

## Joint briefing of the Presidents of the GA and ECOSOC (INF-2)

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 1 attachments (119 KB)

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Dear ESs,

The Presidents of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council held a joint briefing on 27 January to underscore the commitment of both the GA and ECOSOC to ensure coherence, address overlapping mandates, and improve the efficiency, content and quality of the work of the UN system.

The PGA (full statement available [here](#)) said that such a coordinated approach is needed now more than ever, with recovery from COVID-19 looming before us and with urgent action needed to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda. He recalled the appointment of Austria and Senegal as co-facilitators for the HLPF and ECOSOC Review and said that the first four-year cycle of the sustainable development agenda had provided ample opportunities to examine what has worked well and to ensure that the relevance of this critical platform is maintained. On QCPR and UNDS reform, he said that providing targeted and comprehensive UN system support to MSs is crucial to achieving the SDGs and recovering better from COVID-19 and commended MSs on adoption QCPR resolution. He also spoke of the special attention he will pay to LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and of the creation of an Advisory Board on LDCs. He stressed the need to address recurring gaps in financing for development and link that to pandemic recovery efforts and in this context he urged to consider debt forgiveness, not just debt rescheduling. On COVID-19, he urged all MSs to support the COVAX facility and multilateral efforts to ensure access to vaccines for all.

The President of ECOSOC (full statement available [here](#)) said that with the QCPR resolution, the GA had renewed the focus on the role of the UN in ensuring that no one is left behind and said that ECOSOC OAS will convene dialogues with the UN Systems executives, regional actors, and country-level representatives to ensure that it is on track to respond to the visions and recommendations of the QCPR. He said that ECOSOC will focus on addressing racism and inequality, on leaving no one behind in the pandemic response and in achieving the SDG – among others through the special meeting on “Reimagining Equality-Eliminating Racism, Xenophobia, and Discrimination for all”. He also said that the ECOSOC Forum on Science and Technology in May will address ways to mobilize technologies and efforts from all stakeholders to recover better from the pandemic. He also informed that he is working with the PGA to prepare a joint thematic event in June on accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs so as to leave no one behind in the context of COVID-19, will specific proposals expected in support of LDCs. Finally, he informed that the FfD Forum (12-15 April) will include a special HL segment to discuss inclusive and resilient recovery from the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Netherlands and Fiji have been appointed as Co-Facilitators of the outcome documents of the FfD Forum.

During their interventions, MSs reiterated their commitment to multilateralism and to the ECOSOC and HLPF review process; stressed the need to focus on ensuring access to the vaccine for all and to focus on financing for development that has become even more critical in light of the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. On the latter, the G77&China called for stronger international cooperation to increase long term public and private investments, promote public/private partnerships and combat IFFs. MSs also called for increased focus on climate actions, including climate finance, as well as the special challenges faced by LDCs and SIDS. They also called for more attention to and harmonization of the science and technology work of the Organization.

For more details, please see the attached RCNYO report.

With regards,

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