



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 December 2016

Excellency,

I pledged that for the 71st Session of the General Assembly, I would work to strengthen relations between the principal organs of the United Nations, and as part of my intention to carry out my mandate in a transparent and open manner, I have the honour to transmit herewith a memo from my meeting on 20 December 2016 with the President of the Economic and Social Council, His Excellency Mr. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations in New York.

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

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

Peter Thomson

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

PGA Office memo: Meeting between the President of the General Assembly and the President of Economic and Social Council on Tuesday 20th December 2016

The 71st President 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 Frederick Musiwa Makamure Shava on Tuesday 20th December 2016 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 very positive and productive as it allowed the two Presidents to exchange views on recent events or developments on issues, which the two organs have a shared interest and highlight where they can work together. This was also a key opportunity to discuss the following issues and upcoming events in early 2017.

Alignment of the GA agenda with the 2030 Agenda

The PGA updated the President of ECOSOC on this issue and informed that he decided to appoint the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Australia as co-facilitators to look at this process. He again highlighted the importance of working closely with ECOSOC on this process and will keep the President of ECOSOC informed.

2017 ECOSOC Presidents Retreat: 20 – 21 January

The President of ECOSOC updated the PGA on the retreat he will be convening at Glen Cove Mansion from 20 – 21 January which will advance preparations for the 2017 session of the Council. The retreat also aims to foster synergies between the various forums taking place under the auspices of ECOSOC such as the High level Political Forum, Financing for Development Forum and Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs.

High Level Dialogue on "Building Sustainable Peace for All": 24 January 2017

The PGA briefed the President of ECOSOC on the High Level Dialogue organized by his office, the President of the Security Council for the month of January and the Peacebuilding Commission entitled "*Building Sustainable Peace for All: Synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace*" to be held on 24 January. Both Presidents highlighted the importance of this event and the PGA expressed his appreciation to the President of ECOSOC for his commitment to be part of this High Level Dialogue. PGA advised that High Level representation from both the UN Secretariat and Member States (at ministerial level) had confirmed.

GA Briefing on the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science Technology and Innovation: January 2017

The Presidents discussed the mandate from the recently adopted Financing for Development Resolution which requested the PGA to convene a briefing by the Co-Chairs of the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Member States, which shall take place no later than January 2017. The two Offices agreed to coordinate closely in organizing this briefing.

Youth Forum: 30 – 31 January 2017

The President of the General Assembly reconfirmed his intention to participate at the 2017 ECOSOC Youth Forum and expressed his conviction in the importance of this platform to communicate with the young people who have a key role to play in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The President of ECOSOC expressed his gratitude for the PGA's commitment to participate in the upcoming Youth Forum and also extended an invitation for PGA to participate in other key sessions and events of the Forum.

55th Session of the Commission for Social Development from 1 – 10 February

The upcoming meeting of the Commission for Social Development in February was discussed and both Presidents highlighted this as another key opportunity to push the momentum of the SDGs especially given its theme of "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all".

2017 Operational Activities Segment: 28 February – 2 March 2017

The PGA confirmed his commitment to participate at the 2017 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development segment, which will discuss the elements of the recently adopted QCPR resolution. Discussions at this meeting will be critical to the implementation of the resolution, which addresses how the UN Development system will respond to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Special Meeting of the Council on Innovations in Infrastructure Development and Promoting Sustainable Industrialization: May 2017

The President of ECOSOC updated the PGA on the Special Meeting of the Council on Infrastructure and Sustainable Industrialization that he will be organizing in May next year. He also mentioned that there would be two preparatory meetings to look at key messages and to ensure that conclusion of the Special Meeting in May is firmly rooted in practice and policy. The preparatory meetings are planned to be held in March, in Dakar, Senegal and in April, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The Meeting in Dakar would be held on the margin of the AU/ECA joint conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

The PGA welcomed this initiative and its focus and expressed his keen interest and support for the Special Meeting and its preparations.

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.