



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3 February, 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to forward a letter, dated 1 February 2016, from H.E. Ms. Bénédicte Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Jean-François Régis Zinsou, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Benin to the United Nations, in their capacity as Co-facilitators for the informal inter-governmental consultations on all issues relating to the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, to be held in Antalya, Turkey on 27-29 May 2016.

In this communications, the Co-facilitators inform that they will be convening a briefing to exchange views on the modalities and organizational arrangements of the high-level midterm review of the Program of Action on 8 February 2016 at 3.00p.m in Conference Room 1. The letter also communicates the zero draft modalities resolution and the draft provisional agenda for textual negotiations during informals.

In line with resolutions of the General Assembly 69/231 and 70/216, the Co-facilitators intend to hold a round of informal consultations on the modalities and organizational arrangements of the high-level midterm review of the Program of Action with a view to conclude them within the established deadline, and in advance of the preparatory meeting of experts that will be held in New York in 28-31 March 2016.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage Member States to actively participate at these consultations and in this context, I echo the message of the Co-facilitators with respect to reaching a timely agreement on the modalities and organizational arrangements.

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

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

Mogens Lykketoft

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



1st February 2016

Excellency,

We have the honour to refer to the letter of 5 November 2015 from the President of the General Assembly informing you about our appointment as co-facilitators to conduct inter-governmental consultations of the General Assembly's midterm review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of Istanbul, to be held in Antalya, Turkey, on 27, 28 and 29 May 2016.

In line with the General Assembly decision A/RES/69/231 adopted on 19 December 2014, we intend to hold consultations on the modalities and organizational arrangements of the high-level midterm review of the Programme of Action, with a view to conclude them within the established deadline, and in advance of the preparatory meeting of experts that will be held between 28 and 31 March 2016.

In this regard, we are pleased to convene a briefing on 8 February 2016, at 3:00 pm, in the ECOSOC Chamber. The purpose of the briefing is to provide Member States with an initial opportunity to exchange views on the modalities and organizational arrangements of the high-level midterm review of the Programme of Action. In order to facilitate focused discussions, we are attaching the zero draft of the modalities resolution for textual negotiations during informals.

We encourage all delegations to be ready to discuss language in detail and to finalize the text as soon as possible.

We look forward to your continued support for the review, and your feedback before and during the informals.

Please accept, Excellency, assurances of our highest consideration.

H.E. Mrs. Bénédicte Frankinet
Co-Facilitator
Permanent Representative of Belgium
to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Jean-François Régis Zinsou
Co-Facilitator
Permanent Representative of Benin
to the United Nations

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

Draft modalities resolution for the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the
Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action

Recalling its resolutions 69/231 of 19 December 2014 and 70/216 of 22 December 2015 on the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

Reaffirming its resolutions 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

1. *Recommends* the provisional agenda of the High-level Midterm Review, set forth in document A/CONF__ for adoption at the Midterm review;

2. *Recalls* the modalities approved in resolutions 69/231 of 19 December 2014 and 70/216 of 22 December 2015 and *decides* that the High-level Midterm Review shall also be conducted in accordance with the modalities contained in the present resolution, as well as any additional decisions regarding arrangements for the Midterm Review to be taken by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States;

3. *Requests* the co-facilitators to present a draft outcome document in the form of a political declaration, by the first half of March 2016 and in advance of the preparatory meeting of experts, prepared on the basis of inputs from the national and regional preparatory meetings, the report of the Secretary-General and other inputs, including those from Member States;

4. *Decides* that the Midterm Review shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President and an ex officio Vice-President from the host country, and 9 Vice-Presidents,¹ one of whom shall be designated as Rapporteur;

5. Also *decides* that the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States will serve

¹ Two from each of the following groups: African States, Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European States, and Latin American and Caribbean States; and one Western European and Others Group.

as the Secretary-General of the Midterm Review and shall be responsible for making all the necessary arrangements for carrying out the work of the Midterm Review.

6. Decides that the speakers at the opening plenary of the High-level Midterm Review will include statements by the President of the Midterm Review, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group, Chair of the African Union, the President of the World Bank Group, and one representative each from civil society and the private sector.

7. *Decides* that the Midterm Review four thematic round-table meetings, to be held in parallel with the plenary meetings, will be scheduled as follows:

- a. 27 May 2016, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- b. 28 May 2016, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- c. 29 May 2016, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.;

8. Also decides that the four roundtables will be held on the following themes:

Roundtable 1: Productive capacity; agriculture, food security and rural development; trade and commodities

Roundtable 2: Human and social development; and good governance at all levels

Roundtable 3: Multiple crises and other emerging challenges; and mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building

Roundtable 4: Building synergy and coherence with the global processes including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

9. Further decides that the organizational arrangements of the round tables will be as follows:

- a. Each round table will be co-chaired by two Chairs, one from the LDCs and one from the development partners, to be appointed by the President of the Mid-term Review, from among the Heads of State or Government and ministers attending the Midterm Review;
- b. The Secretary General of the Midterm Review, in consultation with the President of the General Assembly, will select up to four panelists for each of the round tables, and that the panel discussion will be followed by an interactive debate among States and other relevant stakeholders;
- c. The round tables will be interactive and multi-stakeholder in nature and that each roundtable will be open to participation by representatives of all participating States, up to 5 representatives of observers and relevant entities of the United Nations system, up to 3 representatives of accredited civil society organizations, and up to 3 representatives of accredited business sector entities;
- d. Participants will be invited by the Secretariat of the Midterm Review to sign up for participation in one of the roundtables in advance of the Midterm Review, bearing in mind the total number of participants outlined above.
- e. The list of participants in each round table will be made available prior to the meeting.

10. *Decides* that summaries of the round-table meetings will be presented orally by the Co-Chairs at the closing plenary meeting.

11. Reiterates the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector in the Midterm Review and its preparatory process, and decides that:

- (a) Non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and non-governmental organizations accredited to the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries shall register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the Midterm Review;

(b) The President of the General Assembly shall also draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and private sector entities who may participate in the Midterm Review as observers, taking into account the principle of transparency and the principle of equitable geographical representation, and will submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis and bring the list to the attention of the General Assembly².

² The list will include proposed as well as final names.



Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Antalya, 27-29 May 2016

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Midterm Review.
 2. Election of the Chair.
 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 4. Organization of work
 5. Election of other officers
 6. Review of the implementation: general exchange of views.
 7. Thematic round-table meetings
 8. Adoption of the political declaration.
 9. Adoption of the report of the Midterm Review.
 10. Closure of the Midterm Review.
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