

FOCUS**The intersection of development and peace**

ECOSOC has a unique role in addressing the link between peace and development. That role was recognized in the Charter in Article 65 which defines the way in which ECOSOC can interact with the Security Council. The Article states that the Economic and Social Council may furnish information to the Security Council and shall assist the Security Council upon its request¹. This article was only referenced on two occasions when the Security Council invited ECOSOC to assist regarding the situation in Korea and the second in 1973 with respect to Zambia.¹

Beginning in the late 1990s, there was a robust period of interaction between the two Councils based on the understanding that coordinated and integrated approaches were required to support countries in or emerging from conflict. A number of innovations has emerged from ECOSOC's consideration of countries affected by crisis and conflict. The first was the creation of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti in 1999, which was in response to the request by the Security Council to advise on a long-term programme of support for Haiti and on whether international assistance was adequate, coherent, coordinated and effective. This was followed by the creation of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries emerging from conflict which had two case studies in Guinea-Bissau and Burundi. Like the Group on Haiti, the work done on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi focused on addressing structural factors such as deep poverty, lack of access to basic services and the challenges around governance and the rule of law. These two countries are now considered by the Peacebuilding Commission. ECOSOC has more recently added South Sudan (2011) and the Sahel (2020).

The Council's work in support of the 2030 Agenda, including its Forums and Segments (in particular the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, the Youth Forum) in addition to the work done on inclusion and equality foremost by the Commission on Social development but also the work of many of its subsidiary bodies on poverty, drugs, crime, institution building, among others, are geared towards addressing many of the structural factors that fan the flame of grievances among those left behind. Sustaining peace is critical for achieving all the sustainable development goals. The entire [2030 Agenda](#) gives us a unique opportunity to address the root causes of conflicts and reversals into conflict. A stronger peace and development nexus, therefore, is essential for

¹ Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs, 1945-1954 (Vol.3); Supplement No.5 (1970-1978) Vol.3

achieving the [SDGs](#). The Council's engagement with the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission will contribute to a comprehensive approach to peace and development.

IN BRIEF

The Economic and Social Council in the 2020 – 2021 cycle



On November 2, the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Collen V. Kelapile, [presented](#) the Report of the Economic and Social Council for its 2020-2021 cycle on behalf of his predecessor, H.E. Munir Akram. The report highlighted that the work of the High Level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC and the 42 countries that made voluntary national presentations (VNRs). In the 2020-2021 cycle, ECOSOC was also at the forefront of fighting for equitable and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines to ensure that no one is left behind with

special meetings on Covid-19 and on racism. During the Operational Activities for the Development Segment, member states reviewed the progress in launching the implementation of the 2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review. The Humanitarian Affairs Segment addressed climate change, inequalities, or increasing disease risk while the integration segment, provided direction to the normative and policy work of the UN system and its subsidiary bodies. Also of note was the 10th Youth Forum with over 19.000 young people participating. The President of the 2021 – 2022 cycle of the ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, also noted the process for the strengthening of ECOSOC and the HLPF and urged Member States to envision “a forward-looking Economic and Social Council [which] should be the leading global forum where global economic, social and environmental challenges are discussed and debated.”

Cooperation with the Security Council

On November 16, the President of ECOSOC participated in an open meeting of the Security Council on “Peace and Security through Preventive Diplomacy: A Common Objective to all UN Principal Organs”. Collaboration among UN Charter-based Principal Organs is essential in order to achieve security, long-lasting peace, and sustainable development. While the Security Council is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security, especially conflict prevention can be seen as a broader task which involves all Principal Organs, including the Economic and Social Council.



The main briefers included the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the President of ECOSOC and the President of the International Court of Justice. The President of the Council, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, [highlighted](#) the commitment of ECOSOC to work together with the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission in order to address the root causes of conflict. The subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC can provide a helping hand by concentrating on inequalities, crime prevention and the inclusion of youth and indigenous communities. Moreover, he emphasized that “ECOSOC’s oversight and coordination of the UN Development System, including in conflict settings, and its work on humanitarian action and coordination are also highly relevant to the maintenance of peace and security”. The President offered concrete and practical proposals to enhance the collaboration with the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission to further the goal of conflict prevention and resolution.

ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission

The annual joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) took place on the 15 December 2021 under the co-chairmanship of the President of the Council, H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile and the Chairman of the Commission, H.E. Mr. Osama Abdelkhalek.



The annual meeting provided the opportunity to update on the impact and responses to COVID-19 in countries recovering from conflicts and emergencies and to reiterate the call of the two intergovernmental bodies for global solidarity in boosting support for conflict-sensitive socio-economic recovery. It also offered an opportunity to identify

approaches, experiences, and innovative solutions that could help mitigate the immediate and long-term impact of the pandemic. The President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, **stressed** that “Conflict-affected countries are where the success of the SDGs will be determined. We need to reach the furthest behind first”. In order to do this, the partnership of the PBC and ECOSOC must be strong and focused on delivering integrated and durable solutions to establish sustainable peace.

The International Narcotics Control Board

From the 2nd to 19th November, the INCB held its 132nd Session in Vienna, with Members meeting in person for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is the independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the United Nations international drug control conventions. It was established in 1968 in accordance with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961. The thirteen members of the Board are elected in a personal capacity by the ECOSOC for terms of five years.



The Board continued its review of the world drug control situation and continued the monitoring of the functioning of the international drug control system while ensuring the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical, scientific and industrial purposes, including in humanitarian and other emergency situations. The ECOSOC President, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, participated in the Session and **stressed** the challenges regarding drug trafficking and non-medical drug use which is often followed by devastating consequences. He also pointed out that while there is a lack of data from many states, it is clear that “African countries are becoming key conduits for drugs. Their effort to control this scourge is undermined by governance deficits and conflicts”. For this, it is necessary to find creative solutions and work together with other technical bodies of ECOSOC.

Conference of NGOs with Consultative Relations with the United Nations



CoNGO • Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations • Conférence des ONG ayant des Relations Consultatives avec les Nations Unies • مؤتمر المنظمات غير الحكومية ذات العلاقة الاستشارية مع الأمم المتحدة • Конференция неправительственных организаций, имеющих консультативный статус при Организации Объединенных Наций • Conferencia de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales en Relación Consultiva con las Naciones Unidas • 与联合国关系的非政府组织会议



27th General Assembly of CoNGO

November 29, 30 and Dec. 1, 2021

Hybrid | New York City | Virtual

“Shaping the Future:
The UN We Need for the World We Want”

The Annual General Assembly of the Conference of NGOs with Consultative Relations with the United Nations (CoNGO) met on November 29 to review the activities of the Conference since its previous session. It receives reports from its officers, Regional Committee(s) and Committees on Substantive Issues (otherwise known as NGO Committees). Grassroots, national, regional and international diplomatic processes have benefited from their expert advice and policy recommendation on a wide range of issues. Today, over 6000 NGOs have consultative status with ECOSOC and participate in its regular sessions and in work of its Functional Commissions and other subsidiary bodies. The President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, participated in the General Assembly, **highlighting** the importance of NGOs in mobilizing public action for an inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He also encouraged them to be innovative and forward-looking, with a view to support the design of more transformative policies”.

Strengthening Partnerships

ECOSOC works closely with the UN system to accelerate action for the Agenda 2030 through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity. Partnerships for sustainable development are multi-stakeholder initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups and other stakeholders, which efforts are contributing to the implementation of inter-governmentally agreed development goals and commitments.



In preparation for the 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, which will be held on February 2nd, a Multistakeholder Advisory Group was created to advise the President and the ECOSOC Bureau on its preparation. On 15 December 2021, an expert group meeting of the Group was held with over 20 experts and leaders represented various sectors and brought views and expectations of the Forum into the advisory group. In his opening remarks, the Council’s President, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, **emphasized** the need for innovative strategies that consider the interlinked nature of the SDGs and ways to support an enabling environment for partnerships at all levels to strengthen interlinkages among Goals and increase benefits in several areas. He expressed the hope that the Partnership Forum would share good practices and promote new initiatives that deliver on the ambition, breath and complexity of the SDGs.

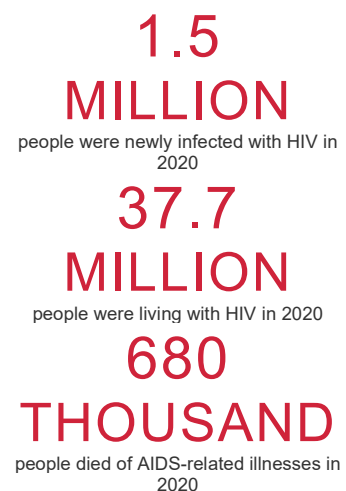
World AIDS Day



Every year, on 1 December, the world commemorates World AIDS Day. People around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS. In order to provide global leadership and strengthen capacities to develop

HIV/AIDS strategies, UNAIDS is playing an active role in mobilizing political commitment and social action to prevent and respond to HIV/AIDS. This World AIDS Day, UNAIDS is highlighting the urgent need to end the inequalities that drive AIDS and other pandemics around the world.

On November 30, the General Assembly held an informal plenary meeting to mark World AIDS Day. The situation is difficult: while some countries make remarkable progress in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic, others are off-track, and their gains are being



reversed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the speakers at the event was the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile. He **reiterated** the importance “of a coordinated global response, based on solidarity and international cooperation, and of a multisectoral approach that brings together all relevant stakeholders, the critical role of local and community-based action, and the tracking of progress against concrete targets and commitments” in order to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic. UNAIDS was established by ECOSOC in 1994.

World Soil Day



The World Soil Day (WSD) is held annually on 5 December which was established by the General Assembly in 2014 with the support of the FAO. To celebrate this year's WSD, a virtual meeting took place on December 7. World Soil Day 2021 (#WorldSoilDay) and its campaign "Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity" aimed to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the growing challenges in soil

management, fighting soil salinization, increasing soil awareness and encouraging societies to improve soil health. The ECOSOC President, H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, **called** for sustainable soil management practices, integrated policies and the use of farming systems adapted to saline/sodic environments. Moreover, he pointed out the cross-cutting character of the topic and emphasized that “soil salinization also hinders climate action, environmental sustainability, biodiversity and progress towards other related SDGs”.

Climate Action

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing our world. It is an existential threat for the planet and for people, and future generations. It severely impacting people's lives and livelihoods in all countries, in small island developing states and other developing countries. The serious impact of climate change on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda has been consistently recognized by the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).



On December 14, the President of ECOSOC convened a briefing of the Council to provide an overview of the key takeaways from the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) that took place from 31 October to 13 November in Glasgow under the UK Presidency. The briefing also provided an opportunity to reflect on how the HLPF, ECOSOC and its functional commissions and expert bodies and the UN system contribute to climate action and will support the follow-up to Glasgow. The Executive Director of UNFCCC, the UNDP Administrator, the Executive Director of UNEP, and the Executive Secretary of ESCWA as coordinator of the regional commissions shared their perspectives alongside the Chairs of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Committee for Development Policy, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters., The President of ECOSOC, H.E. Collen V. Kelapile, **underscored** the importance of SDG13 on Climate Action and the 2030 Agenda in the implementation of the Paris Agreements and encouraged stakeholders to increase the ambition for COP27 to ensure that no one is left behind.

#ClimateAction



The ECOSOC news letter is produced by the [Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development](#) in the [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#).