Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)  

History and Development

Main Subsidiary Bodies

Strengths and Weaknesses

Current and Emerging Issues
193 Member States
- UN Charter

- Chapter X (ECOSOC)

- Documents: E/2018/1

- Resolutions: E/RES/2018/1
- one of the principal organs of the UN (New York)

- 54 members, 3 years

- Functional & Regional Commissions, Committees
Sustainable Development Goals

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals

Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Economic and social matters
- Human rights
- Forum
(studies, recommendations, draft conventions)
- Coordination

- Statistical Commission
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

World hunger is on the rise again:
815 million people were undernourished in 2016, up from 777 million in 2015

After a prolonged decline, world hunger appears to be on the rise again. Conflict, drought and disasters linked to climate change are among the key factors causing this reversal in progress.

- The proportion of undernourished people worldwide increased from 10.6 per cent in 2015 to 11.0 per cent in 2016. This translates to 815 million people worldwide in 2016, up from 777 million in 2015.

- In 2017, 151 million children under age 5 suffered from stunting (low height for their age), 51 million suffered from wasting (low weight for height), and 38 million were overweight.

Stunting, wasting and overweight still affected millions of children under age 5 in 2017

- Aid to agriculture in developing countries totalled $12.5 billion in 2016, falling to 6 per cent of all donors’ sector-allocable aid from nearly 20 per cent in the mid-1980s.

- Progress has been made in reducing market-distorting agricultural subsidies, which were more than halved in five years—from $491 million in 2010 to less than $200 million in 2015.

- In 2016, 26 countries experienced high or moderately high levels of general food prices, which may have negatively affected food security.
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Millennium Summit (September 2000)

A/RES/55/2 (19)

2000 - 2015

MDGs 2015 (see)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

2017 was the most costly North Atlantic hurricane season on record

The year 2017 was one of the three warmest on record and was 1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial period. An analysis by the World Meteorological Organization shows that the five-year average global temperature from 2013 to 2017 was also the highest on record. The world continues to experience rising sea levels, extreme weather conditions (the North Atlantic hurricane season was the costliest ever recorded) and increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases. This calls for urgent and accelerated action by countries as they implement their commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

- As of 9 April 2018, 175 Parties had ratified the Paris Agreement and 168 Parties (167 countries plus the European Commission) had communicated their first nationally determined contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat.

- In addition, as of 9 April 2018, 10 developing countries had successfully completed and submitted the first iteration of their national adaptation plans for responding to climate change.

- Developed country Parties continue to make progress towards the goal of jointly mobilizing $100 billion annually by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions.

The majority of countries have ratified the Paris Agreement and provided nationally determined contributions (NDCs)
NGOs ‘point of entry’

Article 71

The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the Member of the United Nations concerned.
Committee on NGOs

Consultative Status (4,500+ NGOs)  
(1946: 41, 1992: 700)

General, Special and Roster Status

ECOSOC resolution 1996/31

Information dissemination, awareness raising, education, policy advocacy, participation
CURRENT AND EMERGING ISSUES

MDGs/SDGs
Climate Change

The World Summit (Res 60/1)
PB Commission 60/180
Ambiguous (GA), non-binding, its composition
NGOs