



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 April 2016

Excellency,

Please find attached communication from Her Excellency Lois M. Young, Permanent Representative of Belize and His Excellency Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark, in their capacity as co-facilitators for the informal consultations on the Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the global level.

On the basis of the views expressed by Member States, the co-facilitators have prepared an elements paper which will form the basis for the next informal consultations on Thursday 28 April 2016 at 3 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Excellency,

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Thank you for your continued interest in the co-facilitation process on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level.

On the basis of the views expressed by Member States, we have prepared the attached elements paper addressing the most critical issues, as seen by Member States, in the context of the follow-up and review framework for the 2030 Agenda at the global level.

We will convene informal consultations amongst member states and stakeholders on Thursday 28 April 2016 at 3 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber where we would invite all Member States and relevant stakeholders to share their comments on the elements paper.

We thank you for your support and look forward to your active participation on 28 April 2016.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Lois M. Young  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
Belize

Ib Petersen  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
Denmark

All Permanent Representative and  
Permanent Observers to the United  
Nations New York

**Potential elements of draft resolution on follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda  
at the global level**

<i>Element</i>	<i>Convergence of opinions</i>
<b>Framing the resolution</b>	Member States expressed that the resolution should be based on relevant resolutions including A/RES/67/290, A/RES/68/1, A/RES/70/1, and the guiding principles for follow up and review agreed to in the 2030 Agenda (para 74 A/RES/70/1).
<b>SG's Report</b>	Member States <b>welcomed</b> the SG's report that responds to the request made to outline critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level as a good basis for the elaboration of the follow-up and review process at the global level.
<b>Themes</b>	<p>Member States agreed to <b>decide</b> on the themes for the meetings of the high-level political forum held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in 2017, 2018, and possibly 2019. In their view, the themes should reflect the integrated, indivisible, and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting the three dimensions of sustainable development, including cross-cutting issues:</p> <p>Member States considered that the themes should be the lens through which to review the SDGs. Should the resolution specify certain SDGs for more in-depth review apart from the general review of all 17, for the mentioned sessions of the HLPF?</p> <p>Should the resolution also <b>decide</b> that the high-level political forum should review goal 17 annually?</p> <p>Notwithstanding the decision on themes, Member States also emphasized the need for the high-level political forum held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council to have the <b>flexibility</b> to respond to new and emerging issues.</p> <p>They also proposed that the Economic and Social Council should <b>align</b> its annual themes for 2017, 2018 and possibly 2019 with the corresponding annual themes of the high-level political forum held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.</p>
<b>National Reviews</b>	<p>The resolution should <b>encourage</b> States to volunteer to carry out national reviews at the high-level political forum at least twice between now and 2030.</p> <p>It should at the same time <b>request</b> the President of the Economic and Social Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ensure that the voluntary national reviews are afforded appropriate space and format bearing in mind that the aim of the reviews shall be to facilitate the sharing of experiences as provided in paragraph 82 of the resolution 70/1; and,</li><li>2. Ensure that the voluntary national reviews include developed and developing countries in line with equitable geographical representation and include countries in special situations.</li></ol> <p>The ECOSOC President could further be <b>encouraged</b> to take into account experience gained from prior sessions of the high-level political forum. The SG could be <b>requested</b> to further develop voluntary guidelines, as a reference guide, for the national reviews at the high-level political forum based on the principles outlined in the 2030 Agenda and the proposal for voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews in the annex to the SG's report and to continue to update those guidelines in the light of experience gained.</p> <p>The UN system should in turn be <b>requested</b> to support developing countries conducting reviews at the high-level political forum upon request, including through</p>

enhanced capacity building support for developing countries, and in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems.

**Regional Review**

The resolution could **reaffirm** that follow-up and review at the regional and sub-regional levels can contribute to follow-up and review at the high-level political forum and **reiterate** that Member States are encouraged to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage (paras 80 and 81 of A/RES/70/1).

Should the resolution **invite** regional commissions, as suggested in the SG's report, to prepare a common format, guided by their Member States, for conveying the results of the regional forums on sustainable development to the high-level political forum?

**Countries in special situations**

In line with relevant General Assembly resolutions including A/RES/66/288, the resolution could **reiterate** that adequate time should be devoted to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges of developing countries including the most vulnerable countries, in particular, LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and African countries and recognize the particular challenges of middle income countries (para 11, A/RES/67/290).

**Participation**

The resolution could **reaffirm** that the forum shall be open to the major groups, other relevant stakeholders and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the General Assembly.

It could **encourage** consideration of innovative ways of facilitating participation of stakeholders from developing countries, including through web-based interfaces, in the high-level political forum.

The resolution could **reiterate** the call to major groups and other stakeholders to report on their contributions to the implementation of the Agenda and further **encourage** the private sector and civil society to inform the United Nations of their commitments to implement the Sustainable Development Goals as part of their contribution to follow-up and review.

**Non-UN Entities**

The resolution could recall the **invitation** to non-United Nations intergovernmental regional and international organizations to contribute to follow-up and review at the high-level political forum.

**Facilitating input to the HLPF**

The resolution should recall that the SDG Progress Report, the GSDR, the outcomes of the annual ECOSOC forum on FFD and the multi-stakeholder on STI, shall serve as official inputs.

Member States also suggested that the resolution could **request** the Secretary-General to ensure that all inputs to the high-level political forum are presented in a concise and user-friendly format, and are easily accessible to all on an interactive web-based platform. Should the resolution also request the Secretary-General to **establish** a link to the web-based platform for partnerships?

**Coherence**

Member States considered that the resolution should **underscore** the need for coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies and programmes throughout the UN system.

In line with the suggestion of a placeholder for the QCPR, the resolution could, as suggested in the SG's report, **decide**, as part of the QCPR, to review UN system

support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda based on the existing reports of the Secretary-General on the QCPR and on mainstreaming the SDGs in the UN.

It could further **invite** the ECOSOC to consider its calendar with a view to ensuring that its engagement with various intergovernmental bodies can support their contribution to the high-level political forum and to **consider** convening the biannual Development Cooperation Forum prior to the high-level political forum.

It could also **invite** the ECOSOC to decide to merge its high-level segment with the ministerial segment of the high-level political forum.

Should the resolution call upon functional commissions to review their working methods and agendas in order to ensure that they address the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within their respective area of expertise and mandate?

Should the resolution clarify the difference between the HLPF held under the auspices of the ECOSOC and the HLPF held under the auspices of the GA?

Should there be two sessions of the HLPF in 2019?

**Role of Secretariat**

In light of concerns for effective institutional support to the high-level political forum, Member States recommended that the Secretary-General could be **requested** to review the organization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in order to ensure that the Department as a whole can effectively provide support to the high-level political forum in a cohesive, coordinated and collaborative manner.

**Outputs**

In addition to the inter-governmentally agreed HLPF Ministerial Declaration, Member States considered that the resolution could **invite** the President of the Economic and Social Council to prepare a summary of the discussions of the high-level political forum meetings, including of the national reviews.

**Way Forward**

Should the resolution **decide** to review progress in implementing the present resolution and General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational modalities of the high-level political forum at its seventy-fourth session, as suggested in the SG's report, in order to benefit from lessons learned from the 2019 meeting of the high-level political forum held under the auspices of the General Assembly?