



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 May 2017

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a memo from my meeting on 2 May 2017 with the President of the Economic and Social Council, H.E. Mr. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations in New York, as part of commitment to strengthen collaboration and coordination between the principal organs of the United Nations.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson'.

Peter Thomson

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

### **Meeting between the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council on Tuesday 2 May 2017**

The President of the 71st Session of the General Assembly H.E Mr. Peter Thomson met with the President of the Economic and Social Council for its 2017 session, H.E. Mr. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, on Tuesday 2 May 2017 as part of continued efforts to strengthen relations between the principal organs of the United Nations and ensure close collaboration and coherence in the work of the General Assembly and ECOSOC.

The meeting was helpful and productive as it allowed the two Presidents to share developments and information on issues in which the two organs have a shared interest and highlight opportunities for working together. On this note, the President of ECOSOC invited the PGA to participate in various ECOSOC meetings. This was also a key opportunity to discuss and provide updates on the following issues and upcoming events:

### **Expert Meeting on Agriculture and Agro-industries Development – Victoria Falls (24-26 April 2017)**

The meeting brought together about 120 participants from 28 countries with representation from the UN system and Africa Union Commission. The meeting was the second of two preparatory events organized by the President of ECOSOC to prepare for the Special meeting of the Council on Innovations for Infrastructure Development and Sustainable industrialization to be held on 31 May 2017 in New York. The first was a regional meeting on *Innovations for Infrastructure Development and Sustainable Industrialization* which took place in Dakar, Senegal on 26 March 2017. The President of ECOSOC expressed hope that the 31 May meeting would come up with some concrete initiatives and recommendations for further action. The PGA congratulated the ECOSOC President on successfully convening the preparatory meetings for the Special Meeting on 31 May.

### **Elimination of duplication and overlap – Humanitarian Assistance Resolution**

The two Presidents discussed the request by the 2016 ECOSOC resolution on Humanitarian Assistance for them to continue their efforts to eliminate duplication in the ECOSOC and General Assembly resolutions on the topic. It was noted that since this issue was first raised in the same resolution in 2014, the co-facilitators of the resolutions have endeavored to avoid duplication and promote complementarity. The PGA agreed for the need to avoid duplication and build on complementarities in topics being addressed by both the General Assembly and the ECOSOC given the role and responsibilities of the two organs. He expressed the intention to encourage the member states to work towards that end.

### **PGA's SDG Action Event on Innovation and Connectivity on 17 May 2017**

The PGA's SDG Action Event on Innovation and Connectivity on 17 May has been timed to boost the profile of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs. The Action Event will be an opportunity to engage with leading innovators, thought leaders, and technology companies and discuss how new technologies can support the implementation of SDGs.

### **Financing for Development Forum (22-25 May 2017)**

The informal consultations on the outcome of the Forum co-facilitated by the PRs of Belgium and South Africa have begun. It is hoped that the negotiations will be concluded by 18th of May.

### **Adoption of Indicator Framework for the SDGs**

The President of ECOSOC informed the PGA that the indicator framework of the SDGs will be adopted at the Coordination and Management Meeting in June. The indicator Framework is an important tool in monitoring progress in the achievement of SDGs. It will also help to inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders. Both Presidents welcomed the fact that the framework would be adopted before the HLPF.

### **Preparations for the 2017 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development and ECOSOC High Level Segment**

Preparations for the 2017 HLPF are now picking pace and the bureau is currently consulting member states on the initial draft programme for the two weeks. Regional workshops for voluntary national reviews are on-going in cooperation with regional commissions. Those for Asia Pacific, ECLAC and ECE have just finished and the one for ECA will be in mid-May. ESCWA countries joining the voluntary presentations participated in the Asia Pacific workshop.

### **ECOSOC Integration Segment (8-10 May)**

The Integration Segment of the ECOSOC is taking place on 8-10 May 2017.

### **Continued Collaboration**

Both the President of the General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC acknowledged the importance of these regular meetings and that it was critical to continue the dialogue and this process of timely exchange of information between the two offices.