



***RE: The High-Level Political Forum 2021 under the auspices of ECOSOC  
(Theme: Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic  
that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of  
sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the  
achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action  
and delivery for sustainable development)***

## **Written Statement from the Anglican Consultative Council, July 2021**

The Anglican Communion is the world's third largest Christian communion, with 85 million members across 165 countries, all working in various capacities to transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence, pursue peace and reconciliation, safeguard creation and act in loving service.

Anglican churches, agencies, and communities around the world have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic, social and environmental impacts with courage, compassion, and creativity, utilizing their inherent gifts, assets, and structures. Despite being deeply impacted themselves, churches developed feeding programmes; used asset-based community development approaches to identify the needs of the most vulnerable; supported migrant workers; offered pastoral care for the sick and bereaved; and raised awareness of the mental health impact of the pandemic.

The global church has witnessed the systems that support their communities—economic, health, education, among others—under severe strain and have demonstrated leadership and mobilized resources. Churches have supported local communities through consultations and online courses; facilitating communication and best practices, sharing spiritual and pastoral resources, health information and domestic abuse response toolkits; and managing appeals from churches across the world to ensure resources are channelled to those in most need.

Faith communities have engaged in a multi-dimensional pandemic response drawing on those assets which makes them unique partners in recovery and in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals — sustained community presence, local knowledge, and relationships, trusted leadership, networks of volunteers and professionals, skills in counselling and community mobilization, and the buildings and health facilities they run. Church leadership have also leveraged their structures to support the UN Secretary General's global ceasefire, particularly as they seek to support church communities in conflict-affected contexts.

Sustainable, resilient recovery from COVID-19 will require urgent and ambitious action to tackle rampant food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, risk of extreme poverty, growing environmental pressures, overburdened health care systems, increased sexual and gender-based violence, threats to social cohesion and new conflict drivers. A holistic approach is required to transform existing unequal and unjust structures into ones that nourish people and planet. It requires

immense spiritual and material resources to sustain this work and hold the vision of a world that is not just “better” than the pre-COVID reality—but one that is transformed.

Beyond the necessary conflict-, gender-, and climate-sensitive recovery, there is an opportunity to “re-imagine our world.” The risk of “building back the same”—with the same injustice, inequality, and instability - is too great. Genuine recovery and achievement of Agenda 2030 requires collective reflection on our deepest values and, with courage and humility, to engage in a process of collective re-imagination