



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15 May 2018

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith a letter, dated 14 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 Wednesday 16 May 2018, at 3:00 pm, in the ECOSOC Chamber.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák'.

Miroslav Lajčák

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



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF ICELAND TO THE UN

14 May 2018

Excellency,

We wish to invite you to the fifth informal consultations on the review of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on ECOSOC on Wednesday, 16 May, at 3:00 pm in the ECOSOC Chamber. Kindly note that our previously scheduled consultation on Tuesday, 15 May, is therefore cancelled.

We highly appreciated your insights and feedback on the suggested elements from our last meeting on 7 May. We see that views converge on a number of areas, which will facilitate the preparation of a zero draft of our outcome document in the near future.

At the upcoming meeting on 16 May, we hope to continue to address the various issues contained in these elements and deepen the conversation on some aspects where we think we need to better understand all positions and build agreement.

We have invited the Deputy Secretary-General to join the consultations and offer a briefing on the repositioning of the United Nations development system. We wish to begin the consultations with her briefing, with particular attention to its implications for ECOSOC. At the end of the briefing, we would encourage you to pose questions and seek clarification from the Deputy Secretary-General.

During our consultations that will follow, we would also seek your guidance on what impact the repositioning process has on ECOSOC's work in promoting system-wide coherence, particularly with respect to how you see the operational activities segment may improve synergies across the Council's work.

As we intend to begin preparing the zero draft of our outcome document for your consideration, during our consultations on 16 May we would also wish you to offer further concrete ideas or proposals relating to issues on which you would like to provide us with guidance.

Based on our understanding of the progress we have made in discerning various aspects of the elements paper, we also wish to seek further clarification from you on selected issues through the following questions, which we offer for your consideration:

1. Regarding the ECOSOC segments, what would improved outcomes look like? How can the outcome of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies be most useful, and should some be biennialized or triennialized?

2. With respect to integration:

2.1 How could the integration segment best deliver on its main functions of consolidating all the inputs of Member States, the subsidiary bodies of the Council, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, promoting balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and bringing together the key messages from the Council system and develop action-oriented recommendations? How could this be done differently?

2.2 Which audience is the integration segment targeting, or should be targeting, and how might it increase the engagement of that audience?

3. Regarding emerging and frontier issues, there was a proposal to explore the possibility of dedicating an annual segment for deliberation on emerging and frontier issues. Would this be in addition to, or in place of, addressing emerging and frontier issues in existing forums, including the STI forum?

4. With respect to the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, how can it be ensured that each subsidiary body delivers on its mandate and adds value? In addition, should ECOSOC be requested to consider the calendar of meetings and reporting arrangements of its subsidiary bodies in the light of any changes to the Council's own working arrangements?

5. Finally, we would also wish to seek your feedback on the proposal for the ECOSOC Bureau, to consider increasing its membership to two Member States per regional group and extending the term of member from one to two years. Is this an issue that Member States would wish to explore further?

We look forward to seeing you on 16 May and to your continued constructive engagement.

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



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



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