



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17 March 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 March 2021 from H.E. Mr. Alexander Marschik, Permanent Representative of Austria and H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Permanent Representative of Senegal, the co-facilitators for the intergovernmental negotiations for the review process of the Economic and Social Council and the High-Level Political Forum as per General Assembly resolution 74/298 of 12 August 2020 entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, resolution 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level and resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”.

Sequel to the letter of 12 March, the aforementioned letter conveys that the co-facilitators have presented a further revised draft of the resolution for the HLPF/ECOSOC Review. In this regard, the co-facilitators will convene a virtual consultation on the revised draft of the resolution on Friday, 19 March 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Connection details for the meeting will be provided by the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management in a subsequent correspondence for delegations.

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

Volkan BOZKIR

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



17 March 2021

Excellency,

We write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations related to General Assembly resolutions 74/298 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level and 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

Further to our letter dated 12 March 2021 in which we informed you of the cancellation of the negotiations on 12 March 2021, we wish to inform you that we further amended the revised draft that was shared with you on 9 March. This was done in order to reflect additional inputs received from delegations after we issued the text and to further elaborate on aspects we feel could allow a convergence of views to enable a fruitful discussion at the next informal consultations. We sought to ensure that the draft remains balanced, in an effort to reach a consensual outcome. The draft is herewith attached for your consideration.

We will convene the next informal virtual consultations on Friday, 19 March at 3 pm. We will invite delegations to present initial reactions and general comments on the latest draft, in particular with regard to the format of the reviews, the proposed themes for ECOSOC and HLPF in 2022 and 2023, the set of SDGs to be reviewed in 2022 and 2023, and the ECOSOC Focus Week.

The technical details for the link will be provided by the Secretariat of the United Nations in due course via e-mail.

We encourage Member States to come prepared to express their views on the revised draft resolution and its annexes. We look forward to your feedback and active engagement in the upcoming meeting.

We wish to remind you that you can use the following e-mails to send us any further inputs or statements at any time during this process: new-york-ov@bmeia.gv.at and senegal.mission@yahoo.fr with a copy to olsone@un.org and mahmassani@un.org.

All Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and
Permanent Observers of Non-Member States to the United Nations
New York

Once again, we reiterate our commitment to ensuring that the process is completely open, transparent and inclusive and count on your active participation and support.

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

Handwritten signature of Alexander Marschik in black ink.

Alexander Marschik
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

Handwritten signature of Cheikh Niang in black ink, underlined.

Cheikh Niang
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations

Revised draft resolution– 17 March 2021

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Charter of the United Nations, which provides the mandates for the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and reaffirming our unwavering commitment to work tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030,

Recalling also its resolution 74/298 of 12 August 2020 entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, resolution 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level and resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”,

Recognizing that its resolution 74/298 on the Review Process of the Economic and Social Council, as a Charter body, and of the High Level Political Forum, meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC and the General Assembly, as the overarching platform to review and follow up the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, addresses two different mandates with interrelated outcomes;

Recalling its resolutions 72/305 of 23 July 2018 entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council” and all previous related resolutions on strengthening the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also its resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 entitled “Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development” and 70/299 of 29 July 2016 entitled “Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level”,

Reaffirming its resolution 74/4 of 15 October 2019 entitled “Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly” (Political declaration of the SDG Summit) and the pledge to launch a Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development especially in the context of recovering better from the COVID-19 pandemic,

Reaffirming further its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

1. *Reaffirms* the role that the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council as a principal organ for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for the implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields;
2. *Reaffirms also* the commitment to strengthen the Economic and Social Council, within its mandate under the Charter, and reinforce its deliberative function, with an emphasis on accountability, knowledge-sharing and mutual learning for better results, so that it best supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the integrated and coordinated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits and delivers on its broad responsibilities;
3. *Reaffirms further* the central role and effective and participatory character of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in overseeing the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, working coherently with the Assembly, the Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates and the other mandates of the HLPF established in resolutions 67/290 and 70/299;
4. *Decides* that the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development shall be closely coordinated, in accordance with their respective roles and mandates, to ensure that their interconnected and interlinked work is coherent and mutually reinforcing in supporting the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development throughout the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development from now to the year 2030, while noting further that the Economic and Social Council is a UN Charter body and the

high-level political forum on sustainable development is held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

5. *Adopts* the texts contained in the annexes to the present resolution on the review of ECOSOC and the review of the HLPF, respectively, and calls upon the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as well as other relevant bodies and platforms of the United Nations system, to implement the measures contained therein in an expeditious manner;
6. *Decides* that the arrangements contained in the present resolution and its annexes shall be reviewed at its seventy-eighth session in order to benefit from lessons learned from the previous cycle of the HLPF as well as from other processes under the General Assembly and ECOSOC related to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda;
7. *Decides further* that subsequent review cycles shall continue to review the Economic and Social Council in conjunction with the review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development;
8. *Reiterates* its decision to agree at its seventy-seventh session on the thematic review of progress for the next cycle of the forum, including the yearly sequence of themes and the set of Goals to be reviewed at each session;
9. *Decides* that all mandates contained in resolution 72/305 on strengthening the Economic and Social Council and resolutions 67/290 and 70/299 shall remain in effect unless updated or replaced in the present resolution or subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly. The mandates contained in the present resolution, including its annexes, should be implemented starting with the 2021-2022 cycle of ECOSOC and the 2022 HLPF and their preparations.

Annex 1:

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

1. Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council should continue to strengthen its leadership and policy guidance role, and its role as the central mechanism for coordination of the activities of the United Nations development system and its specialized agencies and supervision of its subsidiary bodies while integrating their analysis throughout its segments. It should promote a coordinated follow-up and operationalization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, in view of the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development and the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It should also address new and emerging issues in the economic, social, environmental and related fields and provide overall support for a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

[ECOSOC, the HLPF and the Decade of Action]

2. The Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies should further enhance their contribution to the Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development, and to the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts. To that end, the Council should ensure that the agenda, work programme, and discussions in its segments and fora and its subsidiary bodies contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the response to major challenges to the achievement of sustainable development such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. The General Assembly shall continue to adopt one main theme for the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development under its auspices, bearing in mind the provisions of resolution 70/299 and the provisions in paragraph 6 of the annex to resolution 72/305. The themes of the segments of the Council shall focus on a particular aspect of the main theme, bearing in mind their respective functions. The themes of the humanitarian affairs segment shall continue to be based on humanitarian considerations and be coherent with the main theme of the Council. The subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council shall similarly decide on their own respective themes, aligned with the main theme, while continuing to address issues or a theme necessary to discharge their other functions.

¹ Resolution 70/1

4. ECOSOC should provide integrated policy guidance on the follow-up and operationalization of the findings and outcomes of the HLPF, notably its thematic reviews and Voluntary National Reviews, bearing in mind the unique role of ECOSOC as a Charter body entrusted with the coordination of the UN system and with responsibilities that include and go beyond the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will also discuss issues on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, such as global economic and financial risks, disaster risk reduction, building resilience, pandemics, rapid scientific and technological change, digital disruption and innovation, international solidarity regarding global public goods, human rights, biodiversity, climate change and their implications for the theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
5. ECOSOC segments and its work programmes and outcomes should give adequate attention to the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, in pursuing sustainable development. The Secretary-General should adequately address the diverse needs and specific challenges facing these and other developing countries within existing reporting obligations, as appropriate.
6. The ECOSOC cycle will continue to run from July to July. To promote linkages in their work and enhance the visibility and impact of the Council, and to encourage focus, coherence and efficiency, the Council's calendar shall be structured into an ECOSOC Focus Week and three groups of meeting segments and forums per council cycle.
7. The ECOSOC Focus Week, to be held by the end of February each year, will comprise the first day of the high-level segment of ECOSOC, the multi-stakeholder partnership forum and the new coordination segment. The Focus Week will bring the ECOSOC System together early in the calendar year to discuss the main theme of ECOSOC, give guidance for the work of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies in the following months and help strengthen ownership of this work among participating countries and partners.
8. Accordingly, the last day of the high-level segment of ECOSOC will be moved from July to February and reframed as part of the ECOSOC Focus Week. The remaining days of the ECOSOC high-level segment will be convened in July in conjunction with the ministerial days of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of ECOSOC.

[High-Level Segment]

9. Through this ECOSOC Focus Week, the ECOSOC high-level segment will be further reinforced as a preeminent forward-looking, political and agenda-setting platform for Member States, UN entities, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. The high-level segment will provide policy guidance on the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda related to the annual theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF for further discussion and operationalization during the various segments and forums of ECOSOC. It will also provide guidance on the follow-up to the ministerial declaration of ECOSOC and the HLPF of the previous cycle, building on the findings from the reviews conducted at the HLPF.
10. This first day of the high-level segment of ECOSOC in February will thus examine trends and issues of a global nature within the Council's mandates, taking into account the annual theme of ECOSOC and HLPF. It will draw on the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the HLPF during the previous cycle, as well as on the work of United Nations and other regional and international organizations and bodies as well as experts, scientists and other stakeholders. It will elaborate on the trends and policy issues arising from those events and actors and their implications for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the long-term realization of sustainable development, also looking at scenarios and foresight. It will also discuss other major cross-cutting issues in the economic, social or environmental field impacting on the theme and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
11. To support the work of the ECOSOC Focus Week, the two mandated reports of the Secretary-General on the ECOSOC theme and on the theme of the ECOSOC thematic discussion issued for the current high-level segment of ECOSOC in July will be merged into a single comprehensive report to inform the discussions at the ECOSOC Focus Week. This report should include (i) a forward-looking analysis on the theme and major related issues, including projections and scenarios, (ii) proposals related to the implementation of the declaration of ECOSOC of the previous cycle, (iii) integrated policy analysis emanating from the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and proposed guidance for their contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development and (iv) lessons learned from the thematic reviews and Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF with recommendations for follow-up by countries, various segments and forums of the Council, the UN system and relevant stakeholders.

[Multi-stakeholder Partnership Forum]

12. The partnership forum of ECOSOC will be reframed as the multi-stakeholder partnership forum and will be convened back to back with the first day of the high-level segment in February. The multi-stakeholder partnership forum will engage countries, the United Nations system including international financial institutions, parliamentarians, local governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, scientists, academia and other actors. The forum will be organized in consultation with stakeholders and allow interactive discussions among all stakeholders on the theme, major issues and future trends addressed during the high-level segment. The forum will be focused on the exchange of new ideas and visionary expectations and priorities for the work ahead for the ECOSOC cycle and the high-level political forum on sustainable development held under Council's auspices. The forum will also focus on forward-looking actions for consideration by countries and all actors as well as on innovative partnerships that can mobilize commitments and actions to advance the SDGs.

[Coordination segment]

13. The coordination function of ECOSOC should be reinstated as a core mandate, which is essential for the Decade of Action and Delivery and the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To this end, the coordination segment shall replace the integration segment and the informal ECOSOC meeting with the subsidiary chairs and will be held annually for up to two days. Through this segment, the Council will take up coordination matters arising from subsidiary bodies, principal organs and specialized agencies in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, as well as steer the ECOSOC system towards an efficient and integrated workflow throughout the ECOSOC cycle leading up to the high-level political forum. It will provide forward-looking policy guidance to ensure coherence and direction in the policies and normative work of subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies relating to the SDGs and other internationally agreed development goals as well as to other aspects of the work of ECOSOC. It should formulate common action-oriented policy guidance on all matters requiring implementation or coordination efforts (i) by the UN system, notably the specialized agencies, in the policy and normative area, as well as (ii) by the Council's functional and regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, including detailed guidance on the implementation of the Ministerial declaration from the previous year. Guidance on operational activities of the UN development system will continue to be addressed in the operational activities for development segment.

14. The coordination segment will give greater visibility to key policy issues, lessons learned, best practices and recommendations emanating from the combined work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies including regional commissions during the previous ECOSOC cycle. It will allow the Council to address issues identified by subsidiary bodies as requiring the Council's attention and to build on the policy conclusions of its subsidiary bodies. It will also provide guidance and coordination to subsidiary bodies, ensuring a clearer division of labour among them, aligning their work with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promoting their implementation of the declaration of ECOSOC of the previous year. The coordination segment will furthermore provide detailed guidance to the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN system on their upcoming work on the main theme and develop action oriented assessment and recommendations so that those bodies best contribute to the preparations for the thematic review of the HLPF. It will review how ECOSOC subsidiary bodies work on the interlinkages among the SDGs and the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed outcomes, guiding their work for the rest of the ECOSOC cycle.
15. The Council will also hold a discussion on the following coordination-related mandated agenda items in the new coordination segment:
- i. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (*Item 12(c) of ECOSOC Agenda.*²)
 - ii. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B, 60/265, 61/16, 67/290, 68/1 and 72/305 on strengthening ECOSOC.
16. The Council should fully implement its authority to make final decisions on the activities and calendar of its subsidiary bodies and on other matters relating to its system-wide coordination and overall guidance functions in the economic, social and related fields.
17. Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, the private sector and other stakeholders involved in the policy and normative work of the UN system and the subsidiary bodies should be engaged in the coordination segment.

[Format and outcome of the ECOSOC Focus Week]

18. The ECOSOC Focus Week may be convened in a hybrid format, combining in-person participation in New York with a virtual component to enable wider participation from around the world.

² ECOSOC adopted agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming contained in A/52/3 "Report of the Economic and Social Council for 1997"

19. A non-negotiated summary will be prepared by the President of the Economic and Social Council to reflect the discussion and strategic guidance during the first day of the high-level segment, the multi-stakeholder partnerships forum and the coordination segment. The outcome of the high-level segment of ECOSOC and the HLPF will remain the intergovernmentally negotiated ministerial declaration which will be adopted on the last day of the ministerial segment of HLPF and for procedural reasons by ECOSOC at its last Management Segment of the cycle in July.
20. Following the ECOSOC Focus Week, the work of the ECOSOC shall continue in the three groups of the Council segments and forums. The first group will comprise Economic and Social Council Forums. It will include, annually, the forum on financing for development follow-up, the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, the Youth Forum and all other related mandated meetings. The Development Cooperation Forum will be convened in 2023, and will then be convened quadrennially thereafter, as part of the lead up to the meetings of the General Assembly high-level week.
21. The second group will comprise segments that address actions by the United Nations system, including the United Nations development system and other actors to implement the 2030 Agenda, along with distinct humanitarian assistance. It will include the operational activities for development segment, the humanitarian affairs segment, and the Relief, Development and Resilience Meeting, which will replace the special event on the transition from relief to development.
22. The third group will comprise the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, which has the central role in overseeing follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, including the ministerial segment of the high-level political forum, which will now be extended from 3 to 4 days. The general debate of the Council, which also serves as the general debate of the high-level political forum, will continue to be held in meetings of the high-level segment of the Council and will be extended from 3 to 4 days, in parallel to the ministerial days of the high-level political forum in July.
23. As mandated in the past, the Council may convene special sessions to address urgent developments in the economic, social, environmental and related fields that may require guidance and coordination by the Council. It should also convene ad hoc meetings on specific humanitarian emergencies at the request of the affected countries or following a recommendation of the Bureau. Such ad hoc meetings should raise awareness and promote the engagement of all stakeholders, including the United Nations system, in support of international relief efforts aimed at addressing those emergencies.

24. The working modalities of the Economic and Social Council should be guided by the principles of inclusiveness, transparency and flexibility, based on the deliberative functions of its meetings. It should be a platform for discussion and the exchange of national experiences. The Council should aim at creating synergy and coherence as well as avoiding duplication and overlap in its work to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. The Council should strengthen its efforts to mainstream a gender perspective across its agenda, work programme, meetings and documentation.

[Operational activities for development segment]

25. Through its three-day Operational Activities for Development Segment, ECOSOC serves as a platform to ensure and enhance accountability and oversight for and the acceleration of system-wide performance and results in relation to the 2030 Agenda, as well as to provide guidance and overall coordination of the United Nations development system.

26. Such guidance should be evidence-based and include objectives, priorities and strategies in the United Nations system support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the policies formulated by the General Assembly, including the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. As part of the work on reviewing progress in the implementation of mandates contained in resolution 75/233 and 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and as mandated in resolution 72/279, at the segment, Member States will exercise oversight on implementation of the resolution on repositioning of the United Nations development system. Implementation of ECOSOC resolutions 2019/15 and 2020/23 on progress in the implementation of the QCPR will also be reviewed.

27. The Economic and Social Council should, furthermore, provide improved overall coordination and guidance on operational activities for development, on a system-wide basis, to the governing bodies of the United Nations development system, in keeping with the mandates of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. This includes, as agreed in resolution 72/305, continuing to hold the segment close to the annual session of the executive boards of the funds and programmes. With a view to avoiding repetition of discussions, the executive boards that report to the Council should further highlight in their existing reports to the Council the issues requiring the examination by the Council and identify possible actions to be taken, guided by the chosen theme.

28. The segment should also continue to contribute to the preparations for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system.

29. Arrangements should be put in place to strengthen the linkages between the governing bodies of specialized agencies and ECOSOC to better inform and improve the work of the ECOSOC and inter alia, to promote a coherent and coordinated approach in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
30. The Council, during its operational activities for development segment, will also promote support required by developing countries to address the challenges identified in the VNRs, including partnerships, capacity development, financial resources or other support, in order to mobilize other countries, the United Nations system and other stakeholders.

[Relief, Development and Resilience Meeting]

31. The one-day Relief, Development and Resilience Meeting will be convened immediately preceding the humanitarian affairs segment and replace the special event on the Transition from Relief to Development. The Relief, Development and Resilience Meeting will be enhanced to better reflect the nature of challenges to humanitarian action and development assistance and to re-emphasize the need for a whole-of-system response, including greater cooperation, coherence, coordination and complementarity among development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace, to deliver better results on the ground. The meeting will focus on countries in post-conflict situations and countries facing humanitarian emergencies, including complex emergencies. The Council will also consider issues related to the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, South Sudan, the Sahel region and any country-specific item under the sub-item of African countries emerging from conflict during the Relief, Development and Resilience Meeting for in-depth discussion to guide coordinated support at country-level. The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission will be invited to participate in the Meeting. All relevant actors, including civil society and the private sector, should also be invited to participate in the meeting. The meeting may be held in a hybrid format and organized to ensure the full participation of all actors, in particular the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Chair of the Ad hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.

[Humanitarian Affairs Segment]

32. In line with paragraph 11 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, through the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, the Economic and Social Council should continue to contribute to strengthening the coordination and effectiveness of United Nations humanitarian assistance and support and complement international efforts aimed at addressing humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters, in order to promote an improved, coordinated response by the

United Nations. The Humanitarian Affairs Segment should continue to be held in June and alternate between Geneva and New York.

[Coordination with the Peacebuilding Commission]

33. The Economic and Social Council should strengthen its cooperation and dialogue with the Peacebuilding Commission, in accordance with their respective mandates. The ECOSOC President and the Peacebuilding Commission Chair are encouraged to explore ways to improve the annual joint meetings of the two bodies and reinforce their impact on the situation at country level. One Member of the Peacebuilding Commission should ensure the flow of information and complementarity of the work of ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission on an on-going basis.
34. As the Charter recognizes social and economic development as essential for stability and prosperity, the Economic and Social Council could furnish information to the Security Council and assist the Security Council upon its request, as envisioned in the Article 65 of the UN Charter. To this end, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council are encouraged to increase their interactions on issues of common interest and on countries and regions on the agenda of both Councils to help promote sustainable development and sustaining peace.

[Management Segment]

35. The meetings of the Management Segment will, in principle, last no more than two days, twice per cycle. The meetings will continue to focus on the adoption of procedural decisions, consideration of the recommendations of subsidiary bodies, as well as the introduction of reports and consideration of draft proposals submitted under relevant agenda items.
36. The Secretary-General's annual overview report of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for coordination will be presented at the Management Segment of the Council.
37. Dedicated management meetings will continue to be held to conduct elections to fill regular and outstanding vacancies in subsidiary bodies of the ECOSOC and related bodies, normally in the first half and last quarter of the year.
38. With a view to ensuring a streamlined consideration of related agenda items and optimal use of available time, the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council is invited to prepare a focused programme of work, including possible joint consideration of related items, that enhances deliberation among Member States. The programme of work and agenda should be circulated as early as possible.

The Bureau of the Council should make efforts to ensure that meetings and informal consultations are planned during United Nations working hours to better facilitate the active and constructive participation of all permanent missions in the work of the United Nations.

[Subsidiary bodies]

39. The Economic and Social Council should strengthen its oversight and coordination of its subsidiary bodies. Through its new Coordination Segment, it should continue to improve the work and the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies, making them more relevant, coherent and solution-oriented to support the implementation the 2030 Agenda and ensuring their follow-up so as to strengthen the impact of the work of the Council. It should effectively integrate the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies into its own work.
40. The Council should encourage its subsidiary bodies to ensure that they best support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the work of the Council as well as to review their agenda and working methods in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Decade of Action and Delivery. Their work should reflect the need for an integrated and action-oriented approach to the Sustainable Development Goals. Their recommendations should build on a solid evidence-based review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and the outcomes of conferences and summits in their respective areas. They should produce technical and expert analysis, assessments and policy recommendations with active participation of experts from the capitals. They should work in an efficient, effective, transparent and inclusive manner. The subsidiary bodies should include in their reports an executive summary, and the reports should be concise, clearly identifying the conclusions and recommendations and issues that may require attention and/or action by the Council.
41. The Council is invited to conduct a review of the work and agendas of its subsidiary bodies during the first half of 2022, so as to determine how they can best support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, produce technical and expert analysis, assessments and policy recommendations and deliver on the other mandates contained in OP.40 above.
42. The Secretary-General is invited to review the calendar of meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and, as appropriate, make proposals to ensure that the timing of the sessions of subsidiary bodies is aligned with the revised cycle of the Council.

[Engagement of civil society]

43. The Economic and Social Council has an important role as a platform for multi-stakeholder participation and for engaging all relevant stakeholders in the work of the Council and United Nations platforms, particularly with respect to its function related to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.
44. While retaining its intergovernmental nature, the Economic and Social Council shall seek to promote the active participation of non-governmental organizations, local governments, Members of Parliaments, academia, scientists, the private sector, youth and other relevant major groups and stakeholders and regional organizations in all the activities of the Council and its functional and regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, in accordance with the provisions of their respective rules of procedure and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 insofar as it pertains to the meetings of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Council.
45. The Economic and Social Council should consider possible ways of applying to other meetings and segments certain aspects of the modalities of engagement of major groups and other stakeholders in the high-level political forum, while retaining its intergovernmental nature and allowing sufficient time to Member States.
46. The Economic and Social Council should further promote the integration of youth into its deliberations, building on the past positive experiences of the ECOSOC youth forums.

ANNEX 2:

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level

[Introduction]

1. In accordance with the Political Declaration of the “SDG Summit” (high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly) held on 24 and 25 September 2019, the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level should support the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of its 17 sustainable development goals through the Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development.
2. The Assembly reaffirms its resolutions 67/290, 70/299 and 74/298 and the central role of the high-level political forum on sustainable development established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in overseeing follow-up and review of the Agenda at the global level.
3. The HLPF, consistent with its universal intergovernmental character, shall provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow-up and review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels, and have a focused, dynamic and action oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges that affect the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs.
4. The principles established in the 2030 Agenda for guiding follow-up and review processes at all levels including those set out in paragraph 74 of the Agenda should continue to be implemented through the reviews conducted at the HLPF.
5. The preparations of the HLPF and its programme and proceedings including the thematic reviews and the voluntary national reviews, shall reflect the universal, integrated, indivisible and interlinked

nature of the SDGs, and give adequate attention to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.³

6. The forum shall address the interlinkages between the global, regional, national and local levels. The forum is the culmination of a year-long process that involves local and national analysis, reviews and dialogues, notably on the preparations of the VNRs, regional consultations and peer learning at the regional forums on sustainable development, expert and other preparatory meetings, leading to the high-level political forum, which should then lead to feedback to the national and regional level.

I. The HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC:

7. In preparing the Forum, the President of ECOSOC and the Bureau, participating States in the Forum and the Secretariat will strengthen the focus of the Forum on peer learning and implementation, by providing sufficient time for exchange of experience, knowledge and advice including on successes, challenges, lessons learned and best practices, encouraging interaction among countries and with stakeholders before, during and after the HLPF, and giving more time for the interaction on the VNRs.
8. Bearing in mind the mandate of the HLPF and to enable adequate time for interactive discussions on the VNRs and reviewing progress in countries in special situations and specific challenges facing middle-income countries, an additional day will be added to the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC, resulting in a ministerial segment of four days and a total duration of nine days. The ECOSOC Bureau is also invited to assist in making the organization and work of the HLPF as effective and efficient as possible.

[Thematic reviews]

9. The high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of ECOSOC shall strengthen its analysis of the interlinkages across the SDGs, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs, and of the three dimensions of sustainable development while also addressing cross-cutting issues, including the integration of a gender perspective, human rights, governance, social protection, climate change and environmental issues, and the principle of Leaving No One Behind. It will continue to involve Governments, as well as parliamentarians, the

³ Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, local governments, indigenous peoples, civil society, NGOs, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community and other major groups and stakeholders.

10. For the remainder of the current cycle of the high-level political forum, the themes shall be:
 - a. For 2022: **Recovering from COVID-19 while advancing the implementation of the SDGs:** Improving the response to the pandemic and strengthening SDG implementation during the Decade of Action and Delivery through gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, quality education, and the sustainable management, protection and restoration of natural resources;
 - b. For 2023: **Strengthening the recovery from COVID-19 and accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda:** Ensuring universal access to quality basic services, empowering and supporting local governments, and building resilience.
11. The high-level political forum on sustainable development, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs, shall continue to review a set of Goals and their interlinkages, including with other Goals, at each session, representing the three dimensions of sustainable development, with a view to facilitating an in-depth review of progress made on all 17 Goals over the course of a four-year cycle. Means of implementation, including with respect to Goal 17, shall be reviewed annually. Peace, justice and strong institutions with respect to Goal 16 shall also be reviewed annually. The forum will strive to strike a balance between giving greater attention to interlinkages and ensuring in-depth reviews of individual SDGs. It will give dedicated attention to issues related to the availability of data and statistical capacities.
12. To better address the synergies and trade-offs across the goals, the high-level political forum shall also bear in mind, each year, areas where measures to achieve the SDGs can have the greatest and most transformative impact across multiple goals and targets, building on scientific analysis and taking inspiration from the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report.
13. For the remainder of the current cycle of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the sets of Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in-depth shall be:
 - i. For 2022: Goals 4, 5, 14, 15, 16 and 17;
 - ii. For 2023: Goals 6, 7, 9, 11, 16 and 17.

14. The 2022 and 2023 HLPF will also maintain the integrity of the 2030 Agenda and ensure continuous action on the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals with a 2020 timeline, by reviewing and adjusting their frameworks as needed, while keeping track of and building on the related on-going intergovernmental processes to allow updated targets to reflect a suitable level of ambition for 2030.
15. The July 2023 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC will also prepare the overall review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to be conducted at the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023, in line with resolution 70/299.
16. In 2022 and 2023, the HLPF shall also follow-up on the implementation of the political declaration adopted at the 2019 “SDG summit” (high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly), so as to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This will include promoting the ten cross-cutting actions identified in the declaration.
17. In the conduct of the thematic reviews, the HLPF should make use of the findings, research, data and recommendations from the UN system and other expert sources, including those emanating from the expert preparatory process organized by the Secretariat; the inputs of intergovernmental bodies and multi-stakeholder and other relevant forums to the HLPF; and sources such as the Global Sustainable Development Report and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism that strengthen the science-policy interface.
18. The relevant entities of the UN system are invited to continue supporting the preparations of the thematic reviews. Preparations should encourage the identification of good practices, lessons learned, challenges, solutions and the overarching principle of leaving no one behind.

[Countries in special situations]

19. The HLPF shall dedicate adequate time to review progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda in countries in special situations, especially with regard to the SDGs under review and their interlinkages particularly in African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. The dedicated thematic sessions for countries in special situation in previous HLPFs should be maintained and the circumstances and challenges of countries in special situations should also be addressed throughout the HLPF thematic reviews. Specific challenges facing middle-income countries should also be considered.

[Voluntary national reviews]

20. While recognizing the voluntary nature of the voluntary national reviews, countries are encouraged to conduct a VNR once during the four-year cycle, including countries in special situations. Countries who have not conducted a VNR yet are encouraged to do so, bearing in mind their capacities and national circumstances.
21. Countries presenting voluntary national reviews (VNRs) are encouraged to report on their progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving all the SDGs, consistent with the provisions of the 2030 Agenda and resolution 67/290. While bearing in mind the voluntary and country-led nature of VNRs and previous experience, countries may wish to share successes, challenges, gaps and lessons learned as well as areas where more action and new partnerships are needed in implementing the 2030 Agenda at the national level. They could also consider indicating the next steps they intend to take to accelerate implementation in the context of the decade of action and delivery. Focus on such forward-looking accelerated action could also inform VNR country contributions to the SDG Moment, convened by the Secretary-General each September.
22. Countries having already conducted a VNR are also encouraged to highlight trends, areas of progress, remaining challenges and measures taken since the last VNR, along with, as much as possible, the impact of measures taken.
23. The President of ECOSOC and the Bureau are encouraged to make the sessions interactive and conducive to substantive discussions and peer-learning. The Group of Friends of VNRs is encouraged to continue supporting the preparations of the sessions on the VNRs. Based on the VNRs, countries at the HLPF are encouraged to share constructive feedback, proposals and targeted recommendations to accelerate progress. Countries conducting VNRs may also continue to provide written answers after the HLPF if they so wish in case time was too short for them to provide detailed answers during the HLPF. It is important to enable and support the participation of major groups and other stakeholders in the discussion of the VNRs at the HLPF.
24. The President of ECOSOC and the Bureau are invited to consider ways to allocate as much time as possible to the VNRs during the HLPF in order to strengthen interaction and peer learning. Countries conducting VNRs should be given priority for organizing HLPF side events, on a voluntary basis, outside of the main sessions of the forum, including to allow for further interaction with all stakeholders.

25. Bearing in mind the country-led nature of the VNRs, countries are encouraged to involve all parts of governments at all levels and relevant institutions, as well as major groups and other stakeholders in the various steps and phases of the VNRs in accordance with paragraphs 78 and 79 of the 2030 Agenda. They may also share information at the national level on the outcome of the VNR presentation at the HLPF.
26. The essential role of national parliaments is also acknowledged through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, including through engagement in the VNRs.
27. As a part of the follow-up to the mandate of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for elaborating integrated national financing framework, countries are encouraged to review the mobilization of financial resources from all sources for implementing the 2030 Agenda as part of their VNRs.
28. Countries are also encouraged to strengthen evidence-, science-, evaluation- and data-based statistical reporting through the VNRs and enhance national statistical capacities to address the gaps in data on the 2030 Agenda. This will allow for high quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and statistics. Countries are also encouraged to consider integrating the Goals and targets in their monitoring and reporting systems and share best practices in this regard.
29. The forum shall strengthen the science-policy interface by examining documentation, bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including through the global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments, enhancing evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contributing to the strengthening of ongoing capacity-building for data collection and analysis in developing countries.
30. Bearing in mind the voluntary and country-led nature of the VNRs, countries are encouraged to follow the Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines as a suggested tool in preparations for voluntary national reviews. The Secretary-General is requested to update these guidelines, as appropriate, with a view to strengthening analysis and evidence-based reporting on all SDGs and on the 2030 Agenda as a whole, and taking into account feedback from countries participating in the high-level political forum, the impacts of COVID-19 and other crises as well as the limited capacities of many countries, and to make them available to Member States.
31. Countries are also encouraged to participate in the various preparatory processes for the VNRs organized by the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant partners, as well as in the VNR labs

and other side events during the HLPF which may allow them to continue the interaction on their VNRs or discuss specific themes from the VNRs with other countries. The UN system and other international and regional organizations, countries and other stakeholders in a position to do so are invited to provide support to countries who request it for the conduct of their VNR.

32. To improve the follow-up to the VNRs, the UN system and other international and regional organizations, countries, and major groups and other stakeholders are invited and encouraged to launch partnerships and provide support, including capacity building, to VNR programme countries at their request in order to help them address the challenges related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Countries could consider continuing to exchange experiences and to support one another after the HLPF through mutually agreed arrangements. The UN development system is invited to support the follow-up to the VNRs in developing countries, at their request, including by focusing on addressing gaps and challenges in implementation identified by the VNRs in developing and implementing United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks where possible.
33. Countries are also encouraged to use the voluntary national reviews as a voluntary, effective and integrated follow-up and review framework to inform all their citizens on their implementation of the 2030 Agenda, maximize and track their progress and promote fulfilment of their commitments to their citizens.

[Regional level follow-up and review]

34. The regional forums on sustainable development convened by the regional commissions make an important contribution to the preparations of the HLPF and to peer learning and knowledge exchange in the regions. The regional forums shall feed into the thematic reviews and the interaction on the voluntary national reviews at the HLPF. They are encouraged to discuss new issues and ideas, prepare the thematic reviews of the HLPF and discuss regional challenges, gaps and approaches as well as best practices and innovative ideas to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and strengthen regional capacity building and networking. The regional forums are also encouraged to enhance peer learning and feedback among countries during the preparations of the VNRs and discuss and follow-up on issues arising from the voluntary national reviews, while avoiding overlap with the HLPF.
35. The high-level political forum should continue to strengthen the attention given to the outcomes of the regional forums in its proceedings and declaration, with inputs from the regional commissions and other regional and sub-regional entities as needed, while improving cross-regional dialogue and

incorporating regional dimensions in its reviews. The regional forums are encouraged to submit their respective outcomes as early as possible to ensure a timely consideration by the high-level political forum.

[Local level implementation and review]

36. The regional forums are also encouraged to discuss trends and findings from voluntary local reviews and the high-level political forum should continue to strengthen the attention given to efforts to bolster local action to accelerate SDG implementation as well as to encourage the use of, and support for, open and inclusive space for review mechanisms at the local level.

[Reports]

37. The meetings of the high-level political forum under the auspices of ECOSOC shall continue to be informed by a Secretary-General's annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals and all other relevant inputs, with the *Global Sustainable Development Report* presented to the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly every four years. The Secretary-General is invited to include in the SDG progress report information on data gaps and capacities and options to address the capacity gaps. The President of ECOSOC and the ECOSOC Bureau are encouraged to invite the scientists preparing the *2023 Global Sustainable Development Report* to participate in the 2022 and 2023 HLPF, including to bring new and emerging issues to the attention of the HLPF.

[Declaration]

38. The declaration of the high-level political forum should be short, focused, action oriented, forward looking and outlining priority areas for accelerated action. It should demonstrate the shared political will of all countries to implement the 2030 Agenda. The HLPF will continue to have only one negotiated political declaration covering the different but complementary functions of the Forum when the Forum is convened twice in the same year.

II. HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly

39. The meetings of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly ("SDG Summit") shall begin on the first day of the General Debate or the Monday before the opening of the General Debate of the General Assembly to maximize their visibility and impact. In the year preceding the SDG Summit, the United Nations system should focus its communication efforts on

the 2030 Agenda. The Secretary-General is encouraged to use the annual SDG moment to highlight inspiring action on the Goals, in the context of the general debate of the General Assembly and with participation of heads of state or government. The SDG moment will not be held in years when the HLPF meets under the auspices of the General Assembly.

III Participation of major groups and other stakeholders:

40. Reaffirming the provisions stipulated in paragraphs 14 and 15 of resolution 67/290, which should be fully implemented, the high-level political forum should further enable the participation of major groups and other stakeholders in all aspects of its work, including through virtual and hybrid formats, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of the forum. It should ensure meaningful participation of a diverse and inclusive range of major groups and other stakeholders, including marginalized groups and women, children and youth, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.
41. Countries are also encouraged to include major groups other stakeholders in the preparations and follow up of their VNRs as well as to consider including them in their delegations when presenting their voluntary national reviews at the HLPF.
42. In organizing the meetings of the high-level political forum, consideration should be given to the innovative use of web-based interfaces as an additional means to support effective, broad and balanced participation of a variety of stakeholders from all regions, in accordance with the modalities on the participation of stakeholders in resolution 67/290.
43. Major groups and other stakeholders are called upon to continue to report on their contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as provided for by paragraph 89 of the Agenda, and the Secretariat shall continue to compile and make available their reports.