



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 April 2017

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a memo from my meeting on 4 April 2017 with the President of the Economic and Social Council, His Excellency Mr. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations in New York, as part of my 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 Representatives  
and Permanent Observers  
to the United Nations  
New York

**Meeting between the President of the General Assembly and the President of Economic and Social Council on Tuesday 4th April 2017**

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 Musiiwa Makamure Shava on Tuesday 4th April 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 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:

***PGA's trip to Africa, Dakar, Addis Ababa and Cairo (26 March-2 April 2017)***

The President of the General Assembly informed the President of the ECOSOC of his recent trip to three African countries, Senegal, Ethiopia and Egypt, which allowed him to engage with officials of respective governments as well as the African Union leadership and Membership on the priorities of the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the GA, including advancing the implementation of SDGs as well as on specific issues related to the Continent. He also used that visit to raise awareness about The Oceans Conference.

***2017 Partnerships Forum (5 April 2017)***

The President of ECOSOC updated the PGA on the Partnership Forum and the PGA confirmed his participation at the opening segment. The Presidents agreed on the importance of promoting partnerships through this meeting but also at all activities of the two main bodies, in order to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda.

***Special Meeting on International Cooperation on Tax Matters (7 April 2017)***

The President of the ECOSOC updated the PGA on the special meeting on international cooperation on tax matters, which will be held right after the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee. He informed that this meeting aims to facilitate the dialogue between the Committee and the Council, while providing an intergovernmental angle on tax issues. Both Presidents agreed on the critical importance of tax matters in the mobilization of appropriate financing to meet the SDGs within the timeframe. The Presidents also briefly exchanged views on the role of illicit financial flows in this context.

***Meeting between the ECOSOC Bureau and the Executive Directors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (10 April 2017)***

The President of the ECOSOC informed the PGA of the annual meeting between the Bureau of the ECOSOC and the Executive Directors of the World Bank and the IMF, to be held in Washington, which aims to exchange views on matters related to financing for development, and bringing more coherence on crosscutting issues.

***SDG Financing Lab (18 April) and the Financing for Development Forum (22-25 May 2017)***

The PGA updated the President of the ECOSOC of the ongoing preparations and programme of the "SDG Financing Lab", to be convened on 18 April 2017, which aims to promote global discussions on sustainable financing and means of implementation, including through bringing together key Ministers and other senior representatives, with leaders from the

financial and private sectors, civil society, and academia, to examine ways to leverage private and public financing for the SDGs. For his part, the President of the ECOSOC updated the PGA on the preparations for the FFD Forum, to be held from 22 to 25 May. He informed that the draft programme has been posted on the Forum's website and that he had appointed the Ambassadors of Belgium and South Africa to co-facilitate consultations on the outcome document. He also stressed the importance of ensuring that this year, the Forum's deliberations resulted in a substantive outcome.

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

The President of the ECOSOC updated the PGA on the “Global Expert Meeting on Agriculture and Agro-industries Development towards sustainable and resilient food systems”, to be convened in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 24 to 26 April 2017. This meeting aims to identify potential pathways, incentives and initiatives to realizing the SDGs through agriculture and agro-industry, to be presented as recommendations to the ECOSOC and Member States. Both Presidents agreed on the importance of this meeting, as it is a continuation of the discussions initiated in Dakar, on 26 March 2017, and focused on “Innovation for Infrastructure Development and Sustainable Industrialization”, organized by the President of ECOSOC and attended by the PGA.

***Integration Segment (8-10 May 2017)***

The President of the ECOSOC updated the PGA on the advanced preparations for the upcoming Integration Segment of the Council, to be convened from 8 to 10 May 2017, and invited him to address the opening segment. The focus of the segment is to ensure that eradication of poverty is an integral part of all policies, while making sure that the multi-dimensionality of poverty is duly considered, including in terms of its implications on the low and middle-income countries.

While he strongly supported the focus of the Integration Segment, the PGA informed that he will be represented at the opening segment, due to conflicting schedules.

***Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science Technology and Innovation (15-16 May 2017) and the 'High-Level Event on Innovation and Connectivity' (17 May 2017)***

The President of the ECOSOC informed about the ongoing preparations for the STI Forum, including a briefing to be provided soon to Member States by the co-chairs of the Forum. He invited the PGA to address the Forum. For his part, the PGA updated the President of the ECOSOC on the ongoing preparations for the High Level Event on innovation and connectivity, which aims to bring together leading innovators from around the world with Member States, UN, and civil society leaders, to explore ways to harness the power of technology to solve critical challenges in support of SDG implementation.

The Presidents discussed appropriate ways to ensure synergies and coherence between these two Events, as they are scheduled back-to-back, and agreed to work closely on the whole package in order to mobilize appropriate participation including at Ministerial level.

***Alignment of the GA agenda with the 2030 Agenda***

The President of ECOSOC updated the PGA on his meeting with the co-facilitators of the process, the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Australia. They both highlighted the importance of working closely on this process in order to ensure the needed progress and meet expectations of Member States.