



# **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Reform and the interface with CSTD**

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**13 May 2014**



## Broad context of UN reform

- MDG agenda
- Rio+20 Conference
- The Post 2015 agenda
- Strengthening of Economic and Social Council



## Rio +20 Outcome Document

*“We reaffirm that the Economic and Social Council is a principal body for policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development and for the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals, and is a central mechanism for the coordination of the United Nations system and supervision of the subsidiary bodies of the Council, in particular its functional commissions, and for promoting the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coherence and coordination. We also reaffirm the major role the Council plays in the overall coordination of funds, programmes and specialized agencies, ensuring coherence among them and avoiding duplication of mandates and activities”*



## Some highlights of reform

### General Assembly Resolution 68/1 and 67/290 – new leadership in the global development agenda

- A new high-level political forum under the auspices of ECOSOC
- A new annual cycle, beginning in July, with new reporting processes
- A new integration segment in May
- Transitional years - 2014 and 2015: the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) will coexist while ECOSOC adjust to the new structure
- 2016 onwards: AMR to be replaced by HLPF. National Voluntary Presentations to be replaced by national reviews in the context of the post-2015 development agenda



## Enhancement of ECOSOC's role

- A leadership platform for policy dialogue and recommendations
- The lead entity to deliberate on new and emerging challenges
- An accountability platform for universal commitments, monitoring and reporting on progress at all levels
- System-wide, forward-looking guidance to its subsidiary bodies and leadership to the United Nations system



## New functions and working methods

### 1. A new High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

- HLPF will be convened under the auspices of ECOSOC
- The Forum will meet for five days in June and for three days at the Ministerial level in July, during the High-level segment
- The Council and the forum will pursue the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development
- The deliberations of the forum will be complementary to the work of the Council
- A single Ministerial Declaration will be adopted by both the High-level Political Forum and the High-level segment of the Council



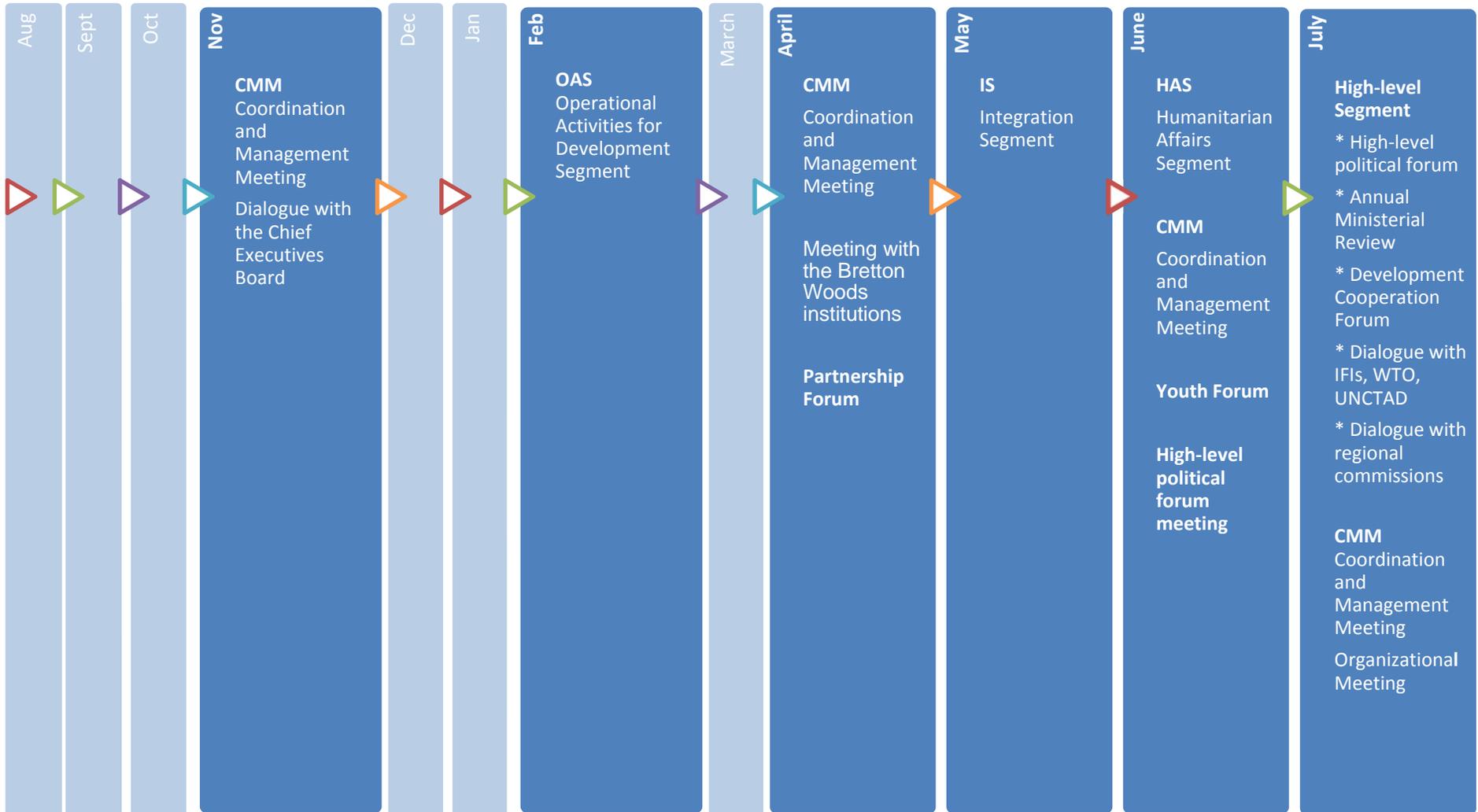
## New functions and working methods

### 2. An annual theme

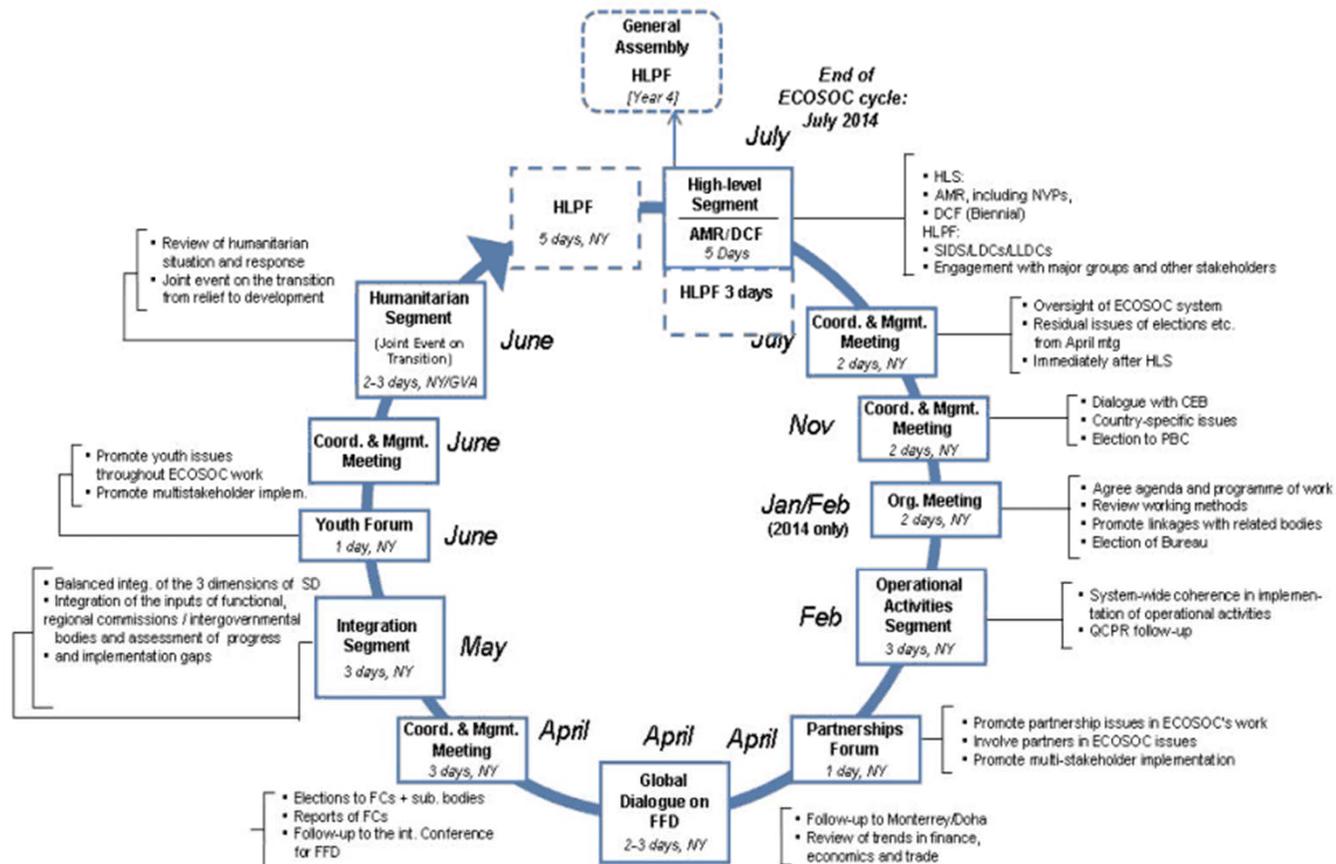
- 2014 annual theme is ***“Addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the MDGs in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future”***
- Adoption of an ECOSOC annual theme to be addressed by all subsidiary bodies (the functional and regional commissions, expert bodies, Exec Boards of UN funds and programmes) within their respective mandates
- Consultations with subsidiary bodies, UN system entities and Member States on proposals for the themes for 2015 and 2016
- After 2016, the selection of themes will be done annually, in advance of each new programme cycle



# New work programme cycle



# ECOSOC





## Annual Ministerial Review

- An opportunity to review, assess and guide progress towards achieving the MDGs
- NVPs are a forum to
  - review and assess progress towards the achievement of the IADGs/MDGs
  - outline urgent challenges and accelerate progress
  - share best practice and lessons learnt
  - identify ways in which the international community can best support efforts
- Between 2007 and 2013, 53 countries have made NVPs to the AMR, 37 of them from developing and middle income countries
- Lessons learned
  - ECOSOC as a policy making and dialogue forum
  - Coherence maintained horizontally and vertically
  - Monitoring, review & follow up, and accountability



## SG report on the 2013 AMR theme

***“Overcoming 21st century challenges such as extreme poverty, inequality and environmental degradation will likely draw on a range of innovations from science technology and culture in the public and private sectors”***

- STI drives the dynamic transformation of economies, through productivity growth, which influences economic growth.
- STI also affects growth by generating knowledge spill-overs between countries, firms, and industries.
- It also provides opportunities to “leapfrog” intermediate development stages.



## Work on the SDG's Means of implementation

- Trade, financing for sustainable development, capacity building, and development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies in this regard global partnerships have been emphasized as key to unlocking the full potential of sustainable development initiatives.
- Enhancing scientific and technological cooperation and technology transfer; capacity building efforts and knowledge sharing among all countries (South-South, North-South cooperation, and triangular cooperation)
- Strengthening the science-policy interface
- CSTD can utilize and leverage its expertise and play a strong role in the accountability mechanism that emerges for this focus area
- This could involve a system of regular monitoring, reporting on achievements of initiatives and partnerships, close coordination and cooperation of multi-stakeholder initiatives and partnerships



## Functional Commissions in the new structure

- Inform theme selection by sending proposal to the ECOSOC President
- Fitting the adopted theme into the Functional Commission's own agenda. [The case for the 2013 AMR on Science, Technology, Innovation and Culture]
- Chair could transmit to the President substantive issues for consideration by the Council
- Build on and better utilize the existing knowledge resources of the ECOSOC system to inform policy dialogue and recommendations
- Serve as implementation fora for an agreed Post 2015 framework
- Provide normative and technical guidance for accelerating implementation
- For example, a future theme on "*productive and decent work for all*" - the Functional Commissions could amplify the global impact of this issue from their respective mandate



## Issues for consideration: Role of CSTD

- Crucial role of STI in guiding policy for sustainable development: one suggestion for strategic foresight scanning
- Helping to shape a post-2015 development agenda through norms and standards
- Providing technical guidance and policy recommendations for implementation
- Helping to monitor and measure progress in implementation
- What are the feedback loops that should flow from countries, to CSTD, to ECOSOC and back? How should they function?
- How should CSTD shape the policy discussion to promote STI and ICT for development as central parts of the new agenda?



Thank You