

**Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods  
and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification  
and Labelling of Chemicals**

13 June 2022

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the  
Transport of Dangerous Goods**

**Sixtieth session**

Geneva, 27 June-6 July 2022

Item 14 of the provisional agenda

**Other business**

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized  
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

**Forty-second session**

Geneva, 6-8 July 2022

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Other business**

**Review of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies: Summary  
recommendations**

**Note by the secretariat**

1. The secretariat reproduces in annex I to this document draft decision E/2022/L.9 on the review of the functional commissions and expert bodies of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as adopted by the Council during its 2022 Management Segment on 8 June 2022.<sup>1</sup>
2. As indicated in the decision, [the Council] « *invites the President and Bureau of the Council, the Chairs and bureaux of the functional commissions and expert bodies of the Council, all Member States and the Secretariat to implement, to the extent possible within existing mandates and resources, the recommendations contained in the summary, and decides to review the implementation of the recommendations at its 2026 session.* ».
3. The full summary of the recommendations is reproduced in annex II to this document. Specific recommendations for consideration/follow up by the functional commissions and expert bodies can be found in annex II as follows:
  - (a) Alignment with the 2030 agenda: page 4
  - (b) Coordination issues among Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies, areas for synergies, possible duplication and gaps: page 7
  - (c) Working methods: page 8
  - (d) How ECOSOC can best use the outcomes of subsidiary bodies: page 9
4. For recommendations for consideration of Member States on how ECOSOC can best use the outcomes of subsidiary bodies refer to annex II, page 10.
5. The TDG and GHS sub-committees may wish to consider the recommendations related to items (a) to (d) above and suggest follow-up actions as appropriate. ECOSOC will review the implementation of these recommendations at its 2026 session.

<sup>1</sup> The decision will be circulated under its final symbol on the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies website (<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/content/ecosoc-subsidiary-bodies>) under “2022 review of subsidiary bodies”)

## Annex I

United Nations

E/2022/L.9



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
2 June 2022

Original: English

---

### 2022 session

23 July 2021–22 July 2022

Agenda item 13

### Implementation of General Assembly resolutions

[50/227](#), [52/12 B](#), [57/270 B](#), [60/265](#), [61/16](#), [67/290](#), [68/1](#),  
[72/305](#) and [75/290 A and B](#)

**Draft decision submitted by the Vice-President of the Council,  
Lachezara Stoeva (Bulgaria), on the basis of informal consultations**

### **Review of the functional commissions and expert bodies of the Economic and Social Council**

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the summary of the Vice-President of the Council on the review of the functional commissions and expert bodies of the Council mandated by General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#) of 25 June 2021, as contained in the letter dated 27 May 2022 from the Vice-President addressed to all Member States, invites the President and Bureau of the Council, the Chairs and bureaux of the functional commissions and expert bodies of the Council, all Member States and the Secretariat to implement, to the extent possible within existing mandates and resources, the recommendations contained in the summary, and decides to review the implementation of the recommendations at its 2026 session.

22-08370 (E) 060622



Please recycle A small recycling symbol consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.



---

**Annex II**

**Review of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies**

**Summary of recommendations by the Vice-President of the Council**

**A. Mandate for the conduct of the review**

This summary responds to the mandate in [General Assembly resolution 75/290 A](#), which seeks to identify possible actions to implement the recommendations made by the General Assembly in 2018 for enhancing the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies<sup>1</sup> and their alignment with the 2030 Agenda. These recommendations are contained in paragraphs 28 and 29 of the Annex to resolution 72/305.

According to paragraph 28, the Economic and Social Council should strengthen its oversight and coordination role of its subsidiary bodies. It should review their work with a view to ensuring their continued relevance as well as ensure that they produce technical and expert analysis, assessments and policy recommendations to inform the integrated view of the Council and inform efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. It should effectively integrate the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies into its own work.

Paragraph 29 states that the Economic and Social Council should request its subsidiary bodies to ensure that they best support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the work of the Council. Their work should reflect the need for an integrated and action-oriented approach to the Sustainable Development Goals. Their recommendations should build on a solid evidence-based review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and of the outcomes of conferences and summits in their respective area. They should work in an efficient, effective, transparent and inclusive manner.

The General Assembly, at its 75<sup>th</sup> session, considered that more efforts were needed to implement these recommendations. Accordingly, it invited “the President and Bureau of the Economic and Social Council to work with the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies and in consultation with delegations during the 2022 session of the Council, so as to identify possible actions to be

---

<sup>1</sup> The review process focused on the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies of ECOSOC which provide policy and technical advice to the Council. It did not include the Regional Commissions or the Standing Committees, Ad Hoc or other related bodies of the Council. The summary will therefore refer to the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies.

---

taken to implement the provisions of paragraphs 28 and 29 of the Annex to General Assembly resolution 72/305" (Resolution 75/290A).

The President of ECOSOC entrusted ECOSOC Vice-President, H.E. Ambassador Stoeva, to facilitate the review. The present paper highlights the recommendations that emanated from this review.

## **B. Consultation process for the review**

The review has been principally a Member States-driven process. It was based on the assessments of the bureaux of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies, which consulted their respective membership, which comprises Member States for many of these bodies (with exceptions). It also included the three rounds of informal consultations with the wider membership of the General Assembly. The deliberations during ECOSOC 2022 Coordination Segment also provided important guidance.

The process entailed several meetings of the Facilitator with the Chairs of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies and their designated Focal Points, starting in November 2021. Assessments of the work of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies were prepared by their respective bureaux in response to [questions sent by the Facilitator](#), under four clusters of issues: 1) Alignment of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs; 2) Working Methods; 3) Coordination and cooperation among subsidiary bodies; and 4). How ECOSOC can best use the outcomes of subsidiary bodies. Use was also made of the Secretariat's [mapping of the work of selected subsidiary bodies in support to the SDGs \(presented at the Coordination Segment\)](#),

The Facilitator prepared a draft Non-Paper dated 19 April 2022 based on the findings and recommendations that emanated from the bureaux' assessments. The present summary of recommendations is based on that Non-Paper, the comments and suggestions made by delegations during the three rounds of informal consultations held on 21 and 29 April 2022 and 9 May 2022, as well as the comments provided by delegations in writing.

During the review process and the intergovernmental informal consultations, there was broad agreement on the wealth and importance of the work of ECOSOC's functional commissions and expert bodies. The review was seen as the opportunity to introduce meaningful and practical improvements in the work of these bodies so as to ensure that they best support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that Member States and others can fully benefit from their expertise. The review was also seen as aiming to enhance the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the work of subsidiary bodies, and at encouraging integrated approaches as part of improving the coordination and oversight functions of the Council.

## C. Recommendations

### I. Guiding Principles

During the informal consultations, it was determined that the recommendations from the review would be guided by the following principles:

1. Respect the mandate of the review of the work of ECOSOC Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies, as outlined in General Assembly resolutions 75/290 A and 72/305;
2. Respect the existing mandates of ECOSOC Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies, their expert nature and their autonomy;
3. Respect the indivisibility, universal and interlinked nature of all SDGs, as well as the equal importance of all SDGs, while allowing specific bodies to focus on specific SDGs related to their mandates. The aim is to ensure that these bodies are taking the SDGs into account within their respective mandates.
4. Strengthen the oversight, guidance and coordination role of ECOSOC vis-à-vis its Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies;
5. Adopt a holistic approach to the work of these bodies while taking into account their diversity and avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach;
6. Give priority to actions that will increase the UN's ability to better support Member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
7. Minimize the amount of additional work that Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies will be expected to perform as a result of the review; and focus, instead, on efforts to improve coordination and alignment of their work, increase their efficiency and effectiveness, and avoid duplication;
8. Improve the sharing of learning and best practices and promote cooperation and interlinkages between these bodies as well as with ECOSOC and other UN processes, so as to maximize the benefits of the work of ECOSOC and relevant subsidiary bodies for Member States;
9. Improve and review the follow-up to the outcomes of Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies including by increasing their interaction with the UN system;
10. Be cost-neutral, allowing the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies to easily follow-up on the outcome of the review for example by reprioritizing efforts among various aspects of their work;
11. Be actionable and practical;

- 
12. Enable ECOSOC, its Functional 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 consistent with their respective mandates and working methods.

## **II. Aligning with the 2030 Agenda**

### **Recommendations for consideration /follow up by ECOSOC**

1. The Council is encouraged to give guidance to its Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies on areas of the 2030 Agenda that they could address more specifically, taking into account the indivisible and interrelated nature of the SDGs as well as the views and mandates of the respective bodies. Such recommendations will also allow ECOSOC to ensure that its bodies contribute to its work, as well as to the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and other upcoming intergovernmental meetings.

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

While respecting the indivisibility, universal and interlinked nature of all SDGs, Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies are invited, within the scope of their work, to:

1. Continue aligning their work with the 2030 Agenda, taking into account its economic, social and environmental dimensions, while delivering on their respective mandates and functions.
2. Place the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, at the heart of their work.
3. Be guided by the key principle of the 2030 Agenda, Leaving No One Behind, and the commitment to reach the furthest behind first.
4. Mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of women in their work, and dedicate special attention to targets on gender equality contained in SDG 5 and other SDGs that fall within their purview.
5. Reflect on the interlinkages of SDG 13 on climate change with the SDGs and issues within their purview and how their policy recommendations can contribute to climate action, where relevant.
6. Give adequate attention to the interlinkages between the SDGs within their purview and the other SDGs, including SDGs that are not part of their traditional focus.

7. Continue to consider financing and other Means of Implementation in their respective areas of work, building on SDG 17.
8. 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.
9. Consider the impact of long-term trends, such as demographic trends, on progress towards the SDGs within their purview.
10. 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.<sup>2</sup>
11. 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.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Recommendations for the Secretariat**

1. 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.
2. 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 subsidiary bodies. It could serve as a one-stop shop for Member States to learn about issues under consideration in subsidiary bodies and could facilitate coordination and collaboration among relevant ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies.

#### **III. Coordination issues among Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies, areas for synergies, possible duplication and gaps:**

##### **Recommendations for consideration /follow up by ECOSOC**

---

<sup>3</sup> The General Assembly, in its resolutions on the Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the 24<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly, has called upon the Commission for Social Development to continue to address inequality in all its dimensions, in the context of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The latest resolution on this matter is [A/RES/76/134](#).

1. The Council is encouraged to consider ways to promote the further strengthening of collaboration among its Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies. This could be done by:
  - a. Encouraging these bodies to work together and draw from each other's work so as to promote integrated policy approaches, including on the theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF, while respecting the respective mandate and expertise of each subsidiary body.
  - b. Monitoring the coordinated follow up of the Ministerial Declaration of ECOSOC and the HLPF by Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies at the Coordination Segment.
  - c. Further raising awareness about the work of these bodies, including notably those headquartered away from New York. The Coordination Segment and ECOSOC's review of draft resolutions proposed by them offer opportunities to do so. Dedicated meetings within the ECOSOC calendar and events on the margins of the Council's Segments and Forums may also be considered within existing resources.
  - d. The ECOSOC Bureau could hold more regular meetings with the Bureaux of Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies. These meetings should be for information sharing purposes not for decision making.
  - e. Identifying major issues to be addressed by ECOSOC's Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies, while promoting synergies and coherence, identifying gaps, and preventing duplication of work, thus allowing the "ECOSOC system" to most effectively support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
2. The Council is encouraged to fully use its Coordination Segment to provide direction and coordination to its Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies. The first edition of the new ECOSOC coordination segment in 2022 showed that this segment has great potential to provide guidance to those bodies, including on issues they should address and areas where they are encouraged to increase coordination and coherence. Preparations for the segment should be inclusive, and identify ways to best use the segment, within its mandates from General Assembly resolution 75/290A. They should also clarify the kind of guidance the segment is expected to provide. The Secretariat is invited to continue preparing the work of this segment through action-oriented analysis of the work of Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies. The President's summary of the segment should be widely disseminated for consideration by these bodies.
3. With the support of the Secretariat, ECOSOC is encouraged to consider how it could look at the draft agendas of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies in a holistic and integrated manner, rather than sequentially. This will also require informal discussions



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.

4. 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:

1. Strengthen their coordination and cooperation where appropriate.
2. 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.
3. 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 (CSTD) may be considered as the subsidiary body maximizing Member States engagement in developing policy guidance, within its mandates, while ECOSOC STI Forum is the platform to engage all stakeholders in debating, reflecting, stocktaking and providing policy directions in preparation for the work of the HLPF on this topic<sup>4</sup>. Opportunities for joint work between the UN Secretary General's Technology Envoy and CSTD may be explored]].
4. Maintain the network of focal points established for the current process of review, with a view to promoting continuing exchanges and coordination with ECOSOC and among them.

---

#### **IV. Working methods**

##### **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 methods<sup>5</sup>. Those bodies are invited to:

1. 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.
2. Enhance coordination and exchanges among themselves while bringing to the table their own expertise, to support the elaboration of integrated policy approaches.
3. 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-standing practices. Proposals to increase youth engagement in UN intergovernmental bodies will be considered as part of the follow-up to the Secretary-General's report on Our Common Agenda. Several bodies already do so and the others could be encouraged to do so, where possible.
4. Dedicate an agenda item to the theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF and to the interrelations with their own priority theme, where applicable, and the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.
5. Continue to adopt consensus-based approaches.

#### **V. How ECOSOC can best use the outcomes of subsidiary bodies**

##### **Recommendations for consideration /follow up by ECOSOC**

The Council is encouraged to:

1. Incorporate the outcome of the work of its Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies in its own work in a more effective way, in order to benefit fully from their expertise. The ECOSOC President could consider inviting more systematically the Chairs of these bodies

---

<sup>5</sup> The Statistical Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women have recently reviewed their working methods. They can build upon the recommendations of this - present review, within the framework of the outcome of their own review.

to participate in round table discussions during the ECOSOC session, as done in 2022, bearing in mind the need for bureaux to reflect the views of the whole membership. The 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.

2. 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.
3. 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 quantitative terms. Efforts should also be made to disseminate their work to a wider audience.
4. As mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 75/290A, Member States are encouraged to fully engage in the management segments of the Council to integrate the key messages from the Functional Commissions and Experts Bodies and the United Nations system on the main theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF and develop action-oriented recommendations for follow-up and for feeding into the high-level political forum on sustainable development (GA resolution 75/290 A para 28).

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

Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies are invited to:

1. Provide shorter and more accessible and actionable recommendations for the consideration of ECOSOC.
2. More systematically invite countries conducting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the HLPF to participate in their session and engage in a dialogue on the implementation of the SDGs most closely related to their work. This would help to maximize peer learning on policy experiences emanating from the VNRs.

### **Recommendations for consideration of Member States**

---

Member States are encouraged to:

1. engage meaningfully in meetings of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies. It is important that the policy and normative outcomes of the work of Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies are utilized more effectively by Member States in the development of national policies. It is also important to retain the technical nature of the work of each Functional Commission and Expert Body by ensuring the participation of relevant decision-makers and experts in the area within its mandate, while recognizing that it is up to each Member State to identify its representatives.

---

## ANNEX 1

### Summary of the assessments of the work of subsidiary bodies by their respective bureaux

The assessments received by the Bureaux of the functional commissions and expert bodies in response to the [questions sent by the Facilitator and Vice-President of the Council](#) are summarized in the points below.

#### I. Alignment of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

1. The assessments by the bureaux of functional commissions and expert bodies confirm the diversity and richness of the work of ECOSOC subsidiary machinery. Bureaux estimate that all subsidiary bodies work towards the 2030 Agenda while performing their mandated activities such as ensuring follow-up and review of specific conferences and summits entrusted to them<sup>6</sup>.

The bureaux confirm that the work of subsidiary bodies is overall supported by and/or produces expert analysis and evidence-based reviews of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the outcomes of conferences and summits within their respective mandates. This work is taking into consideration interlinkages among SDGs and sectoral areas. These bodies have also been working to support the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic within their respective areas.<sup>7</sup>

2. Some subsidiary bodies' bureaux emphasize the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into their work.
3. There was a concern about the decreased role of the Commission on Population and Development in assessing the contribution of international migration to sustainable development since the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the creation of the UN Network on Migration to support its implementation.
4. The subsidiary bodies work to achieve expert agreed outcomes during their session through general or expert discussions at ministerial round tables, interactive dialogues and interactive expert panels, intersessional meetings or thematic sessions.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> This is also reflected in the [mapping](#) of the work of subsidiary bodies in support of the SDGs.

<sup>7</sup> This is highlighted in the [informal note](#) prepared by the Secretariat for the 2022 Coordination Segment.

<sup>8</sup> A detailed account is given in the original assessments sent by the Bureaux.

5. The functional commissions and expert bodies also provide inputs<sup>9</sup> 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 “Synthesis of voluntary submissions by functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums”. A few subsidiary bodies are increasingly engaging in supporting the HLPF voluntary national reviews (such as the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee for Development Policy or the Committee of Experts on Public Administration). The Commission on the Status of Women also has a practice whereby countries are nominated through their regional groups to make voluntary national presentation on the implementation of the Beijing Conference and other agreements on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

## II. Working Methods

### Expert and evidence-based nature of the work and outcomes of subsidiary bodies

5. The expert and evidence-based nature of subsidiary bodies’ work is ensured first through the preparation of their sessions. In some cases, preparations include intersessional meetings, preparatory expert group meetings and special events, all of which produce expert analyses.<sup>10</sup> Such expert analyses and evidence-based reviews are reflected in reports of the Secretary-General and other official or informal documents for the session.
6. Those preparations and documents in turn support the elaboration of subsidiary bodies’ outcomes at their session (see para 4 above).
7. Outcomes include resolutions providing policy recommendations to enable the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and further mandates under the purview of these bodies. Some of these mandates stem from outcomes of UN conferences, internationally agreed conventions or protocols that are mandated to be followed up by subsidiary bodies of the Council<sup>11</sup>. Other outcomes, notably for expert bodies, include manuals, guidance

---

<sup>9</sup> These inputs are also available on the [HLPF website](#).

<sup>10</sup> A detailed account is given in the original assessments sent by the Bureaux.

<sup>11</sup> The 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (Commission on Social Development); the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Commission on Population and Development); the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Commission on the Status of Women); the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Commission on Narcotic Drugs); the 2003 Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, and the 2005 Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, of the World Summit on the Information Society (Commission on Science and Technology for Development); the 2017 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (United Nations Forum on Forests); the 1967 United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (United Nations Group

notes, model regulations, international legal instruments and codes, normative frameworks, principles and methods, which benefit from the knowledge of the expert members of these bodies and are endorsed by the Council.

### **Best practices in the working methods of subsidiary bodies**

8. In terms of best practices, some subsidiary bodies' bureaux highlight the importance of regular engagement of the bureau with Member States, for example through regular briefings in between or during sessions. Many stress the importance of having inclusive practices. Several examples are shared on the latter, with bureaux stressing the need to ensure that a diversity of views, from all relevant stakeholders, is presented in the deliberations and related preparatory processes and documentation. The significance of involving civil society organizations, youth and academia is underscored. The importance of collaborating with other partners, such as other international, regional and subregional organizations, other key international players, research agencies and the private sector, is also emphasized.
9. Some subsidiary bodies emphasize their consensus-based approach. Others further underscore open and transparent processes to review their working methods and/or terms of reference.
10. Subsidiary bodies' bureaux often stress the effectiveness of having sub-groups or working groups to address specific aspects of their work. Those allow members to use their particular expertise.
11. Bureaux also stress the usefulness of having an agenda item to address the main theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF, which appears to be another shared practice. Given the difference in the timing and periodicity of the adoption of the main theme of the Council and the HLPF and that of the subsidiary bodies, some also highlight that the theme is considered under an item on "emerging issue" which allows them to address it.
12. Many subsidiary bodies' bureaux explain how they have adjusted to the impact of COVID-19 on their working methods, especially through the use of information and communication technology.
13. Some subsidiary bodies' bureaux note with concern that the allocated Regular Budget resources have not grown commensurate with the increased number of mandates. They

---

of Experts on Geographical Names); the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Pacific and for the Americas (United Nation Committee of Experts on Geospatial Information Management); the 1980 United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries (Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters); the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

---

mention that it would be important to draw the attention of Member States to the possible consequences for the implementation of mandates arising from this situation. Fostering an interactive discussion between Member States and relevant UN staff members was seen useful to assess achievements and challenges in the implementation of the mandates entrusted to the Secretariat.

### III. Coordination and cooperation among subsidiary bodies

14. Overall, there is a significant interest from the part of the functional commissions and expert bodies in increasing cooperation among them and getting to know more about each other's work. Some bodies have long-standing collaboration, usually due to their closely related areas of work and expertise. This is the case with, for example, the Statistical Commission and the Groups on Geographical Information (UN-GGIM), and Geographical Names (UNGEGN), as well as with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), to name a few.
15. Some however recognize that collaboration between subsidiary bodies could be strengthened, and many agree that regular consultations with and among Chairs of subsidiary bodies remain important. The participation of Chairs and other members of one subsidiary body in the sessions of other subsidiary bodies is often highlighted as one way to explore opportunities for joint work.
16. Some bureaux also stress the importance of engaging relevant UN agencies in subsidiary bodies' sessions and in the related preparatory process, including in the preparation of Secretary-General reports and other documentation. Participation of the Chairs of functional commissions in meetings of UN entities' governing bodies, such as the Executive Boards of Funds and Programmes, is also suggested.
17. Another proposal is the organization of joint side events by bureaux of several subsidiary bodies at the margins of the HLPF and on other occasions.
18. The Bureaux identified an integral role for ECOSOC to play in promoting collaboration among its subsidiary bodies, particularly by serving:
  - i. As a "matchmaker", by fostering cooperation between different subsidiary bodies, thus addressing interlinkages.
  - ii. As an amplifier, by ensuring implementation of recommendations of some subsidiary bodies which call for mainstreaming the consideration of an issue -- or looking at an issue from multiple angles in various subsidiary bodies, in a cross-cutting manner throughout ECOSOC subsidiary machinery. One example is [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 and methodologies, so that they inform policy making and capacity building by the UN system and other actors, where applicable.
  - iii. Monitoring more effectively the follow-up to the outcomes of the subsidiary bodies.
  - iv. Inviting Chairs of subsidiary bodies as panelists in ECOSOC segments and meetings and in the HLPF (as was done in the 2022 Coordination Segment and during some special meetings of ECOSOC in 2022).
  - v. Supporting the subsidiary bodies in further strengthening their contribution to the Coordination Segment.
  - vi. Providing further opportunities to raise awareness and disseminate the work of the subsidiary bodies, including those headquartered away from New York.
  - vii. Organizing one pilot cross-sectorial meetings on a specific theme during the 2023 session of the Council, with participation of the entire membership and featuring relevant subsidiary bodies.

viii. Holding more regular meetings between the ECOSOC Bureau and subsidiary bodies' Chairs, to institutionalize substantive exchanges and promote integrated approaches in the deliberations of the Council.

20. Bureaux of functional commissions and expert bodies also hope that the adoption of the main theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF by the General Assembly can be done with sufficient lead time to allow subsidiary bodies to contribute to the work of ECOSOC. They would also like information on ECOSOC and ECOSOC-related meetings to be circulated well ahead of time, to ensure meaningful input from the subsidiary bodies, particularly those bodies headquartered away from New York.

\* \* \*