



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Theme: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

Monday, 9 July 2018

Opening & Scene setting

How far have we come on the SDGs?

Monday, 9 July 2018, 9:00-10:00 AM, Conference Room 4

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a vision for people, planet, peace and prosperity to be achieved through partnership and solidarity, is now in its third year of implementation. There are positive signs - such as the widespread inclusion of SDG's targets into countries' own development plans and strategies, and the setting up of coordinating structures and mechanisms for implementation. At the same time, certain other indicators - for example, deeply entrenched patterns of inequality among many dimensions or the increasingly apparent impacts of climate change – are a cause for concern. This year's review at the HLPF, around the theme of “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”, is a timely occasion to take stock of where we are in terms of progress and identify emerging issues that have the potential to significantly affect SDG achievement over the years to come. Speakers will bring their unique perspectives to bear on approaches and prospects to reaching the 2030 Agenda as a whole, and indicate what they see as priorities needing urgent consideration.

Proposed guiding questions:

- Where are we in terms of achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs?
- What are the most important trends that could affect our ability to achieve the inter-connected SDGs?
- What do you see as actions that could help catalyse the necessary departure from business-as-usual towards the transformative pathways called for by the SDGs?

Opening Remarks

- **H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardová**, President of Economic and Social Council
- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations on behalf of the Secretary-General

Commentary by keynote speakers on the state of affairs

- **Mr. Jeffrey D. Sachs**, Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University
- **Ms. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes**, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility
- **Mr. Alex Steffen**, Co-founder of online magazine Worldchanging.com



Implementing the 2030 Agenda for resilient societies

Monday, 9 July 2018, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

The session will consist of two sub-sessions of one-and-a-half hour each. The first sub-session on “*Reviewing progress in achieving the SDGs*” will discuss a global snapshot of progress made towards the 17 Goals and remaining gaps ahead, followed by highlights of progress in the Goals under review. It will identify areas where policies and actions need to be stepped up to accelerate progress. This session will bring together presentations on global trends, sector-specific trends, policies and principles of the 2030 Agenda.

The second sub-session on “*Better data for sustainable development*” will focus on data as a key enabler for achieving the SDGs. There is a great demand for quality, accurate, open, timely, sufficiently disaggregated data and statistics for countries to implement the necessary policies and measures to achieve SDGs and fulfill the ambition of reaching those that are left the furthest behind. To meet this demand, significant efforts are needed to strengthen countries’ capacity to collect, integrate, analyze, communicate and use data from multiple sources. It requires strong political commitment and increased resources to support global and national efforts to strengthen statistical systems and leverage technology and synergies across the data ecosystems through partnerships among multiple stakeholders within national statistical systems and beyond. This sub-session will bring together chief statisticians and other data and policy experts to review ways to increase country capacity and resources for data and statistics for the 2030 agenda.

Proposed guiding questions:

- Who are the furthest behind and are we managing to build the resilience and improve the lives of those people?
- What are the trends in improving the situation of the furthest behind?
- How can we accelerate progress towards collecting and analyzing disaggregated data that can help assess and review the situation of the furthest behind?

Moderator:

- **Ms. Emily Pryor**, Executive Director of Data2X

Sub-session 1. 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Reviewing progress in achieving the SDGs

Keynote speaker:

- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (Introduction of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs)

Panellists:

- **Ms. Asa Regner**, Assistant-Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women
- **Mr. Pádraig Dalton**, Director General of Central Statistics Office of Ireland



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- **Ms. Grace Bediako**, Acting Director-General of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Ghana

Lead discussant:

- **Ms. Sofia Monsalve Suárez**, Secretary General, FIAN International (NGO Major Group)

Followed by interactive discussion

Sub-session 2. 11:30 AM -1:00 PM Better data for sustainable development

Panellists:

- **Mr. Zachary Chege**, Chair of the UN Statistical Commission, Chief Statistician of Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
- **Ms. Nancy Potok**, Chief Statistician of the United States of America
- **Ms. Shaida Badiee**, Managing Director and Co-founder, Open Data Watch

Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Leesha Delatie-Budair**, Deputy Director General, Statistical Institute of Jamaica

Followed by interactive discussion

Review of SDG implementation

SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Monday, 9 July 2018, 3:00-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, reflects the increased attention on water and sanitation issues in the global agenda. Fresh water, in sufficient quantity and quality, is essential for all aspects of life and sustainable development. The human right to water and sanitation are widely recognized by Member States. Water resources are embedded in all forms of development (e.g. food security, health and poverty reduction), in sustaining economic growth in agriculture, industry and energy generation, and in maintaining healthy ecosystems. Agriculture (including irrigation, livestock and aquaculture) is by far the largest water consumer, accounting for 69 per cent of annual water withdrawals globally. Industry (including power generation) accounts for 19 per cent and households for 12 per cent. All these water uses can pollute freshwater resources. Most wastewater from municipal, industrial and agricultural sources is discharged back into water bodies without treatment. If not treated, this pollution further reduces the availability of fresh water for drinking and other uses, and also degrades ecosystems. The 2030 Agenda establishes that those challenges can be met by adopting a more integrated approach to managing and allocating water resources, including the protection of ecosystems upon which



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societies and economies depend. The concept of integrated water resources management (IWRM) requires governments to consider how water resources link different parts of society and how decisions in one sector may affect water users in other sectors. It is an approach that must involve all actors and stakeholders, from all levels, who use and potentially pollute water so that it is managed equitably and sustainably.

Proposed guiding questions:

- Equal access to sufficient safe and affordable water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene can mean the difference between prosperity and poverty, well-being and ill-health, and even living and dying. What are the main entry points to eliminating inequalities in the access to water and sanitation services?
- Financial needs in the water sector remain high. More funding is required, ranging from more effective use of existing resources through to providing new financing paradigms to create greater opportunities for making rapid progress in future years. What are the most viable innovative funding models that can best advance SDG 6 implementation?
- A lack of capacity is constraining water resources development and management and human resource shortages are reported in all key areas, including: agriculture and irrigated farming; water-related risks management; water and sanitation services; wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies; data collection and desalination. How can we link with SDG 8 by finding ways to encourage decent work and economic growth in the water sector?
- Who are the furthest behind and who is at risk of being left behind for this SDG?

Presentations:

- **Statistics Division of UN DESA**
- **Mr. Stefan Uhlenbrook**, Coordinator of the UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), UNESCO, on SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation

Keynote speaker:

- **Ms. Mina Guli**, water advocate, ultra runner

Moderator:

- **Mr. Joakim Harlin**, Vice Chair of UN-Water

Panellists:

- **H.E. Mr. Danilo Türk**, Chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, former President of Slovenia
- **H.E. Ms. Lucía Ruiz**, Vice Minister of Environment of Peru
- **Mr. Callist Tindimugaya**, Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulation, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda
- **Ms. Claudia Sadoff**, Director of the International Water Management Institute



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Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Thomas Stratenwerth**, Head of Division and acting Deputy Director General, Ministry for Environment, Germany
- **Mr. Neil Jeffery**, CEO, Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor
- **Mr. Florencio Marerua**, Country Director, Mozambique, WaterAid (NGO Major Group)

Followed by interactive discussion

Tuesday, 10 July 2018

Thematic Review

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

Building resilience

Tuesday, 10 July 2018, 9:00-11:00 AM, Conference Room 4

The term 'resilience' describes the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management. to recover from or adjust easily to calamity or change. Building resilience is thus a multidimensional challenge and a cross-cutting issue that will impact progress towards the SDGs and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As shocks occur, the severity of their impact on society and the environment depend on the level of vulnerability and exposure, preparedness, and recovery capacities across multiple areas, including urban planning and infrastructure, food security, economic structures, and the way health systems and public institutions are designed. These sudden, disruptive events, caused by internal or external factors, expose countries' vulnerabilities in their economic, social, political, environmental and institutional structures, as well as vulnerabilities resulting from their geographic situation. Such shocks include economic crises, natural disasters and technological hazards, and other environmental (or climate-related events), and health-related occurrences.

Countries with high exposure to risk and weak structural resilience, such as countries in special situations, are particularly vulnerable to shocks. New pathways and policies are needed to build resilient futures for each society which poses multidimensional challenges for all Member States at all levels of development.



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Proposed guiding questions:

- Who are the furthest behind and are we managing to build the resilience and improve the lives of those people?
- What actions and policies have proven successful in increasing resilience of countries and people and addressing the impacts of climate change, natural disasters, conflict, and displacement on countries in special situations?
- How can science, technology and innovation strengthen resilience and inclusion in an integrated manner? What has been most effective in your country?
- How can integrated policies address resilience gaps and address underlying social, economic and environmental root causes for low resilience?
- How do we move from incremental to transformational change for higher resilience?

Moderator:

- **Ms. Emily Wilkinson**, Senior Research Fellow, Risk and Resilience, Overseas Development Institute, UK

Panellists:

- **Ms. Isabelle Durant**, UNCTAD Deputy Secretary General
- **Mr. Dereje Wordofa**, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA
- **Mr. Jeb Brugmann**, 100 Resilient Cities
- **Mr. David Smith**, Coordinator of the Institute for Sustainable Development at the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the University Consortium for Small Island States (UCSIS), and the Caribbean Chair for the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Jamaica

Lead discussants:

- **H.E. Mr. Vuk Zujic**, Ambassador and Co-ordinator of the Economic and Environmental Activities, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- **Ms. Markris de Guzman**, Regional Focal Point, Asia DRR Youth Network (Major Group of Children and Youth)

Followed by interactive discussion



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Thematic review

Advancing science, technology and innovation for SDGs

Tuesday, 10 July 2018, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

An objective of the session is to explore policies and actions for advancing the science, technology and innovation for achieving the SDGs, as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda launched a UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), which comprises a United Nations Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (IATT), a collaborative Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum), and an online platform as a gateway for information on existing STI initiatives, mechanisms and programs. The TFM now facilitates multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships through the sharing of information, experiences, best practices and policy advice among Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, UN entities and other stakeholders. The co-Chairs of the STI Forum will present the mandated Summary of the "Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs", the theme of which in 2018 was "Science, Technology and Innovation for sustainable and resilient societies – Focus on SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15". The TFM 10-Member Group of high-level representatives will further engage in the discussions.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What is your vision for harnessing science, technology and innovation, in order to achieve sustained and ever improved well-being, as envisioned in the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda?
- What are the most important challenges and opportunities in this respect?
- How can we mobilize science, technology and innovation to improve the lives of the furthest behind?
- What are your top three recommendations for action?

Presentations:

- **H.E. Mr. Toshiya Hoshino**, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN, Co-Chair of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the Sustainable Development Goals
- **H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola**, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN, Co-Chair of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the Sustainable Development Goals

Moderator:

- **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ruiz Cabañas**, Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico

Panellists:

- **Ms. Endah Murniningtyas**, co-chair of the group of scientists for the Global Sustainable Development Report, Indonesia
- **Mr. Carsten Fink**, Chief Economist, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)



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- **Mr. Nebojsa Nakicenovic**, IIASA Deputy Director General and Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Professor Emeritus, Vienna University of Technology, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) (Science and Technology Major Group)

Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Ernest Foli**, Forestry Research Institute of Ghana

Followed by interactive discussion

Review of SDGs implementation **SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable** **and modern energy for all**

Tuesday, 10 July 2018, 3:00 PM-6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

Achieving SDG 7 will catalyse actions to meet the Paris Agreement on climate change and reach the other SDGs including poverty eradication, gender equality, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, food security, health, education, sustainable cities and communities, clean water and sanitation, jobs, innovation, and transport. However, without urgent action, the world will fall short of achievement of SDG 7 and consequently other SDGs.

The discussion is expected to assess progress, identify challenges at the national and international levels towards achieving SDG 7 including its targets on energy access, renewables, energy efficiency and means of implementation, and it will promote integrated policy solutions.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What is the current rate of progress on the various targets of SDG 7 including targets related to the means of implementation?
- At the country level, what policies and practices have been proven to be the most successful?
- What is the investment gap for financing SDG 7 and what are the key financial tools that can be leveraged for scaling up investments?
- What are the priority actions for the coming years that can be implemented to accelerate progress towards achieving SDG 7 globally?
- Who are the furthest behind and who is at risk of being left behind for this SDG?

Presentation:

- **Statistics Division of UN DESA**



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Moderator:

- **Mr. Adnan Z. Amim**, Director-General, the International Renewable Energy Agency

Panellists:

- **H.E. Mr. Siri Jirapongphan**, Minister of Energy, Thailand
- **Ms. Laurence Tubiana**, CEO, the European Climate Foundation
- **Ms. Sheila Oparaocha**, Executive Director, ENERGIA, Zambia
- **Mr. Riccardo Puliti**, Senior Director of Energy and Extractive Industries Global Practice, World Bank Group

Lead Discussants:

- **Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk**, Policy Director, Energy and Climate Change, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Co-Facilitator of SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group
- **Ms. Mengrong Cheng**, President of State Grid US Representative Office, GEIDCO US Representative ad interim
- **Ms. Joan Carling**, TEBTEBBA (Indigenous Peoples Major Group)

Followed by interactive discussion

Wednesday, 11 July 2018

Thematic review

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

SIDS perspective

Wednesday, 11 July 2018, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Conference Room 4

HLPF has a special role to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States (SIDS). It will examine the issue of building island and community resilience through the water and sustainable energy lens. Reducing poverty, triggering economic growth and building resilient societies requires harnessing the potential of ecosystems to satisfy the demands of water and energy, which are essential for life, health and wellbeing and economic growth and development.

Most SIDS have made significant progress in expanding the provision of access to water and sanitation. The problems now being encountered include quality of service, maintenance and operation of existing infrastructure, ageing infrastructure, high levels of unaccounted for



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water and quality of potable water. This suggests difficulties with the management of water services and with securing the necessary levels of investment to address the supply–demand gap. With respect to energy supply and services, over that last two decades many SIDS have developed and adopted comprehensive energy policies, typically addressing the development of legislation, investment incentives, measures for energy efficiency, infrastructure investments, and guidance for the direction of energy resource development. The countries, often with isolated, small electric grids and similar sustainable development and climate change challenges, have unique needs requiring creative measures in energy policy.

Proposed guiding questions:

- How can SIDS transform their energy sectors to ensure access to sustainable and secure energy supplies and facilitate economic growth and sustainable development? What support is needed from the international community for the development of comprehensive sustainable energy policies and programmes in SIDS?
- What enabling environment (legislative and institutional) is necessary for effective water governance in SIDS?
- How can integrated water resources management be used to address impacts from climate change, improve overall water security, including re-use of wastewater, and better health and wellbeing?
- What are the prospect for SIDS to reach the SDGs and make societies resilient and sustainable?

Moderator:

- **Ms. H. Elizabeth Thompson**, former Minister for Energy and Environment, Barbados

Panellists:

- **Hon Alexander Teabo**, Minister for Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development, Kiribati
- **Ms. Tessa Williams-Robertson**, Head of Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Unit, Caribbean Development Bank
- **Mr. Adrianus Tvlugman**, Senior Advisor, Water Sanitation, Environmental Health, PAHO, WHO

Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Rhonda Robinson**, Deputy Director, Water and Sanitation, Secretariat of the Pacific Community
- **Ms. Addys Claribel Then Marte**, Executive Director, Alianza ONG (Volunteers)

Followed by interactive discussion



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Thematic review

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

Perspectives of LDCs, LLDCs and MICs

Wednesday, 11 July 2018, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

This thematic review session will evaluate progress and challenges in achieving a transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in the least developed countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) that face specific challenges that must be prioritized and overcome if no one is to be left behind in reaching the SDGs. It will also address the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries (MICs).

Many countries in special situations are experiencing rapid urbanization, with rural-urban migration expanding the peripheries of many cities. Cities are a critically important context for SDG implementation – they are microcosms for the challenges for implementation in general, they magnify the importance of integrated and rights-based approaches, and they highlight the dangers of ignoring the interlinkages among SDG issues. Many countries in special situations are experiencing a confluence of unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, underdevelopment and poor infrastructure, combined with increased vulnerability to natural hazards and economic shocks.

Sustainable societies require healthy and resilient ecosystems to thrive, yet countries in special situations often suffer disproportionately from deforestation and loss of biodiversity, declining water availability and degraded water quality, land and soil degradation, desertification, and the adverse impacts of climate change including extreme weather events, floods, droughts and cyclones. Successful efforts to halt biodiversity loss, increase sustainable land use and ensure integrated ecosystem management, particularly around the periphery of cities located in biodiversity “hotspots”, are critical for achieving the SDGs, and can serve to drive sustainable and inclusive urban growth by providing opportunities for improving rural livelihoods, which can also impact urban lives and put less pressure on cities.

A specific focus could be placed on urbanization and on ecosystems during this session. While there are approaches and solutions that can work across countries, a differentiated yet integrated approach is often required, since specific issues stand out for each group. In this context, the session may also address progress in areas such as infrastructure, energy, transport, water, technology, sustainable consumption and production, urban-rural linkages, food security, inequality, unplanned urbanization and informal settlements, urban forestry, the role of forestry in alleviating migration to urban spaces, and the need for a territorial systems approach for both urban and rural spaces. It will highlight the interlinkages among the SDGs under review and seek to elicit examples of solutions that these groups of countries have developed to build sustainable and resilient cities that have become refuges for both people and biodiversity.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What national actions and policies have proven successful in increasing sustainability and resilience, while addressing the impacts of climate change, natural disasters, conflict, and



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displacement on countries in special situations? How have those been applied in the context of rapid urbanization?

- What technologies, innovations, and data collection tools have been effective so far for countries in special situations in monitoring and follow-up of the SDGs?
- Where has progress occurred in strengthening national and local governance, fostering inclusion among local and indigenous communities, and mobilizing resources for implementation?
- What are the prospect for LDCs, LLDCs and MICs to reach the SDGs and make societies resilient and sustainable?

Moderator:

- **Ms. Karin Fernando**, Center for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka

Panellists:

- **H.E. Ms. Nabeela F. Tunis**, Minister of Economic Planning and Development of Sierra Leone and Chair of the G7+ Group of Fragile States
- **Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu**, UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- **Mr. Felipe Castro**, Director of Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Policy, The National Development of Planning, Colombia
- **Ms. Maruxa Cardama**, Senior Policy Specialist, Cities Alliance, Belgium

Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Idriss Maïga Alzouma**, President, African Disability Forum (Persons with Disabilities)

Followed by interactive discussion

Review of SDGs implementation

SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Wednesday, 11 July 2018, 3:00 PM - 6:00 AM, Conference Room 4

Cities and human settlements are where much of our progress and obstacles to achievement of the 2030 Agenda are manifested. They are home to concrete challenges as well as enormous opportunities for fostering innovation and knowledge-sharing to overcome these challenges. This session will explore the topic of building inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements through implementation of Goal 11 and its interlinkages with the rest of the Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable urbanization has a widespread impact for the majority of the global population currently living in urban areas, but also has important implications for those living in rural areas. It has clear impacts on a wide range of issues within the 2030 Agenda, such as sustainable



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consumption and production, affordable and clean energy, sustainable transportation, clean water and sanitation, and life on land. This session will explore the interconnected ecosystem of our cities and human settlements, and the multi-dimensional issues that must be addressed in order to achieve inclusive, safe, resilience, and sustainable cities and human settlements. It will also examine the critical role that local and regional governments play in addressing these collective challenges, and ensuring that the 2030 Agenda reaches the diverse populations living in cities and those most often left behind.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What are key recommendations for accelerating the implementation of SDG11 and other SDGs?
- What specific policy measures and tools can ensure that development in cities and human settlements is inclusive and reaches those most often left behind, such as people living in informal settlements?
- How can we strengthen the capacity of local and regional governments to achieve SDG 11?
- Who are the furthest behind and who is at risk of being left behind for this SDG?

Presentations:

- **Statistics Division of UN DESA**
- **Ms. Leilani Farha**, UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing

Moderator:

- **Mr. Rohit T. Aggarwala**, Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs at Columbia University

Panellists:

- **Ms. Penny Abeywardena**, Commissioner in Mayor's Office for International Affairs, New York City, US
- **Mr. Jean Todt**, Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety
- **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT
- **Ms. Meera AlShaikh**, Project Manager and member of the SDG 11 Global Council, Smart Dubai, UAE

Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Wim Dries**, Mayor of the city of Genk and President of the Flemish Association of Local Councils, Belgium
- **Ms. Shaila Shahid**, International Centre for Climate Change and Development as Coordinator-Gender and Climate Change (ICCCAD) (Women's Major Group)

Followed by interactive discussion



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Thursday, 12 July 2018

Thematic review

Implementing the SDGs: Lessons from the regions

Thursday, 12 July 2018, 9:00 AM-11:00 PM, Conference Room 4

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of action at the regional and sub-regional levels to contextualize and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and ensure effective monitoring of progress. Regional entities support peer-learning among countries and stakeholders, capacity-building and the development of integrated solutions to address trans-boundary challenges. In this context, the regional level serves as important role to strengthen feedback loops from the national to the global levels, and vice versa.

The session will feature the Executive Secretaries of the five Regional Commissions, who will, under the general theme of the HLPF “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” present a diversity of regional perspectives, share examples of best practices and experiences, and will provide policy recommendations for action at national, regional and global level. Building on broader thematic discussions held during the first part of the week, the session will look at regional trends, thus serving as background to the presentation of Voluntary National Reviews during the second week of the HLPF. Executive Secretaries will also engage in an interactive discussion with Member States, representatives of regional and sub-regional governmental organizations, major groups and other stakeholders.

The session will comprise two rounds of interventions from the Executive Secretaries, followed by interactive discussion.

First round: Executive Secretaries will provide a regional perspective on the theme of the HLPF and address key regional trends, as outlined above (5 minutes intervention)

Second round: Executive Secretaries will address efforts to mobilize means of implementation, gaps and recommendations for action (2 minutes intervention)

Panellists:

- **Ms. Vera Songwe**, Executive Secretary of ECA
- **Ms. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary of ECE
- **Ms. Alicia Barcena**, Executive Secretary of ECLAC
- **Mr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim**, Executive Secretary of ESCWA
- **Mr. Kaveh Zahedi**, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Lead discussant:

- **Ms. Tatyana Valovaya**, Member of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission
- **Ms. Alma Sinumlag**, Programme Officer, Cordillera Women Education and Action Research Center (Asia-Pacific Civil Society Mechanism)



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Followed by interactive discussion

Thematic review **Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies** **Perspectives of society: Session organized with major groups and other stakeholders**

Thursday, 12 July 2018, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

Major groups and other stakeholder (MGoS) are crucial to the successful implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda. In preparation for the 2018 HLPF, MGoS contributed to review processes at all levels, including at the Regional Forums for Sustainable Development (RFSDs) and through national review mechanisms.

In line with paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda and paragraphs 14 and 15 of General Assembly Resolution 67/290, this session offers MGoS an opportunity to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda” and speak to the topics of the HLPF.

The session will be organised in collaboration with the HLPF Coordination Mechanism of MGoS and will focus on the recommendations of MGoS around the implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda, with a particular emphasis on the theme of the 2018 HLPF and the specific goals being reviewed. It will also survey the contributions of MGoS themselves to the overall successful implementation of the agenda, especially at the national level and during ongoing national review processes.

Proposed guiding questions:

- Who are the furthest behind and are we managing to build the resilience and improve the lives of those people?
- How has the engagement of MGoS shaped the processes to review the 2030 Agenda and helped fill implementation gaps?
- What are some concrete actions taken by major groups and other stakeholders around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in focus this year?
- How can implementation efforts by MGoS be included in the overall reporting on progress made on the 2030 Agenda?

Moderator:

- **Ms. Luisa Emilia Reyes Zuñiga**, Program Director, Policies and Budgets of Equality and Sustainable Development, Gender Equity: Citizenship, Work and Family. Co-chair of the HLPF Coordination Mechanism (Women's Major Group)



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Panellists:

- **Ms. Haydee Rodriguez**, Executive Director, Unión de Cooperativas de Mujeres Productoras “Las Brumas” (Sendai Stakeholders)
- **Mr. Ruben Zondervan**, Executive Director, Earth System Governance Project, Lund University, Sweden (Science and Technology Major Group)
- **Ms. Ohoukoh Akom Ornella Francisca**, Regional Focal Point West&Central Africa Habitat III Working Group, IMCS Pax Romana (Major Group of Children and Youth)

Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Vitalice Meja**, Coordinator/CPDE Co-Chair, Reality of Aid Network Africa (FFD Civil Society Group)
- **Ms. Berry Vrbanovic**, Mayor of Kitchener, Canada (Local Authorities Major Group)

Followed by interactive discussion

Review of SDGs implementation

SDG 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Thursday, 12 July 2017, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Conference Room 4

SDG 12 guides the formulation and implementation of policies, mechanisms and partnerships to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (SCP), recognizing that SCP is not only an objective in its own right, but also a critical element of strategies to achieve the entire 2030 Agenda in an integrated manner. This session will consider progress in achieving SDG 12, identify challenges at the global, regional and national levels, and recommend solutions in an integrated manner, through the exchange of lessons learned and best practices.

Proposed guiding questions:

- What actions and practices have proven to be the most successful in ensuring SCP at the global, regional and national levels?
- How can effective partnerships be promoted to engage key stakeholders, such as corporations and consumers?
- How can actions aimed at meeting SDG 12 be taken, with a view to maximizing co-benefits and minimizing negative trade-offs in relation to other SDGs, in particular those reviewed in depth at this meeting of the HLPF?
- Who are the furthest behind and who is at risk of being left behind for this SDG?

Presentation:

- **Statistics Division of UN DESA**



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Keynote speaker:

- **Mr. Peter Thomson**, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

Moderator:

- **Mr. Andrew Steer**, President and CEO, World Resources Institute

Panellists:

- **Mr. Nur H. Rahayu**, Director of Forestry and Conservation of Water Resources, Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia
- **Ms. Petra Bayr**, Chair of the Sustainable Development Committee in the parliament of Austria
- **Ms. Jane Nyakang'o**, President of the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production
- **Mr. Ulf Jaekel**, Head of Division, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany and 10YFP Board Member

Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Amy Luers**, Executive Director, Future Earth
- **Mr. Julius H. Cainglet**, Vice President for Research, Advocacy and Partnerships of the Federation of Free Workers (Workers and Trade Unions Major Group)

Followed by interactive discussion

Friday, 13 July 2017

Review of SDGs implementation

SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote us of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Friday, 13 July 2018, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Conference Room 4

SDG 15 specifically calls on the international community to “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”. Although SDG 15 can be narrowly perceived as primarily environmental, it is in fact a critical measure of overall progress against the 2030 Agenda, as well as a key enabler of many other goals and targets. It is central to providing environmental support services critical to ensuring, amongst others, safe and sustainable water supplies and mitigating climate change.



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Importantly, it is also central to the lives and well-being of many indigenous communities, pastoralists and others traditionally viewed as excluded, marginalized or at risk of being left behind.

An examination of progress towards individual SDG 15 targets should be data driven and focused. It should also take into account obstacles, challenges, enablers and interlinkages through various cross-cutting lenses deriving from social and economic dimensions such as sustainable livelihoods, migration, land tenure, empowerment of rural women and smallholder producers, urban-rural linkages, climate change, valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples, insecurity and governance, as well as the 2030 Agenda principles of inclusion, interdependence and leaving no one behind.

Governments and other actors seeking to implement the SDG 15 targets, especially those with 2020 deadlines, will need accelerators—including in the realms of public and private finance, capacity, science and technology— in order to be successful.

Proposed guiding questions:

- How can we change the narrative of how we approach SDG15 to capture a more holistic accounting of the value of nature and its ecosystems, and what role can governments play?
- How can we improve the indicator set used to track progress towards SDG 15, given that several are Tier III and others Tier II?
- What are the evidence-based conservation solutions – including recent scientific and technological advances as well as effective community management and partnerships – that deliver genuine impact and can be scaled up or replicated for success?
- Which are the most critical interlinkages with other goals and targets in terms of co-benefits or trade-offs? How can they be leveraged towards progress?
- Who are the furthest behind and who is at risk of being left behind for this SDG?

Presentation:

- **Statistics Division of UN DESA**

Keynote speaker:

- **Mr. Simon Levin**, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Director of the Center for BioComplexity at Princeton University

Moderator:

- **Mr. Rene Castro**, Assistant Director General of Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Development, FAO

Panellists:

- **Ms. Anne Larigauderie**, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- **Ms. Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet**, Director African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF), Cameroon



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- **Mr. Roy Brouwer**, Professor, Environmental Economist, Department of Economics at the University of Waterloo, Canada
- **Ms. Mirna Inés Fernández**, indigenous youth, Bolivia

Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Martha Rojas-Urrego**, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention
- **Mr. Jill Blockhus**, The Nature Conservancy (Sustainable Land Bonds)
- **Mr. Chiagozie Chima Udeh**, YOUNGO (Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC) (Major Group of Children and Youth)

Followed by interactive discussion

Review of SDGs implementation

SDG 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and the global partnership for sustainable development

Friday, 13 July 2018, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM, Conference Room 4

SDG 17 seeks to strengthen global partnerships to support and achieve the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda, bringing together national governments, the international community, civil society, the private sector, and other actors. Despite some advances in certain areas in 2017, more needs to be done to accelerate progress. All stakeholders will have to intensify and focus their efforts on the areas where progress has been slow.

SDG 17 reflects a holistic approach to the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda, including 19 targets that span finance, technology, capacity-building, trade and systemic issues. In addition, the means of implementation are integrated across the other Goals, underlining their cross-cutting nature. The concrete policies and actions of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development provide a strong foundation to support the achievement of the SDGs.

The session will discuss the main challenges and opportunities for strengthening global partnerships and enhancing the means of implementation. Specific attention will be given to exploring the existing mechanisms and potential innovations for mobilizing resources for the SDGs – including: (i) financing at both domestic and international levels, from public and private sources; (ii) best practice and experience in scaling up technology solutions; (iii) trends in South-South cooperation for building capacities for SDG implementation and investment; and (iv) overcoming challenges in the international trade and financial system. Views, suggestions and current achievements are expected to be shared by practitioners, policymakers and experts based on their most recent experiences and research.

The purpose of the session is to advance progress on SDG 17 by dedicating a focused discussion to national, regional and global trends in the key means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development. It will also build on the inter-governmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development in 2018 (A/RES/70/1, §86) and



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consider the findings and ideas emerging from other related processes, including the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF); Multistakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the SDGs; World Investment Forum; and UN World Data Forum.

Proposed guiding questions

- What are the main hurdles to investing in, and financing, the SDGs, using all sources: public and private, domestic and international? Which policies, approaches and institutional solutions have worked best in specific country contexts and how can they be scaled up?
- What kind of partnership or collaboration is needed between the public and private sectors to achieve the goal of financing the SDGs? What should be done to achieve that?
- How can the benefits of collaboration between researchers/scientists, investors, and practitioners, more effectively apply cutting-edge technology in development endeavours in a timely manner? What are the main recommendations for high-impact actions in this area?
- How can capacity building interventions in technology be applied at the national level to ensure transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies?
- What are some innovations in South-South cooperation that are complementing efforts by other actors to support national plans and mobilize resources for the SDGs?
- Which policy actions are needed to address both long-standing concerns and near-term challenges in the international trade and financial system?
- Who are the furthest behind and who is at risk of being left behind for this SDG?
- How do we ensure that sufficient resources are geared at improving the lives of the furthest behind?

Presentations:

- **Statistics Division of UN DESA**
- **H.E. Mr. Courtenay Rattray**, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations and Co-Facilitator for the outcome of the 2018 ECOSOC Financing for Development Follow-up Forum

Moderator:

- **Ms. Gillian Tett**, U.S. Managing Editor, Financial Times

Panelists:

- **H.E. Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque**, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh
- **Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin**, Senior Vice President, World Bank Group
- **Mr. Alfred Watkins**, Chair of the Global Solutions Summit
- **Mr. Steven Waygood**, Chief Responsible Investment Officer, Aviva

Lead discussants:

- **Mr. Kavaljit Singh**, Director, Madhyam (FFD Civil Society Group)



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Followed by interactive discussion

Leaving no one behind: Are we succeeding? **Friday, 13 July 2018, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM, Conference Room 4**

A central pledge contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to ensure that no one is left behind.

Many people continue to confront barriers that prevent them from fully participating in economic, social and political life. These include women, children, youth, indigenous peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons. They often experience discrimination and exclusion, and as a result, suffer from worse health and education outcomes, face disadvantages in access to the labour market and experience poverty at disproportionately high rates. In every group, women and girls often experience greater disadvantages: reducing gender disparities is essential to leaving no one behind.

The experiences of certain countries show that it is possible to make significant advances towards leaving no one behind in relatively short periods of time. However, current trends do not point to a degree or speed of advance compatible to leaving no one behind within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, including the trends in poverty (particularly in rural areas and low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa), education and housing.

A generalized shift towards a development that leaves no one behind requires the transformation of deeply rooted systems – including some economic and political systems and business models – that are often based on unequal distributions of wealth and decision-making power. And to leave no country behind, international action must be coherent and support, rather than hinder, countries' capacity to enact and finance their development strategies.

This session will capture the messages from the earlier sessions of the HLPF sessions with a view to synthesize the messages that respond to the challenge of fulfilling the promise of leaving no one behind. By engaging all stakeholders, integrating policies, strengthening global partnerships for sustainable development, and mobilizing the means of implementation needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs will be realized for all.

Proposed guiding questions:

- Where are we in terms of achieving the overall objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs for all people?
- In which areas is progress most uneven and where are the greatest number of people being left behind?
- Who are the furthest behind and are we managing to build the resilience and improve the lives of those people?
- What have we learned on how best to improve the lives of the furthest behind?



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Keynote speaker:

- **Mr. Andrew Gilmour**, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Moderator:

- **Mr. Manish Bapna**, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, World Resources Institute

Rapporteurs:

Thematic Cluster 1

- **H.E. Mr. Yinager Dessie**, Minister, National Planning Commissioner, Ethiopia (tbc)
- **Mr. Achim Steiner**, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Thematic Cluster 2

- **Ms. Riitta Oksanen**, Deputy Director General, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
- **Ms. Alicia Bárcena**, Executive-Secretary, ECLAC

Lead discussants:

- **Ms. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr**, Member, UN Committee on Development Policy, and Professor of International Affairs, The New School
- **Ms. Sophie Howe**, the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
- **Ms. Sylvia Beales**, Strategic Adviser, Gray Panthers (Stakeholder Group on Ageing)

Followed by interactive discussion

Wrap up of the first week

Friday, 13 July 2018, 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM, Conference Room 4

This session will provide a broad overview of the sessions that happened throughout the week and observations by the President of ECOSOC and the USG of DESA

Remarks:

H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardová, President of Economic and Social Council

Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations



Monday, 16 July 2018

Opening of the high-level segment of ECOSOC / Ministerial segment of HLPF

9:00-10:00 AM, Conference Room 4

Opening remarks:

- **H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardová**, President of ECOSOC
- **H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák**, President of the General Assembly
- **Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake**, Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Keynote speaker:

- **Ms. Michelle Yeoh**, Malaysian Actress and UNDP Goodwill Ambassador

Voluntary National Reviews

10:00 AM-2:00 PM, Conference Room 4

Panel-style presentations

Ecuador
Kiribati
Lithuania
Mali
Q&A

Lead discussant: H.E. Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of the Environment, Climate, Energy and Housing and Vice-Chair of the National Sustainable Development Commission of Finland

Individual presentations

Greece
Q&A

Guinea
Q&A

Mexico
Q&A

UAE
Q&A



Parallel meetings

<p><u>Voluntary National Reviews</u> 3:30 - 6:30 PM, Conference Room 4</p> <p><u>Panel-style presentations</u></p> <p>Benin Cabo Verde Q&A</p> <p><u>Individual presentations</u></p> <p>Bahrain Q&A</p> <p>Colombia Q&A</p> <p>Slovakia Q&A</p> <p>Viet Nam Q&A</p>	<p><u>Reporting on regional forums</u> 3:00-3:30 PM Trusteeship Council Chamber</p> <p><u>Address by UNEA President</u> 3:30-3:35 PM Trusteeship Council Chamber</p> <p><u>General debate</u> 3:35-6:00 PM Trusteeship Council Chamber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of the Secretary-General's reports on ECOSOC theme and thematic discussion by Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations• Introduction of the Committee on Development Policy (CDP) report by Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Chair of CDP• General debate
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Tuesday, 17 July 2018

Parallel meetings

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Voluntary National Reviews</u> 9 AM - 2 PM, Conference Room 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Panel-style presentations</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Albania Latvia Niger Sudan Q&A</p> <p>Lead discussant: H.E. Mr. László Borbély, Counsellor of State and Head of the Department for Sustainable Development, Romania</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Individual presentations</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Armenia Q&A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ireland Q&A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jamaica Q&A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Namibia Q&A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State of Palestine Q&A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Voluntary National Reviews</u> 10 AM - 1 PM, Trusteeship Council Chamber</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Panel-style presentations</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bhutan Togo Q&A</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Individual presentations</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Australia Q&A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sri Lanka Q&A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Switzerland Q&A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Uruguay Q&A</p>
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Parallel meetings

<p><u>Voluntary National Reviews</u> 3:30 - 6:30 PM, Conference Room 4</p> <p><u>Individual presentations</u></p> <p>Andorra Q&A</p> <p>Dominican Republic Q&A</p> <p>Canada Q&A</p> <p>Egypt Q&A</p> <p>Lao PDR Q&A</p> <p>Senegal Q&A</p>	<p><u>General debate (continuation)</u> 3:00 -6:00 PM, Trusteeship Council Chamber</p>
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Wednesday, 18 July 2018

Voluntary National Reviews

9:00 AM-2:00 PM, Conference Room 4

Individual presentations

Bahamas

Q&A

Hungary

Q&A

Lebanon

Q&A

Malta

Q&A

Poland

Q&A

Romania

Q&A

Saudi Arabia

Q&A

Singapore

Q&A

Spain

Q&A



Parallel meetings

<p><u>Voluntary National Reviews</u> 3:00 PM - 4:45 PM, Conference Room 4</p> <p><u>Individual presentations</u></p> <p>Congo Q&A</p> <p>Paraguay Q&A</p> <p>Qatar Q&A</p>	<p><u>General debate (continuation)</u> 3:30 -5:00 PM, Trusteeship Council Chamber</p>
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Keynote speech by the Secretary-General

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM, Trusteeship Council Chamber

Closing of the HLPF

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM, Trusteeship Council Chamber

- Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration and the draft report of HLPF
- Closing remarks of **H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardová**, President of ECOSOC
- Conclusion of the HLPF



Thursday, 19 July 2018

Parallel meetings

ECOSOC high-level policy dialogue with International Financial and Trade Institutions

Where are we heading? Visions and projections for the future of the SDGs

10:00 AM -1:00 PM, ECOSOC Chamber

The high-level policy dialogue will focus on trends in the global economy and international trade in the context of sustainable development. The Chief Economists of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank Group, World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) will offer their projections for economic growth, international trade and other global trends and challenges. They will share forward-looking visions and perspectives on how these projections will affect the advancement of sustainable development in the medium and longer term. The dialogue will also address the intersection of global trends in globalization, demography, technology, jobs, and implications for the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Proposed guiding questions:

- Given the current global trends and trajectories, what are your visions and projections for the major opportunities and challenges for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs?
- How can policymakers make the most of the current improvement in the global economy to make progress towards goals such as eradicating poverty, meeting environmental targets, and reducing inequality?
- What do you see as major risks which could derail the world economy? What are the policy options for mitigating these risks vis-à-vis trajectories for achieving the SDGs?
- Has the world economy completely recovered from the global financial crisis which erupted 10 years ago? Do you envision another financial crisis on the horizon? Have we learnt from the last global financial crisis on how to prevent similar crises from recurring?
- What are the consequences from the recent rise in trade policy disputes? How best to address the situation? What are the implications for the resilience of the multilateral system and sustainable development trajectories?
- What are the main tensions between the economy and the environment? How can available policy instruments (taxation, regulations, or the creation of new markets, for example for CO2 emissions) best be employed to address this issue?
- What can policymakers do to encourage companies to invest sustainably? What are some of the barriers?



Moderator:

- **Mr. Ali Velshi**, Anchor, MSNBC

Policy dialogue 1 (10 – 11:30 AM): Trends in the global economy and international trade and finance

Panelists:

- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
- **Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi**, Secretary-General, UNCTAD
- World Trade Organization
- World Bank Group
- **Mr. David Robinson**, Deputy Director, African Department, International Monetary Fund

Guest discussants:

- **Mr. Masamichi Kono**, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD
- **Mr. Radek Vondráček**, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic

Followed by interactive discussion with the audience

Policy dialogue 2 (11:30 AM-1:00 PM) Projections and visions on the advancement of sustainable development

Panelists:

- **Mr. Moussa Oumarou**, Deputy Director General for Field Operations and Partnerships, International Labour Organization
- **Mr. David Bloom**, Department of Economics, Harvard University
- **Mr. Juha Siikamaki**, Chief Economist, International Union for Conservation of Nature

Followed by interactive discussion with the audience

General debate (continuation)

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Trusteeship Council Chamber



Parallel meetings

ECOSOC 2018 thematic discussion

Leveraging new technologies for the SDGs

3:00-5:30 PM, ECOSOC Chamber

The world is undergoing many transformations based on new technologies, as rapid advances in such areas as artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, nanotechnology, 3D printing, genetics, biotechnology and smart systems build upon and amplify one another. Their transformative yet disruptive powers have the potential to yield significant benefits for humanity. Yet, they also raise multiple challenges spanning the ethical, technical and socioeconomic spheres. For example, artificial intelligence (AI) can increase and complement human capacities while, at the same time, AI has the potential to render many work areas redundant. There also remain concerns over the risk of increasing inequality as benefits of rapid technological change accrue disproportionately, potentially leaving many others behind.

Panellists

- **H.E. Ms. Patricia Appiagyei**, Deputy-Minister of Environment Science Technology and Innovations, Ghana
- **Ms. Cara Lapointe**, Senior Fellow, Beeck Center for Social Impact and Innovation, Georgetown University

Lead discussants

- **H.E. Mr. Toshiya Hoshino**, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN, Co-Chair of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the Sustainable Development Goals
- **H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval Mendiola**, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN, Co-Chair of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the Sustainable Development Goals
- **Ms. Ana Blanco**, Director, Public Policy and International Relations, GSMA

Followed by interactive discussion

General debate (conclusion)

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM, Trusteeship Council Chamber



Closing of the ECOSOC high-level segment

5:30-6:00 PM, ECOSOC Chamber

- Adoption of Ministerial Declaration
- Closing remarks of **H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardová**, President of ECOSOC
- Closing remarks of **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
- Conclusion of the high-level segment of ECOSOC
