

27 May 2022

Review of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies



taken to implement the provisions of paragraphs 28 and 29 of the

C. Recommendations

I. Guiding Principles

During

12. Enable ECOs, its functions, Commissions and Expert Bodies and the Secretariats to take the process forward and implement action-oriented recommendations.

It was agreed that each subsidiary body would implement the recommendations in the way they see most

8. Continue to consider financing and other Means of Implementation in their respective areas of work, building on SDG 17.
9. Consider whether and how to address aspects related to SDG 6 on water and sanitation in their work, if relevant, given the links of this SDG with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
10. Consider the impact of long-term trends, such as demographic trends, on progress towards the SDGs within their purview.
11. Provide expertise and policy recommendations to allow ECOSOC to address the global challenges on its agenda such as the COVID-19 recovery, climate change and poverty eradication.
12. The Commission for Social Development could regularly consider progress in achieving SDG 10 on reducing inequality and related policies, as also recommended by the General Assembly.²

Recommendations for the Secretariat

13. The Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies could be provided with further information on the SDGs that are furthest off track so that they can prioritize them in their deliberations according to their respective mandates. This should not be achieved at the expense of the technical work of these bodies.
 14. The webpage on subsidiary bodies on the ECOSOC website could be further enhanced as a central searchable webpage or repository consolidating all events, rules of procedures, reports and outputs/publications of different sub
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between the ECOSOC Bureau and bureaux of these bodies ahead of their sessions so as to shape the agendas in a consultative fashion, while respecting each body's expertise. The reason for this recommendation is that the approval by ECOSOC of the agenda of the future session of its Functional Commissions and relevant Expert Bodies is the opportunity for the Council to identify major issues that should be addressed by them while promoting synergies and coherence.

18. ECOSOC may consider ways, including through the adoption of a resolution, to provide substantive guidance to its Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies following the meeting of the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly (the "SDG Summit") in 2027 to consider new priorities and address gaps identified by the Political Declaration that would be adopted at that Summit to promote a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in its entirety.

Recommendations for consideration / follow up by the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies

Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies are invited to:

19. Strengthen their coordination and cooperation where appropriate.
 20. Consider addressing specific, focused and well delineated themes, rather than broad general themes, as this may lead to more practical guidance and maximize the impact of their work.
 21. Work particularly closely together if they are addressing similar issues. ECOSOC could clarify their respective roles if needed. [[For example] the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (
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Recommendations for consideration / follow up by the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies

The diversity of Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies and their respective mandates should be reflected when attempting to improve their working methods³. Those bodies are invited to:

23. Further deepen their focus on interlinkages between the SDGs and sectors under their purview and other SDGs and make recommendations that build on synergies and address trade-offs. This can maximize the impacts of ECOSOC's work in bringing about transformative integrated policies to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
24. Enhance coordination and exchanges among themselves while bringing to the table their own expertise, to support the elaboration of integrated policy approaches.
25. Consider ways to further deepen and broaden stakeholder participation within their rules of procedures and specific composition (noting that some of them are intergovernmental bodies), mandates and long-term

HLPF could likewise draw more systematically from the inputs of ECOSOC Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies for conducting its thematic reviews, including by building on innovative policy guidance, ideas and trends emanating from their work.

29. Dedicate enough time to examine the content of the outcomes of the discussions in its Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies, while avoiding the repetition of those discussions. Proactive engagement of Member States in the meetings of the Management Segment is critical in this regard. The Secretariat is invited to provide timely information to allow Member States to prepare substantive inputs to the Management Segment.
30. Consider dedicating part of its operational activities segment to examining critical outcomes of the Functional Commissions and relevant Expert Bodies that require follow-up at country level. Chairs of these bodies can also be encouraged to participate in the governing bodies of UN system entities, where appropriate. Implementation of these bodies' outcomes could be monitored closely both in qualitative and

5. The functional commissions and expert bodies also provide inputs ⁷ to the thematic review of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) as mandated by the 2030 Agenda. Those are summarized in the official "

mention that it would be important to draw the attention of Member States

[mainstreaming a gender perspective](#), as called for in the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and ECOSOC.

- iii. As an integrator, by highlighting integrated policy approaches related to the theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF that emanate from the work of subsidiary bodies.

To support the work of ECOSOC and subsidiary bodies, the Secretariat can provide a one-stop shop for Member States to learn about issues under consideration in subsidiary bodies and identify ways to increase cooperation between them. A concrete tool is the webpage on subsidiary bodies on ECOSOC website. For example, a central searchable webpage or repository consolidating all events, reports and outputs/publications of different subsidiary bodies could facilitate coordination and collaboration among ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies and ECOSOC guidance in this area.

IV. [Leveraging the work of the Subsidiary Bodies -- How ECOSOC can best use the outcomes of subsidiary bodies](#)

19. There is a strong call from the Bureaux for featuring and using more effectively the outcomes of the subsidiary bodies in the work of the Council and the HLPF, particularly by:
 - i. Including key recommendations from their negotiated and other outcomes in ECOSOC and HLPF outcome documents, in particular the Ministerial Declaration.
 - ii. Actively promoting the implementation of subsidiary bodies' negotiated outcome documents including resolutions or agreed normative frameworks, as well as model regulations, manuals, guidance, principles
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