



**FACILITATING MULTILATERAL
ACTIONS, COMMITMENTS AND
DECISIONS THAT PROMOTE HUMAN
DIGNITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL,
WHILE PROTECTING THE PLANET**

Eradicating poverty and hunger for an inclusive and resilient recovery

UN DESA's evidence-based analysis of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular on the poorest and most vulnerable, supported the 59th session of the Commission for Social Development to adopt a policy outcome focused on enabling an inclusive and resilient recovery to eradicate poverty and hunger to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In addition to compiling effective national policies and measures implemented to combat hunger and poverty during the pandemic, UN DESA facilitated mutual learning among Member States and various stakeholders during the Commission session to promote integrated long-term social policy frameworks that simultaneously address multiple causes of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, combat inequalities, and enhance the capabilities, resilience, and well-being of all people over their life cycle. The Department further guided numerous multistakeholder discussions aimed at reducing food insecurity through support for and protection of small-scale producers and family farmers, and the elimination of digital barriers.



Integrating population and development considerations in building back from the pandemic

UN DESA supported the Commission on Population and Development in its negotiation of a consensual resolution on population and sustainable development, in particular, sustained and inclusive economic growth. The resolution highlights the setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in poverty eradication, access to education, and gender equality and women's empowerment. Member States agreed on action-oriented paths to integrate population and development considerations in building back from the pandemic and accelerating implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda. Focus areas highlighted in the resolution include:

- the disproportionate amount of time spent by women in unpaid work, limiting their economic empowerment and independence;
- the role of inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels and lifelong learning for achieving sustainable development;



impact of population ageing on labour and financial markets, fiscal systems, education, housing, health, long-term care and social protection; the need to address digital divides within and among countries and regions; the need to invest in measures to empower women, girls and youth in order to realize and capitalize on the demographic dividend; the recognition that sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are central to the realization of social justice and achievement of sustainable development; and the contribution of sustainable consumption and production practices to achieving economic development, reducing environmental impacts and advancing human well-being.

Advancing global consensus on financing response and recovery

The 2022 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FfD) took place amid interconnected crises caused by COVID-19, conflict and climate. The forum succeeded in adopting an outcome document calling for urgent solutions to scale up financing for development. The agreement proved the unique strength of the United Nations in finding solutions at times of growing polarization.

The 2022 FfD Forum featured high-level political engagement including eight Heads of State. The discussion focused on key challenges, including the need to reform the international financial

architecture. Within the outcome there is an agreement to consider multidimensional vulnerability as a criterion for both concessional finance and debt relief eligibility, using a UN-developed index geared to capture the unique challenges faced by small island developing States. Member States also called for expanded debt relief and enhancements to the G20 Common Framework. They also committed to expand investment in social protection floors as a percentage of national budgets. To follow-up on the outcome document, UN DESA will advance policy dialogue and analysis in these areas in collaboration with the UN system and bring the policy recommendations to other important fora, such as the G20.



Unleashing the power of natural resources for the 2030 Agenda

Sustainable management of natural resources, which plays a critical role in the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, was the focus of the ECOSOC Special Meeting on Natural Resources in March 2022. The issue of natural resources cuts across the pillars of the work of the United Nations and collaboration on sustainable management of natural resources among the intergovernmental bodies can foster economic and social development and promote peace by preventing the use of natural resources as a cause of conflict. Given the complexities involved, sustainable management of natural resources requires a whole-of-society approach. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, including its tripartite arrangement, has been instrumental in reducing the trade of illicit diamonds and promoting legitimate rough diamond trade. Its principles and objectives could inform an inclusive and sustainable approach to transform extractive industries. Furthermore, sustainable management of natural resources should also entail the promotion of value addition, which would be instrumental for addressing inequalities within and between countries.

High Level Dialogue on Energy

On Friday, 24 September, the Secretary-General convened the High-level Dialogue on Energy in a virtual format. Under the leadership of USG Liu as Dialogue Secretary-General, DESA/DSDG functioned as Secretariat of the Dialogue. As the first global summit-level meeting on energy under the auspices of the UN General Assembly in 40 years, the Dialogue was a historic opportunity to catalyse bold action to ensure access to clean and affordable energy services for all by 2030, while accelerating the energy transition towards net-zero emissions by 2050. Over 100 Member States, including 30 Heads of State and Government, participated in this event, which was followed by almost 1500 viewers worldwide. Over 150 Energy Compacts with voluntary commitments by governments, private sector and civil society were announced. Together these commitments sum-up to more than US\$400 billion in new finance and investment towards SDG7 and net-zero emission. The Dialogue will be summarized in a Global Roadmap towards the Achievement of SDG7 and Net-Zero Emissions.

2022 United Nations Ocean Conference

Supported by DSDG, the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference took place in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 June to 1 July 2022, where more than 150 countries collectively agreed to scale up science-based and innovative actions to address the ocean emergency. The centrality of a safe, healthy and productive ocean to food security, livelihoods and a safe planet was highlighted. More than 6,000 participants, including 24 Heads of State and Government and over 2000 representatives of civil society attended the Conference, where fresh, bold and innovative solutions to ignite transformational change were presented. In addition to the plenary sessions, there were eight Interactive Dialogues, which deep-dived into salient areas such as addressing marine pollution, minimizing and addressing ocean acidification, deoxygenation and ocean warming and promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. There were also four Special Events and more than 250 side events. These Special events focused on youth-led innovation, the sustainable blue economy, fresh- and saltwater interlinkages, and ocean action

at the local and regional level. Amongst the outputs of the conference, countries agreed on an action plan that calls for a collective global response to addressing the ocean's degradation. The final draft of the Political Declaration was adopted at the closing plenary, which set out specific science-based and innovative actions, taking into account the capacity challenges of developing countries, in particular Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. There was also an SDG Media Zone hosted by the United Nations in collaboration with the PVBLIC Foundation and media partners, which brought together UN principals, influencers and industry leaders to talk about innovative solutions and initiatives that address the global challenges facing the Ocean and advanced discussions out of the policy sphere and into the public discourse through a live format of interviews and panel discussions.

