



Co-facilitators' remarks for the virtual informal consultations on ECOSOC/HLPF review

8 April 2020

- We're meeting under extraordinary circumstances, when not only the business as usual at the United Nations is no longer feasible, but the whole world is experiencing the worst crisis since the World War 2, as UNSG described it, with its grave socio-economic implications.
- In this view, we the co-facilitators, together with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, have once again asked ourselves what is the purpose of the review of the ECOSOC and HLPF and what would be the best way to advance with the process.
- It is our belief that the COVID-19 crisis will have long lasting implications on the whole world and the way we do business. It will provide us with many lessons and experiences that will have an effect on both the substance of our work here, at UN, and the way we conduct all our processes - be it through the addition of more online meetings instead of face-to-face meetings or otherwise.
- Thorough and result-oriented review of both HLPF and ECOSOC is important to ensure the efficient functioning of these bodies as well as plan ahead for full implementation of the Agenda 2030, as we enter the decisive Decade of Action.
- Since we are at such an important juncture in many regards, and, obviously, many things will have to be rethought, redesigned and repositioned, once we all are out of this crisis, we believe the Membership should seize the opportunity of learning from the experience of the pandemic and conduct the substantive, in-depth review of HLPF and ECOSOC after the crises has passed, rather than reviewing them now, while still in crisis, thus risking to have altogether a more superficial and less adequate and forward-looking process (not to mention the technical challenges we will face in conducting the negotiations).
- With these considerations, we would like to propose, and seek your guidance, whether we should not limit our current work by producing a concise Resolution/Decision, that will address only the immediately necessary provisions (such as the themes and SDGs for the 2021 HLPF), while postponing the substantial review of both of HLPF and ECOSOC, of course in conjunction with each other, to the period when the COVID-19 crisis had passed.

- This is a shared view of the co-facilitators, as well as the PGA, but we are guided by the Membership and today wanted to put this proposal for your appraisal and hopefully endorsement.
- We look forward to hearing your views.