
Informal paper prepared by the Secretariat

Forums convened by the Economic and Social Council

Summary

The informal paper contains information on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, the Development Cooperation Forum, the partnership forum and the youth forum.

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I. Introduction

1. The present informal paper includes information on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, the Development Cooperation Forum, and the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, established pursuant to Assembly resolutions 60/1, 61/16, 66/288, 67/290, 69/313 and 70/1. The current document also provides information on the partnership forum and the youth forum convened by the Economic and Social Council. For each forum, the terms of reference, membership and composition, the term of office of its members, its reporting procedure, the frequency of its meetings and its working methods are described, as applicable.
2. In its resolution 75/290 A on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly decided to restructure ECOSOC's segments and forums into four groups in order to promote linkages in their work and enhance the visibility and impact of the Council, and to encourage focus, coherence and efficiency. The second group comprises the forums including the Development Cooperation Forum every second year and, annually, the forum on financing for development, the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the SDGs, and the youth forum. The partnership forum would be convened as part of the first group along with the Coordination Segment by early February of each year.
3. ECOSOC document E/2019/INF/3 (Part 1) provided updated information (as of the 2019 session of the Council) on the status of the subsidiary bodies of the Council in the economic, social and related fields. The present paper together with document E/2019/INF/3 (Part 1) is intended as a reference tool, providing in a readily accessible format information on the intergovernmental and expert machinery in these fields and thereby supporting the intergovernmental mechanisms in the implementation of their respective mandates and goals.
4. In its resolutions 75/290 A and B on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, the General Assembly decided to review the arrangements contained in the resolutions and their annexes, in conjunction with each other, at its seventy-eighth session. Further updates to the modalities and working methods of the forums convened by the Economic and Social Council as reflected in the current document may be necessary following the review by the General Assembly.

II. Forums convened by the Economic and Social Council

High-level political forum on sustainable development

Website: <https://hlpf.un.org>

Terms of reference

By its resolution 66/288, entitled "The future we want", the Assembly decided to "establish a universal, intergovernmental, high-level political forum, building on the strengths,

experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission”. In its resolution 67/290, the Assembly decided on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum (HLPF) on sustainable development. By the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the meetings of the forum should be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council. The forum, consistent with its universal intergovernmental character, provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels and have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges;

By the same resolution, the Assembly further decided that the Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC:

- Shall have a thematic focus reflecting the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, in line with the thematic focus of the activities of the Council and consistent with the post-2015 development agenda;
- Shall follow up and review progress in the implementation of all the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, as well as their respective means of implementation, improve cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on sustainable development programmes and policies, promote the sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation of sustainable development and, on a voluntary basis, facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies;
- Shall take into account the work of the Development Cooperation Forum, as well as other activities of the Council relating to the integration and implementation of sustainable development;
- Shall benefit from regional preparatory processes;
- Shall result in a negotiated ministerial declaration for inclusion in the report of the Council to the General Assembly;
- Shall conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Assembly decided that those reviews:

- (a) Shall be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and shall include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant United Nations entities;
- (b) Shall be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants;
- (c) Shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders; and
- (d) Shall replace the national voluntary presentations held in the context of the annual ministerial-level substantive reviews of the Council, building upon the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006, as well as experiences and lessons learned in this context.

In accordance with resolution 70/1, the high-level political forum has a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates. It facilitates sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up. It promotes system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies. It should ensure that the Agenda remains relevant and ambitious and should focus on the assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries as well as new and emerging issues. Effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries.

The annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations system, informs the follow-up and review process at the high-level political forum. The report is based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level. In accordance with resolution 70/1 and the annex to the 2016 Ministerial Declaration (E/HLS/2016/1) the meetings of the forum are also informed by the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), as well as all other relevant inputs. The GSDR is mandated in resolution 70/1 to “strengthen the science-policy interface and could provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policymakers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development.”

The high-level political forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, carries out regular reviews, in line with General Assembly resolution 67/290. Reviews are voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and include developed and developing countries as well as relevant United Nations entities and other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. They are State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants. They provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

By the same resolution, the Assembly invites the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, to contribute within their respective mandates to the discussions of the forum.

Thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, also take place at the high-level political forum. These are supported by reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them. They engage all relevant stakeholders and, where possible, feed into, and align with, the cycle of the high-level political forum.

The meetings convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council operate under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, as applicable, except as provided in General Assembly resolution 67/290.

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 67/290 and 70/299, the President of the Economic and Social Council jointly convenes the high-level segment of the Council session and the three ministerial days of the high-level political forum, meeting under the

auspices of the Council, in order to avoid duplication, enhance efficiency and strengthen complementarity and synergy.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/290 B, the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development should be closely coordinated, in accordance with their respective roles and mandates, to ensure that their interconnected and interlinked work is coherent and mutually reinforcing in supporting the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda throughout the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development from now to the year 2030.

Membership and composition

By its resolution 67/290, the Assembly decided that all meetings of the forum should provide for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies.

Participation

The forum is open to the major groups, other relevant stakeholders and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the General Assembly, building on arrangements and practices observed by the Commission on Sustainable Development, including Economic and Social Council decision 1993/215 and Council resolution 1996/31, which are applicable to the forum.

The representatives of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders are allowed:

- (a) To attend all official meetings of the forum;
- (b) To have access to all official information and documents;
- (c) To intervene in official meetings;
- (d) To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
- (e) To make recommendations;
- (f) To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat;

The Assembly in its resolution 75/290 B further decides that while respecting its universal intergovernmental character, the high-level political forum will continue to involve Governments, as well as the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, parliamentarians, local governments, women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, civil society, non-governmental organizations, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community and other major groups and relevant stakeholders.

Reporting procedure

The procedural report of the HLPF is issued as a self-standing document. The Ministerial Declaration is adopted by the HLPF meeting under the auspices of the Council in years in which the HLPF does not meet under the auspices of the General Assembly.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/290 and 70/299, the negotiated ministerial declaration is included in the report of the Council to the General Assembly,

except as otherwise provided, and the President of ECOSOC, in consultation with the Bureau of the Council, prepares a factual summary to reflect the discussions of the meeting.

In its resolution 70/299, the General Assembly *decided* that the meetings of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and those under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council shall be closely coordinated to ensure coherence and provide for mutually reinforcing linkages, especially when it is deemed appropriate to convene the forum under the auspices of the Council in the same year that it is convened under the auspices of the Assembly in order to provide necessary space for the conduct of voluntary national reviews and thematic reviews, and in this connection also decided that the forum will have only one negotiated political declaration, covering the different and complementary functions of both sessions of the forum when the forum is convened twice in the same year.

Frequency of meetings

In its resolution 67/290, the Assembly decided that the meetings of the forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council shall be convened for a period of eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment to be held in the framework of the substantive session of the Council, building on and subsequently replacing the annual ministerial review as from 2016.

The high-level political forum has met annually in July under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council since 2014.

Bureau

The President of the Council, with the support of the ECOSOC Bureau, has taken the lead in preparing the 2014-2023 meetings of the HLPF under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. Pursuant to resolution 67/290, the meetings of the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC are chaired by the President of the Council. When the President of ECOSOC is unavailable to preside, the Vice-Presidents have chaired meetings on her/his behalf.

Modalities for taking action

By its resolution 67/290, the Assembly decided that, in all meetings of the forum, every effort should be made to reach consensus. There have been on occasions when votes were requested.

Multi-year work programme

In its resolution [75/290](#) B, the General Assembly decided that the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, shall continue to review a set of Goals and their interlinkages, including with other Goals, at each session, representing the three dimensions of sustainable development, with a view to facilitating an in-depth review of progress made on all 17 Goals over the course of its four-year cycle. Means of implementation, including with respect to Goal 17, shall be reviewed annually, including based on the outcome of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up.

In its decision 77/553, the General Assembly decided that the high-level political forum for 2024 should review Goals 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 in-depth. By the same decision, the Assembly decided that the theme for the 2024 session is “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”.

Utilization of informal consultations

It has been the practice for the President of ECOSOC to appoint two co-facilitators to conduct informal consultations on the Ministerial Declaration for the HLPF under the auspices of the Council and the high-level segment of ECOSOC.

Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme

The general debate of the high-level segment of ECOSOC is held during the jointly convened high-level segment of the Council and the three ministerial days of the high-level political forum, meeting under the auspices of the Council and in parallel to the meetings of the forum.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question-and-answer sessions

The programme of the first five days of the HLPF meeting under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council carry out thematic reviews and consideration of specific Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Goal 17 annually. The format consists mainly of panel discussions.

In accordance with resolutions 70/1 and 70/299, the three ministerial days of the HLPF meeting under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council are used primarily for voluntary national reviews. Pursuant to resolution 75/290 B, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Bureau of the Council would consider ways to allocate as much time as possible to the voluntary national reviews during the high-level political forum in order to strengthen interaction, substantive discussion and peer learning.

Role of the Secretariat

By its resolution 67/290, the Assembly decided that the forum should be supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in close cooperation with all relevant entities of the United Nations system, including funds and programmes, multilateral financial and trade institutions, the secretariats of the three Rio conventions and other relevant treaty bodies and international organizations within their respective mandates.

The technical secretariat is responsible for the organizational and procedural aspects of support to the work of the forum, including through the provision of advice to the presiding officer and the Bureau on the rules of procedure and past practice, and in the drafting of the report on the session.

Meetings of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/290, the meetings of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly are convened at the level of Heads of State and Government every four years by the President of the Assembly for a period of two days, at the beginning of the session of the Assembly. By the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the forum can be convened under its auspices on other occasions, on an exceptional basis, upon a decision by the Assembly.

The inaugural meeting of the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly was held on 24 September 2013.

In its resolution 70/1, the Assembly decided that “meeting every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly, the high-level political forum will provide high-level political guidance on the Agenda and its implementation, identify progress and emerging challenges and mobilize further actions to accelerate implementation.” The Assembly also decided that the next high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly was held in 2019, with the cycle of meetings thus reset, in order to maximize coherence with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process. The latest meeting of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly took place in 2023.

ECOSOC forum on financing for development follow-up

Website: <https://financing.desa.un.org/what-we-do/ECOSOC/financing-development-forum/FFD-forum-home>

Terms of reference

The General Assembly, in its resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, established an annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up with universal, intergovernmental participation.

Pursuant to the resolution, the financing for development follow-up process should assess progress, identify obstacles and challenges to the implementation of the financing for development outcomes, and the delivery of the means of implementation, promote the sharing of lessons learned from experiences at the national and regional levels, address new and emerging topics of relevance to the implementation of this agenda as the need arises, and provide policy recommendations for action by the international community. It would also enhance coordination, promote the efficiency of United Nations processes and avoid duplication and overlapping of discussions.

Also pursuant to resolution 69/313, the forum’s modalities of participation would be those utilized at the international conferences on financing for development and its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations would feed into the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The deliberations of the Development Cooperation Forum, according to its mandate, would also be taken into account. It was decided that the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development of the General Assembly would be held back-to-back with the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly when the high-level political forum is convened every four years.

Also pursuant to the resolution, one day of the forum is dedicated to the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

In its resolution 70/192, the General Assembly further defined the modalities of the forum. In General Assembly resolution 71/217, the Assembly further decided that future decisions relating to the FfD Forum were to be contained within the forum's outcome.

The rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 69/313 and 70/192 and any decisions to be adopted by the Council, are applied to the meetings of the forum. In case of any contradiction between the rules of procedure and the relevant provisions of the above resolutions and decisions, the latter will take precedence. The forum has adopted a decision to this effect at its opening meetings.

In its resolution [72/203](#), the General Assembly encouraged the Council to consider, at its annual forum on financing for development follow-up, a discussion and analysis of systemic issues and challenges, taking into account the roles of the international financial institutions.

Furthermore, in its resolution [73/221](#), the General Assembly requested the annual forum on financing for development follow-up to organize a substantive expert debate among the major institutional stakeholders on how to improve debt sustainability and debt restructuring.

Membership and composition

In accordance with resolution 69/313 and in line with arrangements utilized for previous international conferences on financing for development, the forum is open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations or States members of specialized agencies and observers in the General Assembly.

Participation

The meetings of the forum are also open to participation by intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly; other intergovernmental organizations in accordance with rule 74 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council; intergovernmental organizations that were accredited to the Monterrey, Doha or Addis Ababa Conferences on Financing for Development and their follow-up process; and the relevant entities of the United Nations system; as well as civil society organizations and business sector entities. The modalities of participation of the forum are those utilized at the international conferences on financing for development.

Reporting procedure

The procedural report of the forum is issued as a self-standing document. The agreed conclusions and recommendations are adopted by the forum. In its procedural report, the forum recommends that the Economic and Social Council transmit the agreed conclusions and recommendations to the HLPF convened under the auspices of the Council.

The President of ECOSOC issues an official summary of the deliberations of the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, including the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Frequency of meetings

The forum meets annually for up to five days, including the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as well as additional institutional and other stakeholders depending on the priorities and scope of the meeting; up to four days are to be dedicated to discussing the follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Pursuant to the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the 2023 forum ([E/FFDF/2023/3](#), sect. I), the 2024 forum will be held from 22 to 25 April 2024, including the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. All meetings of the forum are held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Side events are held in parallel to the meetings of the forum for stakeholders to explore related topics and exchange information and ideas pertaining to the implementation of financing for development outcomes.

Bureau

The President of the Council, with the support of the ECOSOC Bureau, has taken the lead in preparing the meetings of the forum, including an annual visit to Washington, D.C. to meet with the Executive Boards of the World Bank and IMF to prepare the forum. The meetings of the forum have been chaired by the President of ECOSOC pursuant to resolution 70/192. In the absence of the President of ECOSOC, the Vice-Presidents of the Council have chaired the meetings of the forum on behalf of the President.

Modalities for taking action

By its resolution 69/313, the Assembly decided that the outcome of the forum would be an intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations. The draft intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations have been adopted by consensus since 2016.

Multi-year programme of work

Pursuant to ECOSOC decision 2016/211, the overall theme of the 2016 forum was: “Financing for sustainable development: follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda”. The Council has not adopted a specific theme for the forum in subsequent sessions. At each session, the forum has decided that the modalities of the previous year would apply to the forthcoming forum.

Utilization of informal consultations

Pursuant to resolution 70/192, the President of ECOSOC appoints two co-facilitators to conduct informal consultations on the forum's intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations.

Role of the Secretariat

The Secretariat assists the members of the forum by providing substantive and technical secretariat support. The substantive secretariat assists the facilitators in the drafting of the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, assists delegations during informal consultations and provides information and advice on substantive matters. The technical secretariat is responsible for the organizational and procedural aspects of support to the Forum's work, including through the provision of advice to the presiding officer and the Bureau on the rules of procedure and past practice, and in the drafting of the report on the forum.

Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme

The forum's regular programme has included a general debate to hear statements by ministers and other high-level officials.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question-and-answer sessions

The programme of the forum has included ministerial round tables to provide a space for sharing national policy and institutional development in support of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as challenges encountered, and international support measures needed. In addition, the programme has included thematic round tables and panel discussions, as well as expert discussions. An interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders has also been held.

Development Cooperation Forum

Website: <https://financing.desa.un.org/what-we-do/ECOSOC/development-cooperation-forum/about-DCF>

Terms of reference

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/1 adopting the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) holds a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) to review trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing, promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations.

By its resolution 61/16, the GA decided that the biennial high-level DCF will be held in alternate years in the framework of the high-level segment of ECOSOC, while stressing the need to preserve the distinct identity of the Forum so as to facilitate high-level participation, with a view to enhancing the implementation of international development cooperation

issues affecting the realization of the internationally agreed development goals and to promote dialogue to find effective ways to support it.

The General Assembly further decided, inter alia, that the DCF should:

- (a) Review trends and progress in international development cooperation and give policy guidance and recommendations to promote more effective international development cooperation;
- (b) Identify gaps and obstacles with a view to making recommendations on practical measures and policy options to enhance coherence and effectiveness and to promote development cooperation for the realization of the internationally agreed development goals.
- (c) Provide a platform for Member States to exchange lessons learned and share experiences in formulating, supporting and implementing national development strategies.

In its resolution [70/299](#), the General Assembly decided to convene the biennial DCF prior to the high-level political forum.

In its resolution [72/305](#), the GA decided to restructure ECOSOC's segments and forums into three groups in order to promote linkages in their work and enhance the visibility and impact of the Council. The first group comprises the forums including the DCF every second year and, annually, the forum on financing for development, the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the SDGs, the partnership forum and the youth forum.

Membership and composition

In accordance with resolution 61/16 and in line with the rules of procedure, the DCF is open to participation by all stakeholders, including the organizations of the United Nations, the international financial and trade institutions, the regional organizations, civil society and private sector representatives.

Participation

The DCF, in its biennial high-level meetings and preparatory processes, brings together ministers and senior experts from all regions, parliamentarians, civil society, international organization and development banks, local governments, philanthropic foundations, academia and the private sector.

Reporting procedure

In its resolution [67/290](#) on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the GA decided that the meetings of the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC shall take into account the work of the DCF. The DCF outcome document is to be officially integrated into the proceedings HPLF and the Financing for Development Process.

Frequency of meetings

The DCF operates on two-year cycles and is one of the key mechanisms at global level for follow-up and review of the means of implementation under the 2030 Agenda.

Multi-year programme of work

In its resolution [60/1](#), ECOSOC decided that the new biennial high-level DCF was to review trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing,

promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations. ECOSOC has not adopted a specific theme for the forum in subsequent sessions.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question-and-answer sessions

The programme of the forum has included ministerial roundtables to provide a space for identifying priorities and share experiences of development cooperation in support of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as challenges encountered, and international support measures needed. In addition, the programme has included thematic round tables and panel discussions on major development issues. Interactive dialogues with major institutional stakeholders have also been held. Side events are held in parallel to the meetings of the forum for stakeholders to explore related topics and exchange information and ideas related to the effective implementation of international development cooperation.

Multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals

Website: <https://sdgs.un.org/tfm/sti-forum>

By its resolution 69/313 (Addis Ababa Action Agenda), the Assembly decided to establish a Technology Facilitation Mechanism. By its resolution 70/1 (2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development), the General Assembly launched the Technology Facilitation Mechanism established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Mechanism “facilitates” collaboration and partnerships – for sharing information, experiences, best practices and policy advice among all relevant stakeholders. This includes Member States, civil society, private sector, scientific and technological communities, UN entities, and others. It also supports technology transfer, through knowledge sharing, capacity building, and matching of technology providers with users. Since its creation in 2015, participation has continuously increased and widened. The Mechanism comprises four components and follows a one-UN and multi-stakeholder way of working:

- a) The Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT) brings together 47 UN entities and over 100 UN expert staff who work together in ten dedicated work streams along functional and thematic lines.
- b) The Group of Ten High-level Representatives of Civil Society, Private Sector, and Scientific Communities (10-Member-Group) which is appointed by the Secretary-General of the UN, for two years at a time, and provides advice and mobilises engagement of experts and stakeholders.
- c) The online platform 2030 Connect provides one-stop-shop access to technology and knowledge databases of an increasing number of UN and non-UN organizations.
- d) The multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development goals (STI Forum).

The STI Forum is convened annually by the President of ECOSOC, for a period of two days, to discuss science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the sustainable development goals, congregating all relevant stakeholders to actively contribute in their area of expertise. The IATT and 10-Member-Group jointly organize the STI Forum. The 10-Member-Group substantively lead and moderate the sessions.

The meetings of the STI Forum have typically comprised a high-level opening and Ministerial sessions, thematic sessions, special events, side events, innovators competitions and exhibitions to showcase technology solutions.

The Forum brings together governments with thousands of science and technology stakeholders. The STI Forum provides a venue for facilitating interaction, matchmaking (of technology needs and supply) and the establishment of networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to identify and examine technology needs and gaps, including on scientific cooperation, innovation and capacity-building, and also in order to help to facilitate development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The STI Forum is not a negotiating body. It is co-chaired by two Member States appointed by the President of the Council. In accordance with Assembly resolutions 69/313 and 70/1, the co-chairs' summary serves as an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in the context of its and follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The meetings of the STI Forums have been aligned thematically with the HLPF and the SDGs in-focus in the particular year. The Forum has worked cumulatively since its inception. This means, each Forum has built on the achievements and insights of the earlier ones. While earlier meetings of the STI Forum already provided broad reviews of all SDGs, more recent meetings have delved deeper into more specific and cutting-edge science and technology issues within each SDG.

A series of General Assembly resolutions, such as resolutions 76/213 and 78/160 on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development; resolutions 78/132 and 77/150 on information and communications technologies for sustainable development, and resolutions 72/242, 73/17, 75/316 and 77/320 on the impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of SDGs and targets, have provided further guidance on the STI Forum and the wider Technology Facilitation Mechanism. For example, the Mechanism has issued its findings on the impacts of rapid technological change, based on a wide range of expert perspectives, and Governments have found an informal space at the STI Forum to discuss national STI plans, roadmaps, and on emerging science and frontier technologies.

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Partnership forum

Website: <https://sdgs.un.org/2024ECOSOCPartnershipForum>

The partnership forum has been convened annually by the President of ECOSOC since 2013 as an informal high-level meeting of ECOSOC for a period of one day. Between 2008 and 2012, an annual special event on partnerships was convened linked to the theme of the Council's Annual Ministerial Review of that year. In its resolution 75/290A, the General Assembly provided further guidance on the Forum's timing, focus and preparatory process. In accordance with that resolution, the forum engages countries, the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, as well as international organizations, parliamentarians, local governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, scientists, academia, women, youth and other stakeholders. It will be organized in consultation with stakeholders and allow interactive discussions among all stakeholders on the main theme of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The partnership forum is focused on the exchange of new ideas, expectations and priorities for the work ahead for the Council cycle and the high-level political forum held under the auspices of the Council. The partnership forum also discusses forward-

looking actions by countries and all relevant stakeholders as well as innovative partnerships that can mobilize commitments and actions to advance the 2030 Agenda.

The meetings of the forum result in a joint, non-negotiated factual summary of the President, prepared in consultation with the Bureau of the Council, to reflect discussions during the partnership forum and the coordination segment. The summary serves as an input to the meetings of the high-level political forum under the auspices of ECOSOC and other key inter-governmental meetings.

Youth forum

Website: <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/what-we-do/ecosoc-youth-forum>

The Youth Forum of ECOSOC is the main platform for youth to share their ideas at the global level. It provides a valuable platform for youth-led and youth-focused organizations and networks, youth advocates and other youth stakeholders to engage in a dialogue with Member States on how they can be a driving force in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The ECOSOC Youth Forum is convened by the President of ECOSOC, with the support of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the UN Office on Youth, in collaboration with the United Nations Inter Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) and the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO), with technical input from youth organizations relevant to the theme of the forum.

The Youth Forum is held annually as an informal high-level meeting of ECOSOC and chaired by the President of ECOSOC. The first meeting of the Youth Forum in 2012 was held as a half-day meeting. Since 2014, it has been held over a period of 2 days with the exception of the 2023 Youth Forum which was held over a period of 3 days pursuant to decision 2022/351. In accordance with resolution 2024/1, the 2024 Youth Forum will also be held over a period of 3 days. Its programme is guided by the annual theme of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and the SDGs for in-depth discussion. The Youth Forum also plays an important role in identifying regional development needs for youth to achieve the SDGs. In the 2024 Youth Forum, the third day will focus primarily on the contribution of youth in the Summit of the Future.

Participation in the forum by youth representatives is by invitation whereby youth participants are selected by National Youth Councils, regional youth organizations, as well as youth-led and -focused organizations and networks affiliated with MGCY and ICMYO.

The programme of the forum has consisted of a ministerial roundtable, interactive roundtables and break-out sessions with a thematic and regional focus.

An informal summary of the deliberations of the forum is prepared by the President of ECOSOC.