



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 May 2018

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith a letter, dated 25 May 2018, from H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed S. Al Thani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar and H.E. Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iceland, Co-Facilitators of the ECOSOC review process, in accordance with Resolution 68/1 entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”.

The co-facilitators are convening the next informal meeting on Tuesday 29 May 2018, at 3:00 pm, in Conference Room 7. They are also sharing with Member States a revised zero draft of the outcome document.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák', written over a printed name.

Miroslav Lajčák

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



PERMANENT MISSION
OF ICELAND TO THE UN

25 May 2018

Excellency,

We are pleased to share with you, for your consideration, a revised zero draft resolution. The revised draft builds on the consultations held on 24 May, the written inputs you provided after our discussions, as well as our understanding of your views in different areas of the draft.

We once more found your comments and insights extremely useful during our last meeting on 24 May on the proposed zero draft of our outcome document. We are grateful to you for your continued engagement.

We wish to inform you that we are convening the seventh informal consultations on the review of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on ECOSOC on Tuesday, 29 May, at 3 pm in Conference Room 7. At the meeting on 29 May, we intend to present the revised zero draft and seek your guidance through your general comments and feedback.

Before the meeting on the 29th, We wish to convey some preliminary explanations regarding the revised draft:

- there are two paragraphs that have been bracketed. One of these is paragraph 12 in relation to integration, where we believe that there is not yet a significant convergence of views. We believe we need to continue to discuss and listen to each other's views before making any further proposals for moving forward in this area.
- The second is paragraph 6 regarding proposed core themes for the HLPF. While there seemed to be convergence to a general view that this paragraph was not desired, we wish to seek your further guidance on how to ensure that the thematic focus of HLPF and ECOSOC are decided early enough to allow sufficient time for the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to adjust their themes accordingly.
- The section with a heading on addressing emerging and frontier issues has been removed, and that the content of this section has been incorporated into paragraph 13 of the Annex in the section on the ECOSOC HLS and the HLPF. We also anticipate that eventually all the headings of the sections will be removed, and we have therefore placed in brackets all the remaining titles.

Upon the completion of our general consultations on the revised zero draft on 29 May, we propose to convene a follow-up meeting on Friday, 1 June, at 3 pm in the ECOSOC Chamber. During this meeting, we propose to conduct a substantive reading of the revised draft to seek your specific guidance on its contents.

We continue to seek your views, ideas and proposals and see the need to engage in a free flowing discussion on the most complex issues. In light of the progress we have made in the advancement of our discussions, and in anticipation of fruitful meetings on 29 May and 1 June, we wish to kindly request that additional written comments be received by our respective teams by noon on Monday, 4 June.

We believe that we have made significant progress, and we see that views have converged on a number of areas. With your guidance, it is our aim to continue to make progress and conclude our consultations with agreement on our outcome document by 15 June.

We look forward to seeing you on 29 May and to your continued constructive engagement.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal line with a small, stylized mark in the middle.

H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed S. Al Thani
Permanent Representative of the
State of Qatar to the United Nations

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'E' and 'G' at the beginning, followed by a cursive name.

H.E. Mr. Einar Gunnarsson
Permanent Representative of
Iceland to the United Nations

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

25 May 2018

**General Assembly review of 68/1
Co-Facilitators' revised zero draft resolution**

The Co-Facilitators share the following revised zero draft resolution reflecting the informal consultations with Member States on 24 May, to serve as a basis for the continuing discussion among the Member States on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1.

Zero draft resolution

The General Assembly,

PP1 Recalling its resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 and all previous related resolution,

PP2 Recalling further its resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 70/299 of 29 July 2016,

PP3 *Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

PP4 *Reaffirming also* its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

PP5 Welcoming the Paris Agreement¹ adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its early entry into force, as well as the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,

PP6 Reaffirming the role that the Charter of the United Nations has vested in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and recognizing the need for a more effective Council as a principal organ of the United Nations for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development,²

PP7 Reaffirming 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,³ so that it best supports Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in the integrated and coordinated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits,

¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCC/CP/2015/10/Add1, decision 1/CP.21.

² Based on PP4 of 68/1

³ UNDS second report on repositioning, A/72/684-E2018/7, para. 107

PP8 Noting the ongoing process of intergovernmental consultations aimed at enhancing synergies and coherence and reducing overlap where it is found to exist in the agenda of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies, as well as the high-level political forum and other related forums in light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in accordance with paragraphs 28, 29 and 30 of resolution 71/323 of 8 September 2017,

PP9 Reaffirming its resolution A/72/L.52 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the QCPR.

1. *Adopts* the text contained in the annex to the present resolution, and calls upon the Economic and Social Council and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system to implement the measures contained therein in an expeditious manner;
2. *Decides* that the arrangements contained in the present resolution and its annex will be reviewed at its seventy-fourth session, in conjunction with the review of the high-level political forum (HLPF) for sustainable development, and that future review cycles of ECOSOC and the HLPF will be harmonized;

Annex

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

1. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council should continue to strengthen its provision of leadership and policy guidance, and its role as the central mechanism for coordination of the activities of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and supervision of its subsidiary bodies while integrating their analysis and inputs. It should also address urgent developments in the economic, social, humanitarian and related fields and, overall, support the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development. It should promote a coordinated follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, looking also to emerging and frontier issues.
2. The working modalities of the Council should be guided by the principles of inclusiveness, transparency and flexibility based on the deliberative function 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 between its deliberations and those of the General Assembly and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. It should also ensure an adequate division of labor among its subsidiary bodies, avoiding overlap and duplication and ensuring that they address critical aspects and principles of the 2030 Agenda.

3. ECOSOC needs to improve its outcomes and the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies, making them more relevant, action oriented and ensuring their follow-up so as to strengthen the impact of the Council's work.

[Annual main theme and substantive focus]

4. The General Assembly will adopt a core theme for the HLPF, bearing in mind the provisions of resolution 70/299. ECOSOC will then adopt the core theme as its main theme. The themes of its segments will focus on a particular aspect of the main theme, bearing in mind their respective functions. The Humanitarian Affairs Segment will continue to adopt themes based on humanitarian considerations.
5. The ECOSOC subsidiary bodies will similarly adopt their own respective themes, based on, or derived from the core theme, while continuing to address issues or a theme necessary to discharge on their other functions.
6. [To allow enough time for the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to adjust their themes, the General Assembly decides that that the core themes for the HLPF in 2020 to 2023 will be
For 2020:
For 2021:
For 2022:
For 2023:]
7. Concerns for poverty eradication, gender equality, countries in special situations and those left furthest behind should be reflected in the themes chosen for the ECOSOC segments and subsidiary bodies. The themes will reflect the SDGs and their integrated nature.

[Structure of the ECOSOC cycle]

8. The ECOSOC cycle will continue to run from July to July. To promote linkages in their work and enhance ECOSOC's visibility and impact, and to encourage coherence and efficiency the ECOSOC segments and forums will be restructured into three groups per ECOSOC annual cycle.
9. The first group will be comprised of ECOSOC forums that place a strong emphasis on the Global Partnership. It will include the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) (every second year), the Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (FfD Forum), and the Multi-stakeholder Forum on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development Goals (STI Forum), the partnership forum and the youth forum. These forums will be organized independently, depending on the availability of conference services. The FfD Forum will be held in close proximity to the Spring meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

10. The second group will be comprised of segments that address actions by the United Nations development system and other actors to implement the 2030 Agenda, along with distinct humanitarian assistance. It will include the Operational Activities Segment and the Humanitarian Affairs Segment.
11. The third group will be comprised of segments and forums that review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and look to the future of the advancement of sustainable development. It will include, in this order, a stock-taking segment, the HLPF and the HLS.

[Integration]

12. [A stock-taking segment will be held for one day immediately before the HLPF. It will replace the integration segment and take over its current functions. It will discuss and consolidate all the inputs of Member States, including case studies and lessons learned, the subsidiary bodies of the Council, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. This segment will thus bring together the key messages from the Council subsidiary bodies and the UN system on the core theme and develop action-oriented recommendations on the HLPF thematic review. The Secretary-General will present the report of the Chief Executive Board for coordination (CEB). Heads of UN system entities, Chairs of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions will also be invited to participate. The outcome of the segment will be a President's summary.]

[ECOSOC High-level Segment and HLPF]

13. The final day of the HLS of ECOSOC, following the ministerial segment of the HLPF, will focus on future trends and scenarios related to the ECOSOC theme, long-term impact of current trends in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realization of the SDGs. This would include discussions of forecasts, scenarios, and foresights, based on the work of the United Nations and other regional and international organizations and bodies as well as other stakeholders and will provide political guidance and recommendations to the continuing implementation of the SDGs. It should also aim at enhancing knowledge sharing and regional and international cooperation including, among others, access to science, technology and innovation, building on the work of the STI Forum, as well as addressing emerging and frontier issues.
14. The outcome of the HLS of ECOSOC will be a President's Summary. The outcome of the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC will remain a Ministerial Declaration, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 70/299.

[System-wide coherence and coordination: operational activities for development] ⁴

15. The strengthened operational activities for development segment should serve as a platform to provide accountability for system-wide performance in relation to the 2030 Agenda.⁵ The Council should provide guidance to and overall coordination of the United Nations development system⁶. Such guidance should include objectives, priorities and strategies in the United Nations systems' support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the policies formulated by the General Assembly, including the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.⁷
16. As part of its work on the implementation of the QCPR⁸, the Council will exercise oversight on the implementation of the resolution on the repositioning of the UN development system, including the implementation of a reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including its funding, to ensure accountability towards the Member States (OP 15 of the UNDS resolution A/72/L.52). It will also review system wide support to the SDGs and aggregated information on system-wide results by 2021 (OP. 28 (a) of A/72/L.52) as well as the annual comprehensive report, including on the operational, administrative and financing aspects of the activities of UNDOCO, mandated in OP 17 of A/72/L.52. In 2019, it will review the reports and aspects mandated through OP 4, 19b, 29 and 30 of A/72/L.52.
17. The Council should strive to reinforce the linkages between policy and operational functions⁹ while continuing to focus on improving the overall impact of operational activities of the United Nations system in support of national development priorities. The segment should address cross-cutting and coordination issues related to operational activities.¹⁰
18. The Council should furthermore provide improved guidance to the governing bodies of the UN development system in keep with the mandates of the QCPR. This includes holding the segment closer to the annual meetings of the executive boards of the funds and programmes.¹¹ With a view to avoiding repetition of discussions, the executive boards that report to the Council should further highlight in their reports to the Council the issues requiring examination and identify actions to be taken, guided by the chosen theme. The segment should continue to contribute to the preparations for the quadrennial policy review of operational activities, through which the Assembly establishes key system-wide

⁴ This section brings together several existing mandates of the OAS so as to establish its new mandated role after the adoption of the resolution on the UNDS

⁵ SG Report of December 2017 (A/72/684 - E/2018/7), para. 107.

⁶ QCPR resolution A/res/71/243

⁷ 68/1, OP 11(a). with addition of 2030 Agenda

⁸ A/72/L.52 UNDS resolution, OP 33

⁹ SG Report of December 2017 (A/72/684 - E/2018/7), para. 108.

¹⁰ 68/1, Annex, para. 11(a)

¹¹ Based on Section VI. A. of SG Report of December 2017 (A/72/684 - E/2018/7)

policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system.¹²

19. The OAS will adopt a resolution on operational activities except in years when the General Assembly conducts the QCPR, when it will adopt a summary of the President to inform the QCPR. The General Assembly will normally adopt resolution on operational activities only in the years when it conducts the QCPR, leaving it to ECOSOC to monitor implementation of its guidance on QCPR in the other years.

[Humanitarian affairs segment]

20. Through the humanitarian affairs segment (HAS), the Council should, in line with paragraph 11(b) of the Annex to 68/1, 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.¹³
21. The special event to discuss the transition from relief to development will focus on cases of countries emerging from disasters and other humanitarian crises/emergencies. It will continue to be convened immediately preceding the HAS. The HAS shall continue to alternate between Geneva and New York and shall be convened preceding the annual session of the executive boards of the funds and programmes of the United Nations system.

[Peacebuilding Commission]

22. The Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission are encouraged to cooperate more closely, in accordance with their respective mandates, including through enhanced dialogue in support of promoting coherence and complementarity between the United Nations' peace and security efforts and its support to the 2030 Agenda, human rights and humanitarian work¹⁴, including through the joint annual meeting. The Council is encouraged to seek advice from the Peacebuilding Commission on issues that are relevant for the implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in countries affected by conflict.

¹² 68/1, Annex, para. 11(a)

¹³ From para. 11(b) of Annex to 68/1

¹⁴ Based on OP10 of A/RES/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)

[Stakeholder engagement]

23. 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, particularly with respect to its function related to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development¹⁵ and should engage a broader range of stakeholders in its work, such as local governments or other relevant stakeholders.
24. The ECOSOC Bureau should consider possible ways of applying certain aspects of the modalities of engagement of major groups and other stakeholders in the HLPF (defined in resolution 67/290).

[Coordination and management]

25. The current Coordination and Management Meeting shall be renamed the “Management Segment”.
26. Focused management meetings will be held, in principle of not more than two days duration, twice per cycle. The meetings will carry out the functions of the coordination and management segments set out in paragraph 11 (d) of resolution 68/1, focusing on the adoption of procedural decisions, consideration of recommendations of subsidiary bodies, as well as introduction of reports and consideration of draft proposals submitted under relevant agenda items.
27. With a view to ensuring a streamlined consideration of related agenda items and optimal use of available time, the ECOSOC Bureau is invited to prepare a focused programme of work for each set of meetings, including possible joint consideration of related items.
28. Dedicated organizational meetings will also be held to conduct elections to regular and outstanding vacancies in subsidiary bodies of the Council and related bodies, normally in the first half and last quarter of the year. In preparing for elections by the Council, Member States should present candidates at least three working days in advance of elections. The provisions of paragraphs 47 and 48 of resolution 71/323 should be followed, as applicable to the Council.

[ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and support]

29. The Council should strengthen its oversight and coordination role of its subsidiary bodies. It should review their work with a view to ensure their continued relevance. It will also ensure that they produce technical and expert analysis, assessments and policy recommendations to inform the integrated view of the Council and inform efforts to implement the SDGs. It should effectively integrate the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies into its own work.

15 From para. 22 of Annex to 68/1

30. ECOSOC should invite its subsidiary bodies to further review their respective working methods so as to best support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the work of ECOSOC. Their work should reflect the need for an integrated and action-oriented approach to implementing the SDGs. Their recommendations should build on a solid evidence-based review of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the outcomes of conferences and summits in their respective area. They should work in an effective, transparent and inclusive manner.
31. ECOSOC should also request its subsidiary bodies to consider the need for annual negotiated outcomes and to ensure that the outcomes they produce are effective and action-oriented outcomes, bearing in mind their respective nature as functional or regional commissions or expert bodies.
32. The Secretary-General should make recommendation on whether and how to adjust the calendar of meetings of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and make adjustments to their reporting arrangements, as necessary, in the light of agreed changes to the structure and timing of the meetings of ECOSOC.
33. With a view to ensuring continuity, the Bureau of ECOSOC is invited to consider, in consultation with Member States, merits of expanding the Bureau to include two representatives per regional group and of a possible extension and staggering of their terms, for possible further consideration by the Council.