

## **ECOSOC Coordination Segment held 1 and 2 February 2023**

ECOSOC held its annual Coordination Segment on 1 and 2 February 2023. The Chair of CEPA was invited to participate in two meetings.

### **Panel discussion on digital transformation for health and food security** (1 February, 4:30-6 p.m.)

Recalling the report of CEPA on its 21<sup>st</sup> session, the CEPA Chair highlighted the irreversibility of accelerated governmental digitalization caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. She emphasized that digitalization could strengthen trust, integrity, and inclusion in government if associated risks were addressed. While the rapid development of science and technology promised to potentially reduce socioeconomic inequalities, some 2.7 billion people remained unconnected to the Internet and basic challenges in many developing countries persisted in terms of energy availability and electricity access. Hybrid models of public-service delivery should become the default to leave no one behind. Regarding corruption, the Chair noted that the impact of digitalization on public integrity and the extent of transparency was contingent on policy choices and political will. She closed by noting that regulatory frameworks were required and that governments should strengthen their digital capabilities and expertise. Other participants and observers added the need for reliable data, means of implementation for developing countries and cooperation. Participants agreed on the potential of digital technologies for health and food security, while underscoring the need to ensure a just, inclusive, people-centred, and rights-based digital transformation with the goal of leaving no one behind. Risks of digitalization were to be mitigated and (widening) digital divides closed.

[\[Meeting coverage of 1 February\]](#)

### **Session: Reflections on the work of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies** (2 February, 10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.)

The Chairs of the Economic and Social Council's functional commissions and expert bodies presented the work of their respective bodies. Speakers agreed on the need for different advisory bodies to increase their collaboration. Some of the issues raised were climate action, biodiversity loss, review of economic and financial systems, digitalization, inclusion and multilateral cooperation. Recalling the report of CEPA on its 21<sup>st</sup> session, the CEPA Chair highlighted the importance of ensuring the application of the governance principles. She noted the Committee's collaboration with APRM and OECD, and its informal contribution to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. She noted that work undertaken by CEPA had been supported by a growing series of strategy guidance notes commissioned by the Secretariat. In recent years, the Committee also connected with voluntary national review and voluntary local review processes to reflect on the use of the principles. Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General of UN DESA, called upon CEPA to replicate the UN DESA-APRM cooperation model in other regions and to reinforce its collaboration with the Committee for Development Policy (CDP).

[\[Meeting coverage of 2 February\]](#)

## **About the ECOSOC Coordination Segment**

The ECOSOC Coordination Segment was created by the United Nations General Assembly in June 2021 as part of a range of measures to strengthen ECOSOC. It allows the Council to better deliver on its Charter role to coordinate the UN system and its subsidiary bodies in the economic, social, health, environmental and related areas. A main function of the Coordination Segment is to provide forward-looking policy guidance to ensure coherence and direction in the policies and normative work of subsidiary bodies and United Nations specialized agencies relating to the 2030 Agenda.