



**The President  
of the  
Economic and Social Council**

4 July 2022

Excellencies,

I look forward to seeing you and your Ministers at the opening of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) on Tuesday, 5 July 2022, in the General Assembly Hall. As you know, the HLPF will discuss policies and actions on “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

As the world is struggling to recover from COVID-19 amidst continuing crises, the HLPF will reflect on how recovery policies can overcome the crises, reverse the negative impacts of the pandemic on the SDGs and move countries on to a path to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

The HLPF will also review in-depth Sustainable Development Goals 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

I am pleased to share that we estimate that over 130 officials at ministerial level and above will participate in the HLPF and the high-level segment of ECOSOC, including seven Heads of State and Government. This is a record number, especially given that we meet in person for the first time since the pandemic.

The Annotated Programme with speakers and the Background Notes for all thematic sessions as well as the official reports of the Secretary General and other background documentation are available on the HLPF website (<https://hlpf.un.org/2022>).

The reports of the 44 countries presenting Voluntary National Reviews and their key messages are also accessible (<https://hlpf.un.org/countries>). As promised, I was able to increase the time dedicated to the interaction on the VNRs. Thus, the first-time presenters will have 15 minutes for their presentation and 20 minutes for Q&A. Second-, third- and fourth-time presenters will have 10 minutes for presentation and 15 minutes for Q&A. This will allow more in-depth discussion and peer learning on the VNRs.

I encourage all of you to volunteer to serve as “friends” of the countries presenting a VNR and help them prepare the interaction at the HLPF. If your country is presenting a VNR, please also reach to other countries to serve as your “friends” and prepare ahead of your VNR session. Please keep engaging with the Group of Friends chaired by the Permanent Representatives of Morocco and the Philippines to the United Nations.

I wish to thank H.E. Mr. Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy, and H.E. Ms. Margo Debye, Permanent Representative of Nauru, the co-facilitators for the Ministerial Declaration who have been leading the consultation process. The draft under discussion is ambitious, action oriented and highly relevant to responding to the on-going crises while realizing the SDGs. I know there have been sensitive discussions but I encourage all delegations to show maximum flexibility so as to achieve a consensual declaration. This would send the right political signal in these difficult and challenging times.

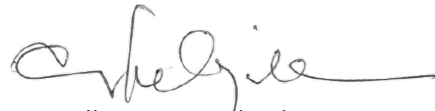
I have written separately regarding the lists of speakers for the HLPF Ministerial Roundtable on 14 July afternoon. I remind you to register to intervene in the morning session of ECOSOC high-level segment on future proofing multilateralism to be held on 18 July (<https://hlpf.un.org/2022/registration-participation>). Delegations may also contribute to the general debate by sending written statements or

pre-recorded videos for posting at the HLPF and ECOSOC websites(<https://hlpf.un.org/2022/general-debate>).

All logistical arrangements can be found in the [Information note](#) that has been posted on 2022 HLPF website.

I encourage Ministers and all delegates and stakeholders to take an active role in the HLPF and high-level segment and share your experiences, challenges and lessons learned. I am confident that the in-person HLPF and high-level segment this year will provide important policy guidance on the way forward for building back better and advancing the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Collen Vixen Kelapile  
President of ECOSOC

**All Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers  
to the United Nations  
New York**