ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Working methods and procedures
Reference documents

- UN Charter, Chapter X, Articles 61-72
- Relevant resolutions of the General Assembly (including 61/16, 68/1, 72/305, 74/298)
- Rules of procedure (E/5715/Rev.2)
- Agenda and annotated agenda (E/2021/1, E/2021/100 – to be issued)
- 2021 working arrangements (resolution 2021/1)
- Resolutions and decisions adopted (E/2021/INF/2, E/2021/99. Resolutions issued as E/RES documents; and e-decisions on e-deleGATE)
- Annual report to the General Assembly (A/75/3)
Role and functions of the President and Bureau

- Elected at organizational session (July)
- Regional rotation and special responsibilities (rule 18)
- General powers of the President (rule 42)
- Coordinate the work and prepare decisions on behalf of the membership, consult
- Additional guidance: Paras. 31-33 of GA res. 68/1 and paras. 13, 25 and 27 of 72/305;
- President raises awareness and promotes engagement
ECOSOC system - subsidiary bodies
(E/2019/INF/3 (mandates) and E/2021/INF/4 (dates))

- Functional commissions
- Regional commissions
- Standing committees
- Ad hoc bodies
- Expert bodies composed of governmental experts
- Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity
- Related bodies
Management segment

- 2 Management segments during the 2021 cycle (8-9 June and 21-22 July)
- Resolution 72/305: focus on the adoption of procedural decisions, consideration of recommendations of subsidiary bodies, as well as the introduction of reports and consideration of draft proposals submitted under relevant agenda items.
- Bulk of formal decision-making (In 2019, 31 of 34 resolutions; 48 of 64 decisions. In 2020, 18 of 23 resolutions. 25 of 33 decisions.)
- 11 of 20 agenda items
Elections

- Elections for most regular vacancies to be held during the 20 April Management meeting; outstanding vacancies can be considered ad hoc
- ECOSOC conducts elections of members of 26 subsidiary and related bodies (Functional commissions, Executive Boards, Peacebuilding Commission) – regular elections to 17 bodies in 2021
- Agreed candidate/slate – can be elected without vote
- Secret ballot, if requested (rule 68)
- Documentation (E/2021/100/Add.1, E/2021/9 and Addenda – to be issued)
- Use of ‘Candiweb’ (under e-delegate - Elections)
Decision-making

- Decisions/resolutions adopted either without a vote or, at the request of a member, by recorded vote
- Each member has one vote (rule 58)
- Majority of those present and voting (rule 60)
- Source of proposals:
  - Contained in reports of subsidiary bodies
  - Draft proposals either by a delegation/group of delegations or President’s/Vice-President’s text,
- Practice of consensus – in 2019, 31 of 34 resolutions and 62 of 64 decisions adopted without a vote. In 2020, no voting (limited in-person meetings)
Participation of non-Member States

- Rule 72 provides for participation of State non-members of the Council (also Article 69 of the Charter)
- States not members of the Council may submit and co-sponsor draft proposals
- Inclusive approach (rule 72, order of speakers, practice in negotiation of draft ministerial declaration and other draft resolutions)
Adapting to COVID-19 constraints

- Adjusted to virtual environment
- Allowed decision-making through silence procedure (extended to subsidiary bodies)
- Adjusted ECOSOC’s calendar of meetings
- Conducted elections through silence procedure
- Conducted the first virtual negotiations (FfD forum outcome)
- HLPF (incl. VNRs) held fully virtually
- No solution for voting, balloting
- Currently – in-person and informal virtual meetings
ECOSOC website

ECOSOC brings people and issues together to promote collective action for a sustainable world

At the centre of the UN development system, we conduct cutting-edge analysis, agree on global norms and advocate for progress. Our collective solutions advance sustainable development.

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The HLPF is the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.
ECOSOC Place in e-deleGATE