

**First informal consultations on the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

**Wednesday, 27 March 2024, 3:00 pm, Conference Room 4**

**Remarks by H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez  
President of the Economic and Social Council**

Distinguished Co-Facilitators, Ambassador Blanco and Ambassador Brattested, Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to address you at this first informal consultation on the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

My sincere thanks to Ambassador Blanco and Ambassador Brattested for kindly agreeing to co-facilitate this important process.

Excellencies,

As we convene today, our world stands at a crossroads, grappling with intersecting and prolonged crises that demand urgent, concerted action. The resounding message from the 2023 SDG Summit reverberates loudly: our collective efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals are falling short. To navigate this stark reality, a dramatic course correction is called for. That will require bold and transformative policies, backed with the necessary means of implementation.

The SDG Summit reaffirmed the 2030 Agenda as the roadmap for achieving sustainable development and overcoming the multiple crises we face. In the Political Declaration, world leaders committed to far-reaching changes to accelerate implementation. They laid out a clear and compelling "to-do" list to achieve the SDGs by the year 2030, compelling us to rigorously follow up on the commitments made.

ECOSOC, through its various segments and forums, is tasked with translating the commitments of the SDG Summit into policy guidance and concrete actions.

The forthcoming 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development marks the first gathering of the forum after the SDG Summit. During this pivotal session, the HLPF will carry out an in-depth review of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17, as well as their interlinkages. These SDGs could not be more critical as they address critical matters

such as poverty eradication; food security and hunger; climate action; peace, justice and strong institutions; and partnerships and means of implementation. All of these are of paramount importance in our collective pursuit of sustainable development.

With 38 countries lined up to present voluntary national reviews, the HLPF will be enriched with first-hand insights into the realities and experiences at the national level. These reviews serve as invaluable platforms for showcasing best practices, lessons learned, and challenges overcome.

Excellencies,

The ministerial declaration of the HLPF and the ECOSOC high-level segment is a key opportunity for Member States to provide the policy guidance needed. Building upon the foundation laid by the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit, the Ministerial Declaration can serve to continue our shared resolve, offer in-depth assessments, and put forward policy options and recommendations for actions that can be operationalized.

Let us use the Ministerial Declaration to follow up on the commitments of the SDG Summit and establish a link to the forthcoming Summit of the Future. We all share the desire for a concise, focused and action-oriented declaration.

Under the able leadership of the co-facilitators, and with the unwavering support and cooperation of all delegations, we can achieve a forward-looking Ministerial Declaration that builds upon consensus and charts a course toward sustainable development.

In confronting the formidable challenges that lie ahead, let us reaffirm our unwavering commitment to delivering on the promise of leaving no one behind. I am confident that through your constructive engagement, we will rise to the occasion and pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable future. You can rely on my steadfast support, and I eagerly anticipate our collective endeavors.

Thank you.