



**Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
Operational Activities Segment
18-20 May 2021**

**Draft Programme
Amplifying the United Nations development system's impact
in support of the Decade of Action**

	MON 17 May	TUE 18 May	WED 19 May	THU 20 May
AM	10:30 – 11:15 <i>Virtual platform(s) walkthrough and testing for participants</i>	10:00-12:00 Session 1: OPENING and Interactive debate with the Secretary General	09:00-10:30 Informal Session 3 Dialogue w/RCs & UNCTs, Part 1	09:00-10:30 Informal Session 7 Dialogue w/RCs & UNCTs, Part 2
			<i>10:30-11:00 Break (change of virtual platform)</i>	<i>10:30-11:00 Break (change of virtual platform)</i>
			11:00-13:00 Session 4: Dialogue UNDS Executive Heads	11:00-13:00 Session 8: Update on the Regional Dimension
PM	15:30 – 16:15 <i>Virtual platform(s) walkthrough and testing for participants</i>	15:00-17:00 Session 2: Presentation & discussion of the report of the UNSDG Chair	15:00 -16:00 Session 5 Funding Compact	15:00-16:30 Session 9 Partnerships
			16:00 -17:00 Session 6: Follow-up to the Multi- Country Office review	16:30 -17:00 Session 10 Closing session
Statements (Video and written) by countries and groups of countries to be submitted virtually and posted on e-delegate platform and the ECOSOC OAS 2021 webpage.				

In view of time constraints, the General Debate will be reflected electronically. To encourage interactive dialogue, we invite regional groups and Member States to deliver their formal statements on progress in implementing GA resolutions 75/233 and 72/279 electronically, by sharing these in advance with the Secretariat (qcpr@un.org). The formal statements will be posted on both [eStatements](#) and the [QCPR website](#).

The views and main points presented in the statements will be reflected in the Chair's Summary of the operational activities segment.

Session 1 : Tuesday 18 May 2021, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Opening of the ECOSOC operational activities segment and Interactive dialogue with the UN Secretary-General

Opening

- H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC (TBC)
- H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Keynote

- Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations: presentation of the Secretary-General's report and vision for the continuation of UN reform and the implementation of the 2020 QCPR in times of crisis

Interactive discussion with the Secretary-General

Chair and Moderator

- H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC

NOTE: Delegations are encouraged to engage through short interventions. Formal statements will be posted online on [eStatements](#) and the [QCPR website](#).

Session 2 : Tuesday 18 May 2021, 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Report of the Chair of UNSDG on the Development Coordination Office and the new resident coordinator system: what have we achieved, what are the next steps and how can we strengthen UN system-wide results in support of the 2030 Agenda?

Format:

The DSG will present her report as UNSDG Chair, including reporting on system-wide results. The Assistant Secretary-General of the Development Coordination Office will answer questions from the floor.

Guiding questions:

- *What have been the achievements and challenges of the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) in supporting the Resident Coordinator system?*
- *Are Resident Coordinators (RCs) exercising their new leadership and how is DCO helping them?*
- *How has the RC system fared against the early 'stress test' of helping countries to respond to COVID-19?*
- *Are we witnessing the type of behavioural change (e.g. increased joint analysis, planning, programming, implementation, shared resources) in UN country teams that will allow for transformative change in the UN's collective support to the 2030 Agenda?*
- *What have been UN system results in supporting the 2030 Agenda and how can they be measured and strengthened?*
- *What are the expectations for the review of the resident coordinator system?*

Chair and Moderator:

- H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Presentation: Annual Report of the Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group on the Development Coordination Office

- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group
- Mr. Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Development Coordination Office (TBC)

Interactive Discussion

**Informal Session 3: Wednesday 19 May 2021, 9:00am-10:30am
(with no interpretation)**

Dialogue with programme country governments, resident coordinators and UN country team members (Part 1): Tailoring UN development system's support to countries' specific circumstances

Objectives:

This session in two parts will focus on some of the key changes on the ground, achieved through leveraging the UN Development system and its full offer, including in the response to COVID-19. The session will discuss how the UN development system is working through a whole of system approach at national, and regional levels and across pillars, and is tailoring its support to countries based on their specific circumstances.

Format:

Speakers will be a combination of a programme country government representative, a Resident Coordinator and, a member of a UN Country Team. There will be one short presentation per country, followed by a moderated interactive discussion.

Guiding questions:

- *How can areas of focus and modalities for the UN development system support shift to best respond to the varied situation of countries?*
- *How are the new generation of Common Country Analysis and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks helping in adjusting support to the respective country situations?*
- *How has the UN development system come together for a whole of system response at country level to address the impact of COVID-19 on development? How can these changes be sustained in different country situations? what are the lessons learned in terms of what must still change, including to build on synergies or address gaps?*
- *How has the UN's overall response to COVID-19 worked across development, humanitarian and peacebuilding action and how should it be improved over the year ahead?*
- *Following the UN development system repositioning, what has changed in terms of behaviours and accountabilities, including reporting lines of resident coordinators and UN Country Teams and how can those help in responding to the specific mandates of the QCPR to leave no one behind and build a greener and fairer world?*
- *What specific support has your country received from regional entities and regional offices of UN development system entities from the UN Secretariat and other entities with little to no physical footprint?*

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Minister in charge of UN/development portfolio – donor country (TBC)

Panel:

- Three countries with government, RC and UNCT member each (TBC)

Discussant:

- Minister in charge of UN/development portfolio – programme country (TBC)

Interactive Discussion

***Wednesday 19 May 2021, 10:30am – 11:00am
Change of virtual platform***

Session 4: Wednesday 19 May 2021, 11:00am -1:00pm

Dialogue with Executive Heads of the UN development system: moving from architecture to results

Objectives:

The dialogue will look back at progress on key aspects of the repositioning of the UN development system in the past year, and discuss priorities for action in the year to come for the UN development system to implement the 2020 QCPR. Executive Heads will explain how the new Strategic Plans that are currently being developed are taking into account the 2020 QCPR, a whole-of-system approach by all actors of the UN development system to deliver the support that countries need in the decade of action, and specific policies that have not been the focus of the QCPR previously, such as climate action. The Executive Heads may also address the policies being put in place to align with the Mutual Accountability Framework.

Format:

The moderator will put forward one question at a time to all Executive Heads who each will have three minutes to respond. The moderator will open the floor for questions and comments by participants at the end of each round of questions.

Guiding questions

- *What have been your progress and challenges in implementing the UN development system reform over the last year, including in the areas of results, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency ?*
- *How is your entity's strategic plan under development taking into account the 2020 QCPR in terms of policy, programming and management?*
- *What policy, rules and regulation changes have you implemented in the past year to ensure full alignment of lines of accountability and reporting with the Management and Accountability Framework? How are the governing bodies ensuring that country programmes' outcomes and outputs are derived from the Cooperation Frameworks?*
- *What concrete actions would facilitate the alignment of policy and decision-making between the individual governing bodies, ECOSOC and the General Assembly?*

Chair

- H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Moderator:

- TBC

Panellists

- Executive Heads from seven UNDS entities (TBC)

Interactive Discussion

Session 5 : Wednesday 19 May 2021, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Two years into the Funding Compact: Are we delivering on our respective commitments?

Objectives

The dialogue will take stock of where we stand with Member States' and UNSDG's commitments two years after the adoption of the Funding Compact and where the biggest push is needed to ensure commitments are fulfilled. It will also initiate a discussion on the next steps with regard to the Compact in general, and the targets to be achieved in 2021.

Format

Guiding questions:

- *Two years since the adoption of the compact, what has changed in the policies and procedures of UNDS entities to reflect the Funding Compact commitments? How has this been reflected a country level?*
- *What actions need to be strengthened on the part of the UN development system to further incentivize a shift in funding patterns and behaviours?*
- *How are countries faring on their own commitments in the funding compact? What are achievements and challenges? What actions need prioritization from development partners to support better quality funding to the UN development system? As 2021 is the year when many of the Compact's targets were supposed to be reached, which commitments need the biggest push over the next 12 to 24 months?*

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Moderator

- TBC

Presentation:

- Mr. Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Development Coordination Office (TBC)

Panellists

- Government Representatives from donor country and programme country (TBC)
- Executive Head of UNDS entity (TBC)

Interactive Discussion

Session 6: Wednesday, 19 May 2021, 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Responding to needs and priorities of countries serviced by multi-country offices

Objectives

The session will examine the operationalization of the Secretary-General's proposals to strengthen the UN development system's support to countries covered by multi-country offices (MCOs), in particular, small island developing States (SIDS). Panellists will address how the UN development system is boosting collective support to the specific needs of these countries and territories, from building stronger MCOs to delivering more and better programmatic support, including integrated policy support, strengthening of data capacities and financing for development..

Guiding questions:

- *How has the UN's collective offer shaped up and evolved to respond to the needs of countries and territories serviced by MCOs? What are the results so far? What is different today from a year ago, when ECOSOC and the General Assembly approved the recommendations to improve and strengthen MCOs?*
- *In what ways is the UN development system taking account of the special needs of small island developing States that make up the majority of MCO countries? How has the value proposition of UN development system entities changed to ensure more and better focus for SIDS?*
- *How are MCOs benefiting from a new regional architecture? How are resident coordinators, regional commissions, and UN development system entities with little or no physical footprint coming together to support governments efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway?*
- *How has the COVID-19 response impacted measures taken to strengthen MCOs? How have countries and territories benefited from the MCO review in facing the pandemic?*

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Moderator:

- TBC

Presenter:

- TBC

Panellists

- Government representatives (TBC)
- RCs or UNCT members (TBC)

Interactive Discussion

Informal Session 7 : Thursday, 20 May 2021, 9:00am-10:30am (with no interpretation)

Dialogue with resident coordinators: Addressing multidimensional poverty and leaving no one behind through a whole of system approach?

Objectives

This session in two parts will focus on some of the key changes on the ground, achieved through leveraging the full offer of the UN Development system, including for the response to COVID-19. The discussion will focus on how the UN development system can work together at national, regional and global levels and across pillars to successfully address those challenges and how it intends to adjust its ways of working to leave no one behind. The session will also address the costs of keeping gross national income per capita as the key measure of development success and as a criteria to access concessional finance.

Format:

The session will include panellists from two Middle Income Countries, one LDC and one major NGO. There will be short presentations by speakers, followed by a moderated interactive discussion.

Guiding questions:

- *How far has the UN development system come together at country level to address the impact of COVID-19 and support the eradication of poverty in all its dimensions? How can these changes be sustained and what must still change?*
- *How can the UN development system adjust its support to leave no one behind and support related policies?*
- *Following the UN development system repositioning, what has changed in terms of behaviours and accountabilities, including reporting lines of resident coordinators and UNCTs and how can those help in responding to the specific mandates of the QCPR to leave no one behind and build a greener and fairer world? What would spur further progress if included in the new strategic plans?*
- *What specific support have resident coordinators received from regional entities and regional offices of the UN development system entities? from the UN Secretariat and other entities with little to no physical footprint?*

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Presenter:

- TBC

Moderator:

- Minister in charge of UN/development portfolio from a donor country (TBC)
- Minister in charge of UN/development portfolio from a programme country (TBC)

Panel (RCs)

- Five Resident Coordinators (TBC)

Interactive Discussion

Thursday 20 May 2021, 10:30 – 11:00am
Change of virtual platform

Session 8

Thursday, 20 May 2021, 11:00am – 1:00pm

Unleashing the UN development system's regional assets: the path forward

Objectives

This session will provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the regional review on A Sustainable Regional UN following the adoption of ECOSOC resolution 2020/23 and General Assembly resolution 74/297, highlighting commonalities and region-by-region specificities. It will focus on the progress achieved under the umbrella of the Regional Collaborative Platforms (RCPs) over the first months of their existence, including the benefits of the internal collaboration platform in effectively leveraging the UN's regional assets in support of the country level, the challenges that are being encountered and how these will be addressed. It will also discuss cooperation with other regional organizations.

Format

Guiding questions

- What has changed in terms of the support provided to RCs and UNCTs by the regional UN development system? What remains a challenge, and how do you propose to address it?
- How are the regional collaboration platforms (RCPs) RCPs improving collaboration at regional level?
- How are RCP results shared with Member States and how can Member States continue to guide the priority setting and focus of the regional UN development system's response?
- How is the UN development system at regional level cooperating with other intra-regional organizations?

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Moderator:

- TBC

Keynote address:

- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group [presentation]

Panelists

- Executive Secretary, Regional Commission (TBC)
- RCP Vice Chair, UNDP Regional Director (TBC)
- Regional Director, DCO (TBC)
- Regional Director, UNDS entity (TBC)
- Executive Head, Intraregional Organization (TBC)

Interactive Discussion

Session 9 : Thursday 20 May 2021, 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Joining forces with international financial institutions during and after the crisis

Objectives

This session will address the strengthening of cooperation and partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs) to respond to COVID-19 and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This will include discussing cooperation towards the elaboration of a new global deal and a new social contract, as proposed by the UN Secretary-General. The session will also address financing for development and the elaboration Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) in particular.

Format

Following an initial presentation, the moderator will invite panellists from different entities to take the floor for three minutes each. Afterward, the moderator will open the floor for questions and comments by participants, facilitating a conversation with the presenter and panellists.

Guiding questions

- *How has cooperation between the UN development system and IFIs been functioning in the context of the COVID-19 response?*
- *What issues currently stand in the way of real and effective partnerships with international financial institutions and regional development banks in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? how could we address these issues especially in light of the new mandate of the QCPR to strengthen the mobilization of the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals from all sources {OP23}, to further explore and implement innovative funding approaches to catalyze additional resources for sustainable development, and to “develop a joint framework of collaboration with multilateral development banks to improve synergies at the regional and country levels, including specific attention to middle-income countries”?*
- *What is the role of the UN development system regarding solutions such as issuing and redistributing Special Drawing Rights, increasing fiscal space through debt relief, redirecting private finance and establishing new multilateral financing facilities and how can it cooperate with other actors?*
- *What has the experience been to date with the implementation of the Integrated National Financing Frameworks?*

Chair:

- H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC

Moderator:

- TBC

Panelists

- RC (TBC)
- IMF (TBC)
- WB (TBC)
- UNICEF practioner (TBC)
- DESA/UNDP on INFFs (TBC)

Discussants [from the floor]

- Programme country (TBC)
- Donor country (TBC)

Interactive Discussion

Session 10: Thursday 20 May 2021, 4:30pm – 5:00pm

Closing session

Closing

- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) (TBC)
- H.E. Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Chair of the Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC