culture. Participants emphasized the need to fully integrate Indigenous knowledge and rights into NDCs and sustainable development strategies, ensuring **free, prior, and informed consent** on land, climate and biodiversity issues and the recognition of **cultural rights** as fundamental to sustainability. Legislation that protects Indigenous rights, promote complementarities between traditional knowledge and emerging technologies, and promote direct access to financing for ecosystem protection is key to achieving these priorities. Young people called for a shift from mere engagement to leadership in decision-making processes. Meanwhile, cities are increasingly recognizing marine ecosystems as rights holders, embedding ocean governance into urban planning, and forming alliances beyond national borders. Participants also underscored the urgency of directing adequate funding to those on the front lines of environmental protection.

Bridging Inequalities: Investing in Health, Equity, and Resilience

Reversing setbacks in the Sustainable Development Goals requires transformative investments that place human rights at the core, ensuring people remain at the center of development efforts. A human-centered, rights-based approach is essential to delivering on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals. As recognized in the [Pact for the Future](#), these investments must be closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda and be supported by economic policies that uphold human rights, foster meaningful participation, and ensure accountability and non-discrimination. Sustainable development and human rights obligations are inseparable—they must be mutually reinforcing. Participants further stressed the need to secure rights and access for all, regardless of race, class, nationality, migration status, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or sex characteristics.

Good health and wellbeing for all are central to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is only possible with strong healthcare systems that prioritize prevention and ensure equitable access for those in vulnerable situations. Member States emphasized the need to strengthen community health systems, invest in health workers, and build gender responsive, rights-based health care. Key priorities include improving access to affordable medicines, expanding mental health services, and leveraging new technologies to reach those most in need-while ensuring built-in human rights safeguards to prevent deepening existing inequalities or creating new ones. Moreover, strengthening international cooperation through partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society is no longer a luxury but is essential for meaningful progress.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the urgent need to strengthen health systems through primary healthcare and universal health coverage to ensure future preparedness. COVID-19 disrupted all health services, erasing nearly a decade of progress made in global health. Rebuilding and safeguarding



against future health crises require prioritizing health in public budgets as well as shifting from a vertical, disease-specific approach to a horizontal, integrated model that supports health policies and interventions across the life course. Participants also highlighted the importance of adaptive, risk-informed social policies to build resilience, improve coordination between disaster and health risk management systems, and invest in shock-responsive social protection.

Strengthening health systems requires integrated approaches, and One Health stands out as one key example, linking human, animal, and environmental health to combat climate change, prevent zoonotic diseases, restore ecosystems, and promote overall well-being. In 2024, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through the [Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on AMR](#), which called for sustainable national financing and US\$100 million in catalytic funding by 2030—a crucial step for success. However, while action-oriented, the declaration lacked conciseness. Since its adoption, UNDP, the World Customs Organization, UNICEF, and the World Bank have joined the Quadripartite Secretariat (FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOA) to strengthen coordination and impact. Additionally, an independent panel will be established to provide science, evidence-based guidance, and preparations for updating the Global Antimicrobial Action Plan by 2026 are underway.

Advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls are essential building blocks for a healthy, inclusive, and resilient society. Participants emphasized the need to strengthen maternal and child healthcare, expand family planning and adolescent health initiatives, and training of healthcare workers in gender-responsive diagnostics and treatment. Moreover, the International Conference on Population and Development highlighted the critical role of sexual and reproductive health and rights in achieving broader health equity. However, for gender-responsive policies to be truly effective, it is equally crucial to address the root causes of gender inequality—discrimination, harmful social norms, gender stereotypes, sexual and gender-based violence, and the underrepresentation of women in decision-making.

The thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30), the 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and the Second World Summit for Social Development present pivotal opportunities to rethink strategies for addressing social inequalities. Beijing+30 is a chance to reaffirm political commitment, address persistent and emerging challenges, and close implementation gaps across the twelve critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action. It is an opportunity to accelerate progress toward a future where gender equality is a reality—one that women and girls rightfully deserve. These moments can underscore the urgency of advancing gender equality, expanding access to quality healthcare, and investing in risk-informed, resilient policies and adequate social protection—while ensuring that human rights remain central to all efforts.

Transforming Work for a Changing World: Investing in Skills, Jobs, and Gender Equality

Education systems must evolve rapidly to equip children, young people, and adults with the skills needed to navigate an uncertain future. In Latin America, nearly 30% of young people aged 20 to 29 have not completed secondary school, and education systems often fail to meet minimum proficiency levels or align with labor market demands. Participants emphasized the urgency of achieving universal secondary education, developing future-ready skills, and aligning curricula with technological advancements and labor market needs, and increasing investment in education-consistent with commitments from the



Transforming Education Summit. Beyond preparing youth for work, policies must ensure timely access to education, skills training, and rehabilitation services while safeguarding children's rights. The Declaration on Future Generations offers a crucial framework to embed long-term, future-oriented thinking across institutions and governments, ensuring policies transcend governance cycles, to address the complex and evolving challenges of the future.

Investing in decent work for young people yield lasting social and economic benefits for their families and communities. Currently, one-fifth of young people are neither in employment, education nor training, with two-thirds of them being female. Participants highlighted key evidence-based policies and interventions to address this challenge, including gender-responsive employment and economic policies backed by social dialogue, prioritizing education, training and skills development, expanding opportunities-especially for entrepreneurs and micro- and small- enterprises- and empowering young workers to know their rights and lead policymaking processes.

Closing gender gaps in employment and economic opportunities is essential for sustainable development. The global gender gap remains high at 30 percent, with women earning 20 percent less than men and shouldering 2.5 times more unpaid care work. The Chair of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women urged governments to integrate gender equality into financing for development, implement gender-sensitive economic and social policies, including in care policies and social protection systems, improve gender statistics in the formal and informal economy, remove legal barriers, and increase investments to close resources gaps. Participants stressed the need for sustainable financing, gender-responsive budgeting, and private sector engagement to drive progress. Member States shared national efforts to institutionalize youth and feminist leaderships, bridge gender gaps through intersectional policies, recognizing women as key drivers of development. Delegations called for fair remuneration for care work, and initiatives like "[Stand for Her Land](#)" to strengthen women's land ownership rights and the full and meaningful participation of women and involvement of youth in all political and policy-making processes. Recognizing and valuing unpaid care work in economic indicators is critical, as care underpins economies worldwide. Achieving gender parity in leadership, fully funding women's organizations, and strengthening accountability mechanisms are key to lasting progress.

Advancing local value-added production and diversifying economic activities are crucial for quality job creation, reducing reliance on primary commodities, and fostering sustainable, inclusive growth. UNIDO's 2024 Industrial Development Report highlights that every manufacturing job generates over two jobs in other sectors of economy. The Chair of Least Developed Countries urged greater investment in productive capacities, particularly in manufacturing, renewable energy and sustainable agriculture, alongside accelerating digital infrastructure development and promoting digital literacy to enable full participation in the digital economy. Delegations also emphasized expanding vocational training and strengthening micro, small and medium enterprises to drive rural development and economic growth.

Bridging digital divides and accelerating digital adoption are imperative in today's AI-driven Fourth Industrial Revolution. Participants emphasized the need for businesses and governments to align digital transformation with productive development policies, ensure meaningful connectivity, and advance public sector digitization and AI integration. These efforts are critical to enhancing transparency, reducing corruption, and improving service delivery in key sectors such as healthcare and education. The



[Pact for the Future](#) and its [Global Digital Compact](#) provide a framework to ensure that digital progress benefits everyone, leaving no one behind in the digital economy.

Strengthening International cooperation, including South-South triangular cooperation, is crucial for promoting decent work, facilitating knowledge sharing, and advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Participants highlighted key initiatives such as the [Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection](#), [Decent Jobs for Youth Global Initiatives](#), and [Global Coalition of Social Justice](#). Since its launched in 2018, [Generation Unlimited](#) has also supported 200 million young people across nearly 90 countries. Delegations called for stronger commercial and multilateral agreements, enhanced diplomatic ties, and expanding social protection coverage, including workers in informal economies, which is vital for building resilience and facilitating transition to formal employment.

Reforming the global financial architecture is crucial for achieving the SDGs, especially for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS

The current international financing environment exacerbates systemic inequalities, placing a disproportionate burden on countries in special situations as they strive to finance their development priorities. The least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), home to 92 of the most vulnerable countries, are facing crippling debt burdens, declining Official Development Assistance (ODA), and minimal global Foreign Direct Investment, exports and trade. Africa, too, is grappling with unsustainable debt burdens exceeding US \$1 trillion, economic shocks, illicit financial flows, and rising inflation. These challenges are further compounded with economic crises, health emergencies, recurring disasters, and climate shocks, with disasters alone imposing an estimated annual financial burden of \$170 billion.

Debt remains a major obstacle to sustainable development, diverting crucial resources from health, education, and development productive capacities for economic growth. Participants emphasized the need for a permanent, inclusive, and transparent multilateral sovereign debt mechanism to facilitate timely restructuring of sovereign debt, including cancellation where necessary, with the [SIDS Debt Sustainability Support Service](#) seen as a step in the right direction. However, debt solutions must also be accompanied by strong domestic reforms to create jobs, domestic resources mobilization, enhance public spending efficiency, improve governance, and strengthen debt management.

The international financial architecture must be urgently reformed to address the structural barriers facing countries in special situations. Participants emphasized that the current system lacks the capacity to mobilize stable, long-term financing to meet their needs. Key priorities include strengthening Multilateral Development Bank lending, expanding global financial safety nets, and lowering the high cost of capital while considering country-specific vulnerabilities. Broader access to financing, particularly concessional financing, is critical. Operationalizing the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) can play a vital role in securing enhanced concessional financing for these countries. Member States also advocated for elaboration of a comprehensive set of criteria going beyond the GDP per capital to facilitate access of middle-income countries to concessional financing.

Multilateral development banks (MDBs) must play a greater role in safeguarding global public goods, from health and climate adaptation to biodiversity protection. While major reforms are



underway—such as the IMF expanding its lending capacity, creating the Resilience and Sustainability Trust Fund to channel Special Drawing Rights to countries in special situations, and reducing borrowing costs – more action is needed. This includes significantly increasing lending capacity, securing necessary capitalization, and reforming operational models and governance. Participants also stressed the need for more geographically balanced and democratic representation on MDB boards, including greater inclusion of youth and civil society.

Countries in special situations require sustained international support to meet their unique sustainable development challenges. Delegations emphasized the need for stronger partnerships and cooperation to address the underfunding of the 2030 Agenda. Key priorities include improving rules-based multilateral trading systems, enhancing science, technology, and innovation (STI) capabilities, closing the digital gap, and strengthening regional institutions to drive economic diversification and competitiveness. Participants stressed that WTO reforms must ensure fair market access, technology transfer, and greater policy space. Additionally, **the Group of Friends on Disaster Risk Reduction** called for urgent, well-funded strategies to enhance preparedness and resilience, particularly for vulnerable nations.

Mobilizing resources for sustainable development demands a diverse financing approach, strengthening tax systems to ensure fairness and efficiency, and innovative financial solutions. Key strategies include enhancing domestic revenue mobilization through stronger taxation systems, tackling illicit financial flows, and adopting innovative financial instruments. Some speakers urged the transformation of the [UN Tax Committee](#) into an intergovernmental body, the finalization of the Convention on International Tax Cooperation to establish equitable global tax standards, stronger UN-OECD collaboration, and the creation of a global asset registry to curb tax avoidance and evasion. They also called for accelerating ODA commitments to exceed the 0.7 per cent target for unconditional grants, expanding public-private partnerships to leverage blended finance, and advancing carbon pricing mechanisms to maximize climate resilience benefits. Additionally, innovative instruments such as blue bonds, green bonds, and debt-for-climate swaps were highlighted as important tools for sustainable financing.

The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) is a pivotal moment to drive large-scale sustainable investment and bold financial reforms. Participants stressed the need for ambitious outcome of FfD4, one that delivers a renewed global financing framework that is inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable countries. Member States called for FfD4 to ensure **no country is left behind**, providing financial means for **inclusive and sustainable growth**. Participants further stressed the importance for FfD4 to have clear linkages with climate finance and protection of biodiversity.

Data, science, technology and innovation are key to accelerating progress toward the 2030 Agenda

Many participants emphasized that **digital transformation must be a collaborative effort to effectively address complex global challenges.** Digitalization was seen as a means to build a more efficient, inclusive and equitable future rather than an end in itself. **Science, technology and innovation** were highlighted as **key accelerators of sustainable development**, with digital technologies identified as critical enablers for achieving 70 percent of the SDGs. **AI's transformative potential is expected to surpass the**



impact of the industrial revolution. Participants emphasized that, despite the opportunities of digitalization, significant challenges persist, making it a global priority to bridge these gaps and ensure that **AI is harnessed responsibly to address global challenges**, with a strong focus on **human rights, ethical considerations and long-term societal impacts.**

Member States emphasized the need for **closing digital divides** through **capacity-building** and **technology promotion** under the **Global Digital Compact**, and some delegations called for **revitalizing the STI Forum** and improving integration of **science-policy platforms** for SDG implementation. Digital divides risk leaving large segments of the population behind. The Global Digital Compact acknowledges **data governance and digital inclusion** as essential to effectively harness opportunities from digital technologies for the benefit of society and ensure they serve as a force for inclusion rather than exclusion. In this context, participants spoke of the importance of addressing disparities in **access to digital technologies**, including by strengthening governance frameworks, investing in **digital skills and AI literacy**, improving **infrastructure**, ensuring **youth inclusion**, addressing **gender disparities** in scientific research and participation in digital sectors, promoting the **responsible use of data and digital technologies**, and **protecting marginalized communities** from exclusionary practices. Fostering an **inclusive digital ecosystem** will be essential to realizing the full potential of digital technology and AI in accelerating sustainable development.

Several initiatives were presented to tackle these challenges, including digital platforms designed to improving **infrastructure**, strengthening **digital cooperation** and advancing **inclusive digital solutions** at the regional and national levels. However, achieving these ambitions requires **strengthening governments' digital capacity** and fostering **public trust**. Gaps in **regulatory frameworks** remain a major obstacle, underscoring the need for policies that safeguard public interests in the face of rapid technological advancement. In this context, **public sector transformation** is needed to integrate **strategic foresight, digital governance and AI regulation** to manage risks and enhance efficiency. **Risk assessments** and foresight approaches are necessary to ensure responsible innovation and mitigate unintended consequences. Speakers stressed that **institutional frameworks** are needed in developing countries to **prepare for technological shifts**. Participants further emphasized that **collaboration, regulatory innovation** and **capacity building** will be critical in harnessing digital technologies to advance the SDGs and called for **coordinated, multi-stakeholder frameworks** and **integrated approaches** combining top-down guidelines with bottom-up insights to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness. There were suggestions to align commitments from the Summit of the Future with the 2030 Agenda, particularly leveraging the **Technology Facilitation Mechanism** for stronger multilateral cooperation.

Many speakers highlighted that **data is essential for digital innovation as well as for evidence-based, decision-making, accountability and tracking progress.** To maximize the value of data for society, it must be managed and used ethically and responsibly. This requires **ethical and responsible data management** and robust **data governance frameworks** to ensure transparency, accountability and accessibility. It also requires stronger **national data systems** and **disaggregated, high-quality and reliable data**, including in remote areas so to ensure meaningful impact on non-centric and vulnerable communities, which are essential for **strengthening data-driven policies.** Speakers emphasized the need for investing in **data harmonization and standardization** to ensure that opportunities arising from emerging technologies, including AI, are harnessed responsibly and ethically, widely accessible and maximize societal value.



Democratizing access to knowledge and **geospatial information management** were seen to enhance decision-making, supporting SDG implementation at all levels. The **United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)** provides a roadmap for national-level integration across data types and systems. Participants underlined that geospatial information and **standardized geographical names** are critical for decision-making, disaster response and SDG localization and tracking.

Strategic foresight can be a critical tool to anticipate crises and drive long-term solutions

Strategic foresight is essential for effective decision-making and SDG acceleration. Participants emphasized the need to **move beyond reactive policymaking** by embedding **foresight and anticipatory governance** into decision-making processes. With only five years remaining to achieve the SDGs, current progress is **alarmingly off track**, requiring a shift towards **proactive, future-proof strategies** that anticipate risks and harness emerging opportunities. **Moving from reaction to anticipation** is not just an option but an imperative for accelerating progress towards the SDGs and shaping policies that can withstand future uncertainties.

To achieve this, **data and digital technology are critical.** The use of high-quality and real-time data, early warning systems and AI-powered predictive models are integral tools for **anticipating crises, displacement and other population trends, and climate-related disruptions.** Strengthening data-driven policies and ensuring access to such data and tools will be critical in making informed decisions and **allocating resources effectively**, ultimately enhancing preparedness and resilience.

Participants emphasized the need for a **culture of anticipation and long-term thinking to complement short-term SDG targets**, supported by continuous adaptation and strategic forecasting. Strengthening institutional capacities to **integrate foresight into national planning** and **multilateral cooperation efforts** will be crucial in achieving long-term **sustainability** and **resilience.** Moreover, to develop resilient for transformative impact, public policies **foresight-driven policies** must be **integrated across sectors** and **multidisciplinary**, incorporating economic, social, environmental, health, human rights and technological dimensions. Speakers called for **enhanced cooperation** between governments, UN agencies, private sector actors, and civil society to ensure that **foresight methodologies** are **embedded into decision-making at all levels.**

Transformative action was seen to require **bold, collaborative efforts across stakeholders.** The importance of ensuring that **young people are central to future planning** was strongly emphasized, so that their valuable insights can be incorporated into emerging megatrends, ensuring they can **shape forward-thinking policies** that address their unique challenges, such as climate adaptation, digital transformation and education reform.

Participants called for the **outcomes of the Summit of the Future** and upcoming global events – including FFD4 and the 2025 HLPF – to **translate commitments into action**, with **stronger accountability mechanisms, financing strategies and multi-stakeholder collaboration** to achieve meaningful progress towards the SDGs and ensure a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.



Recommendations from the discussions during the ECOSOC Coordination Segment

Throughout the discussions, there were repeated calls for **stronger multilateralism** and **enhanced international cooperation**. Some delegations called for the **outcomes of the Summit of the Future** to be used to strengthen coordination and break silos to **transform political will into action**. Delegations underscored that the Pact for the Future should be seen as a **roadmap for strengthening ECOSOC's accountability** and transforming it into a "**solutions chamber**", and that the Pact's objectives should be translated by ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies into **integrated, cross-sectoral strategies leveraging technology**.

The UN system was asked to prioritize **women's empowerment, digital capacity-building, universal connectivity, digital public infrastructure development**, strengthening **technology transfer** and **capacity-building** initiatives to **close digital and other divides**, and supporting developing countries in **poverty eradication, health and education**, with many delegations emphasizing **human rights and people-centered approaches**. Member States also urged the UN to **reform financing criteria** to better reflect vulnerabilities **beyond GDP per capita**. Calls were made for **UN-led transformative solutions** to strengthen resource mobilization and implementation efforts.

Delegations also emphasized the need for an **enhanced role for regional commissions** in economic integration, digital transformation and investment attraction. Additionally, they underscored the importance of greater coordination between UN entities at the country level, promoting a "**One UN approach**" under Resident Coordinators to enhance efficiency and impact. The importance of **building upon existing partnerships** between Member States and multilateral institutions to drive SDG implementation, such as the Spotlight Initiative on gender-based violence and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative on marine pollution, was also emphasized.

The following additional recommendations were made during the deliberations to strengthen policy coherence, governance, financing and data-driven decision-making to advance the 2030 Agenda effectively.

The [ECOSOC system](#) should:

- Strengthen **coordination, collaboration and coherence** across the UN system entities and ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to drive transformative actions to implement the SDGs.
- Strengthen **technology integration and scientific evidence** into UN operations, demonstrating **innovation-driven solutions** to global development challenges.
- Integrate a **culture of anticipation, strategic foresight and long-term planning** within UN entities to complement short-term SDG targets to promote an effective allocation of resources and shape policies that enhance preparedness and resilience and enable long-term sustainability.
- Support **national statistical offices** to collect high-quality, disaggregated data for better SDG monitoring and evidence-based policymaking.
- Encourage **partnerships with academic institutions** to enhance **data-driven decision-making and scenario-based policymaking**.



- Promote **whole-of-society approaches** integrating **diverse stakeholders** and ensuring accountability mechanisms that actively include them in SDG tracking and policy development.
- Improve coordination between **environmental conventions and the HLPF cycle**, integrating environmental governance into broader UN system planning.
- Strengthen support to **protect those most at risk** by investing in economies that safeguard and expand fiscal space for economic, social and cultural rights, including by prioritizing rights-based care and support health systems that are gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and age-sensitive, and investing in rights-based technological development and equitable technology transfer.
- Scale up investment in **universal health coverage**, with a focus on women, children and vulnerable populations.
- Enhance **gender-responsive policies** and ensure economic empowerment and leadership opportunities for women through targeted investment strategies.

ECOSOC should:

- Urgently address pressing global development challenges with a **renewed sense of urgency and coordinated action** across ECOSOC, its subsidiary bodies and the UN system.
- Leverage its unique role to **connect various intergovernmental processes**, ensuring greater synergy and alignment in global environmental governance.
- Promote **data- and evidence-based decision-making, monitoring and coordination processes** in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies to improve transparency, accountability, policy coherence and SDG tracking.
- Establish a **working group on data governance** under the Commission for Science and Technology for Development to drive commitments toward a global data governance policy mechanism, as mandated in the Global Digital Compact.
- Promote the alignment of global legal and technical standards to **facilitate data flows**, enhance international cooperation and facilitate the exchange of best practices.
- Strengthen **multilateral cooperation** to **amplify the voice** of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS in global decision-making and ensure that developing nations have **equitable opportunities** in AI and emerging technologies.
- Prioritize **foresight-based approaches** to better anticipate future challenges, particularly concerning climate change and demographic trends, including displacement, and ensure that youth play a central role in shaping future-oriented policies.
- Work closely with the IMF, World Bank and regional institutions to **reform the global financial system** and promote fair mechanisms for debt restructuring, enhanced access to concessional financing, climate finance and green/blue investments.
- Strengthen coordination with UN agencies, the OECD and regional tax bodies to support the development of an **UN-led International Tax Convention** for fair taxation policies.



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