



2026 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

27 January 2026

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ

DRAFT Concept Note and Programme

Background

The 2026 Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will be held on 27 January 2026 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York under the theme, *“Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all”*.

The Forum will place a special emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be reviewed at the 2026 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), namely **Goal 6** (Clean Water and Sanitation), **Goal 7** (Affordable and Clean Energy), **Goal 9** (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), **Goal 11** (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and **Goal 17** (Partnerships for the Goals). The 2026 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will also provide an opportunity to share perspectives on strengthening the Forum and ECOSOC’s contribution to meaningful partnerships, in the context of the upcoming review of ECOSOC and the HLPF¹, which will take place alongside Member States’ consideration of the UN 80 Initiative during the 80th session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with resolution [75/290A](#)², the ECOSOC Partnership Forum will focus on exchanging new ideas, expectations and priorities for the work ahead for ECOSOC and the HLPF in the context of the aforementioned theme. Furthermore, the Forum will highlight and discuss forward-looking actions by governments and other stakeholders through innovative partnerships that mobilize commitments and concrete actions to advance the 2030 Agenda and address emerging challenges.

Partnerships are recognized at the heart of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* as essential to advancing sustainable development. This centrality was reaffirmed in the recently adopted Sevilla Commitment ([A/RES/79/323](#)), as they committed to “*collaborate meaningfully with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and encourage multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships.*”³ The Pact for the Future ([A/RES/79/1](#)) also reinforces this by

¹ The General Assembly agreed, in its resolution [78/285](#), to fully review, at its 80th session, the implementation of GA resolution [75/290 A](#) on the strengthening of ECOSOC and resolution [75/290 B](#) on the HLPF and the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the Global level.

² Paragraphs 7, 15 and 22.

³ Paragraph 24.

emphasizing partnerships as a key mechanism for addressing global challenges, engaging diverse actors, and leveraging expertise across all thematic areas. It also highlights the need for accountability and impact in UN-associated partnerships.

One of the key takeaways from the 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum was that partnerships are not merely a concept, but a critical vehicle for accelerating progress toward the SDGs. To realize this potential, partnerships must be designed and implemented with greater policy coherence; alignment of financing with long-term objectives; and transparent, context-specific approaches - as emphasized across several ECOSOC platforms and sessions throughout 2025. Achieving this also requires a culture of collaboration rooted in trust, shared leadership and meaningful inclusion –key principles which the ECOSOC Partnership Forum continues to uphold and advance.

In this context, the 2026 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will convene Member States and diverse stakeholders early in the ECOSOC cycle, fostering ongoing dialogue and exploring concrete ways to promote accountable, results-oriented partnerships for a more sustainable and equitable future.

Preparatory Consultations

As requested by the General Assembly, the 2026 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 engagement to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Format

The 2026 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be a **one-day** meeting, chaired by the ECOSOC President.

- **Plenary session:** Member States. Observers and stakeholders will alternate in taking the floor to outline their priorities and recommendations for accelerating progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as share their experiences and vision for the role of partnerships. Time limits for interventions are three minutes for Member States, observers and United Nations system entities, and two minutes for other stakeholders. Time limits will be strictly implemented.
- **SDG Action Segments:** The Forum will include four SDG Action Segments, each dedicated to one of the Goals slated for review during the HLPF 2026, namely Goal 6, Goal 7, Goal 9 and Goal 11. The action segments will focus on scaling up concrete and innovative partnerships that drive SDG implementation while highlighting their crucial role in fostering tangible actions. The segments will be organized by relevant UN entities and stakeholder groups.
- **Multi-stakeholder panel on SDG 17:** This panel discussion on SDG 17 will explore the critical role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in mobilizing the means of implementation

needed to achieve the SDGs and in scaling impact. The specific theme will be determined at a later stage. The discussion will be moderated by the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

- **Side events:** An open call will be issued in November 2025 (date TBC) 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 2026 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.

Outcome

The key messages and recommendations of the 2026 ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be presented at the 2026 ECOSOC Coordination Segment (28-29 January 2025) to inspire its discussions.

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 2026 HLPF, under the auspices of the ECOSOC, as well as to the overall work of the ECOSOC and other key inter-governmental processes of the UN throughout 2026 including the 2026 United Nations Water Conference (2-4 December, UAE).

Website & Outreach

All information pertaining to the ECOSOC Partnership Forum will be available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2026ECOSOCPartnershipForum>

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

A public Trello board will be set up for the 2026 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	
10.00 a.m. - 10.40 a.m.	Opening - Trusteeship Council Chamber • H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa, President of ECOSOC • Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General (TBC) • Mr. Li Junhua, Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs • Keynote address(es) (TBD)	
10.50 a.m. - 11.50 a.m.	SDG Action Segment for Goal 6 - Trusteeship Council Chamber	SDG Action Segment for Goal 9 - ECOSOC Chamber
12.00 p.m. - 01.00 p.m.	SDG Action Segment for Goal 7 - Trusteeship Council Chamber	SDG Action Segment for Goal 11 - ECOSOC Chamber
01.15 p.m. - 02.30 p.m.	Side events - <i>on-site</i>	
03.00 p.m. - 03.20 p.m.	Key insights from SDG Action Segments - Trusteeship Council Chamber A synthesis of major themes and lessons on partnership effectiveness and investment strategies related to SDGs 6, 7, 9, and 11, presented by designated rapporteurs (<i>from the floor</i>) (4 Minutes each)	
03.20 p.m. - 03.50 p.m.	Multi-stakeholder panel on SDG 17 – Trusteeship Council Chamber Small panel discussion moderated by the President of ECOSOC [details TBD].	
03:50 p.m. - 05.45 p.m.	Plenary sessions - Trusteeship Council Chamber 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. It will also provide space to share views on strengthening the Forum and ECOSOC's contributions to meaningful partnerships, in the context of the upcoming ECOSOC/HLPF review ⁴ to be held alongside Member States' consideration of the UN 80 Initiative during the 80 th session of the GA. [Intervention from the floor: 3 minutes for Member States/Observers/UN; 2 minutes for other stakeholders]	
05.45 p.m. - 06.00 p.m.	Closing - Trusteeship Council Chamber • H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa, President of ECOSOC	

⁴ In accordance with footnote 1.