



Economic and Social Council -75 years

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APD

Economic Empowerment



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What is ECOSOC?

- Set up by UN Charter in 1945 to advance the 3 dimensions of sustainable development: – economic, social and environmental
- Central platform for fostering debate, innovative thinking and forging consensus
- Responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits

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Set up by UN Charter in 1945

It is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development:

- economic,
- social and
- environmental.

It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.

It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.



Members

54 Member states

- 14 African states
- 11 Asian states
- 6 Eastern European states
- 10 Latin American and Caribbean states
- 13 Western European and other states



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The Council's 54 member Governments are elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year term.

Seats on the Council are allocated based on geographical representation with fourteen allocated to African States, eleven to Asian States, six to Eastern European States, ten to Latin American and Caribbean States, and thirteen to Western European and other States.



What does ECOSOC do?

- Coordinates the work of 14 UN agencies, 10 functional commissions, 5 regional commissions
- Receives reports from 9 UN funds
- A leading role in identifying emerging challenges & promoting innovation
- Issues policy recommendations to the UN system and Member States
- ECOSOC is a gateway for UN partnership and participation by the rest of the world
- Provides system-wide thinking that could promote greater synergy and coordination
- High Level Political Forum – follow up and review of 2030 Agenda for the SDGs

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ECOSOC coordinates and links a diverse family of UN entities dedicated to sustainable development, providing overall guidance and coordination.

These bodies work around the world to translate development commitments into **real changes in people's lives.**

ECOSOC has leading role in identifying emerging challenges, promoting innovation, and achieving a balanced integration between economic, social and environmental areas

ECOSOC has a worldwide reach, it is a gateway for UN partnership and participation by the rest of the world. It offers a unique global meeting point for dialogue among policymakers, parliamentarians, academics and 3,200+ registered non-governmental organizations.

Achievements



- Creation of the High-level Political Forum
 - Addressing the diversity of the world's sustainable development challenges
 - Engaging financial and trade institutions
 - Advancing the humanitarian policy agenda
 - Putting women at the heart of development efforts - CSW
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- The HLPF created by ECOSOC meets on an annual basis to provide political guidance on implementation and follow up on progress of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development
 - Through its work, ECOSOC is addressing the diversity of the world's sustainable development challenges
 - Engaging financial and trade institutions – essential if we are to make changes possible
 - The Council's Humanitarian Section has been addressing challenges like coordinating the UN response to natural and man-made disasters.
 - The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was one of the first functional commissions created within ECOSOC.
- Under the leadership of an all-female bureau, CSW has played a significant role within the UN intergovernmental system for drawing attention to women's rights. The work of CSW has resulted in a number of important declarations and conventions that protect and promote the human rights of women, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW (1979).



What does it mean for us?

- A recommitment to gender equality and women's empowerment
- Promoting the centrality of women and girls in efforts to achieve SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 17 (partnership for the Goals)
- SI has General Consultative Status with ECOSCO since 1984

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At the HLPF in July The ECOSCO President underscored continued challenges for women, including discrimination in access to financial services and land ownership. She called for a recommitment to gender equality and women's empowerment.

ECOSOC Vice President Mona Juul emphasized the centrality of women and girls in efforts to achieve SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 17 (partnership).

ECOSOC is responsible for promoting higher standards of living, full employment, economic and social progress; identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems; facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation; and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and so do Soroptimists

Soroptimist International (SI) and SIGBI both have consultative status at the Council, which gives us a voice on important discussion papers, and allows us to attend the Commission on the Status of Women in New York each March, and contribute to the "Agreed Conclusions".



Looking forward

We can realize the Sustainable Development Goals
by 2030

“if we all stay together and step up our actions”.

Inga Rhonda King, President ESOSOC

July 2019

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents an evolution in international cooperation since the organization was established after World War II. The new Agenda also represents an accumulation and advancement of knowledge and experience from the late 1940s through to today.

The implementation of the new Agenda requires a universal response. All countries will need to monitor and report on progress. ECOSOC is likely to be called upon by Member States to facilitate implementation at the global, regional and country levels.

ECOSOC's work in support of the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda will be broad and will involve the whole ECOSOC system which includes Soroptimists.



Thank you

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