

ECOSOC Management Segment

Round Table Discussion

to integrate key messages from ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN system on the Council's main theme

Thursday, 9 June at 10 a.m. (NY Time)

<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/2022-management-segment>

[Background and scenario]

See background concept note.

The RT discussion will be chaired by H.E. Ambassador Ms. Lachezara Stoeva (Bulgaria), in charge of the ECOSOC Management Segment, and moderated by H.E. Ambassador Mr. Suriya Chindawongse (Thailand), in charge of the 2022 Coordination Segment.

Foreseen time allowed for Mr. Ocampo's intervention: 4 minutes.

Towards the end of the meeting, time permitting, the moderator may invite Mr. Ocampo to share a key message or respond to Member States' queries (1-2 minutes).]

Suggested TPs for José Antonio Ocampo

- **I am pleased to participate in this important round table discussion. As Chair of the Committee for Development Policy I would like to highlight CDP's reflections and recommendations on the important topics we are discussing today.**
- **The CDP this year met (virtually) in its plenary session from 21-25 February. With regard to the ECOSOC theme ("Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development") the Committee focused on how industrial policies can be used to address the simultaneous challenges faced by Governments as they build forward from the COVID-19 crisis as well as the pre-existing crises of climate change and inequality. The CDP found that industrial policies can be instrumental in pursuing simultaneous goals and addressing potential trade-offs, as well as overcoming low- and middle-income traps. In particular, the Committee found that industrial policies should contribute to the development of productive capabilities and of adequate infrastructure.**
- **The CDP this year concluded that industrial policies should also strongly back the integration of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises into broader productive**

networks. Furthermore, post-pandemic industrial policies will need to take into account new realities, challenges and opportunities, including those associated with the green and blue economies.

- Industrial policies can also draw important lessons from past experiences to ensure their effectiveness. Among those are the need to have clear goals, to be integrated in an economy-wide structural transformation strategy, to be time-bound and to incorporate accountability mechanisms and inclusive decision-making processes.
- CDP members noted that fulfilling the potential of industrial policy requires effective regional and global frameworks, effective institutions and cooperation, including South-South cooperation, oriented pragmatically to help developing countries to overcome constraints in finance, technology and information.
- The Committee for Development Policy in its report this year recommends that the Economic and Social Council encourage Member States to adopt and implement evidence-based industrial policies, defined as policies targeting the development of selected productive capabilities, as a means of building forward from the pandemic - induced crisis, address the pre-existing crises of climate change and severe and growing inequalities, and overcome low- and middle-income traps. Such policies must be time-bound, include accountability mechanisms to avoid capture by special interests, and be subject to regular evaluation.
- The Committee further recommends this year that the Council call on the relevant United Nations entities to support developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. This includes, in addition to the provision of finance, facilitating the exchange of experiences and providing information services that support decision-making in the post-pandemic global economic reconfiguration.
- Not least, the Committee reiterates its recommendation that the Council call on development and trading partners to place the development of productive capacities at the centre of their support to least developed countries.
- The Committee also calls on the international community for an orderly workout from the unsustainable debt problems that several countries are facing and which are a major obstacle to their development and the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.
- I thank you for your kind attention and look forward to the discussion.

[If time allows/asked/relevant for discussion:]

- *Of interest to ECOSOC and your work, I would also like to mention that CDP discussed the review by the Council of its subsidiary bodies. The Committee found its work to be closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda. In the assessments of its working methods, the members found them generally effective, highlighting the formation of thematic subgroups, the assignment of country rapporteurs for graduating LDCs and the organization of virtual expert group meetings and webinars.*
- *The Committee expressed its continued concern at the ongoing devastating socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on the least developed countries and committed itself to carefully considering the impacts in all its upcoming work on those countries.*
- *With regard to the VNR analysis that the CDP has been doing since 2017, this year's analysis indicates that the VNRs presented in 2021 showed welcome improvements compared with earlier reports in the broader capture of all aspects of the 2030 Agenda and in increased attention to previously underreported goals and targets, in particular those related to the environment. At the same time, the lack of substance and analysis continue to be of concern.*
- *With regards to monitoring of countries that are graduating and have graduated from the least developed country category, the Committee reviewed the progress of one recently graduated country, namely, Vanuatu, and seven graduating countries, namely, Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands.*
- *The Committee expressed its concern at the limited national capacity of those countries to address diverse challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and debt sustainability. It urges the countries to continue reporting to the Committee on their progress on preparing and implementing the smooth transition strategy. The Committee also adopted procedures for an improved annual monitoring and agreed on next steps to finalize the new crisis response process and strengthened measures that better link monitoring to special graduation support.*
- *The CDP highlighted the need to start the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action on an expedited basis. In that regard, the Committee reviewed the progress in developing the integrated sustainable graduation support facility, or iGRAD. It stressed the urgency of operationalizing the facility in 2022 and the importance of resource mobilization support from Member States and the wider international community.*

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