



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 May 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a memo from my meeting on 23 May 2018 with the President of the Economic and Social Council, Her Excellency Ms. Marie Chatardová, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic 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.



Miroslav Lajčák

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 Wednesday 23 May 2018

The President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly, H.E Mr. Miroslav Lajčák met with the President of the Economic and Social Council, H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardová, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations, on Wednesday 23 May 2018, as part of their efforts to strengthen relations between the principal organs of the UN and ensure close collaboration and coherence in the work of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC.

The two Presidents exchanged views on recent events and developments as well as upcoming activities, in particular:

Repositioning of the UN development System to deliver on the 2030 Agenda

The President of the General Assembly and the President of the ECOSOC discussed the latest development with relation to the process of repositioning the United Nations Development System, including the successful conclusion of the intergovernmental negotiations as well as the adoption of the draft resolution, which is scheduled for 31 May 2018.

The two Presidents recognized the importance of the resolution, which should ensure a UN development system that is strategic, accountable, transparent, collaborative, efficient, effective and result-oriented to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They have also stressed on the critical importance of the implementation phase and the transition period towards the new UN Development System, and the central role that ECOSOC will play in overseeing the implementation of the UN repositioning through its Operational Activities Segment.

Process on strengthening of the ECOSOC

The President of the General Assembly informed the President of ECOSOC of the implementation of the mandate of the General Assembly resolution 68/1 entitled “Review of the implementation of GA resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, including the zero draft, circulated by the co-facilitators which will be discussed by Member States at the next informal meeting.

Alignment of the agendas of the GA, the ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies with the 2030 Agenda

The President of the General Assembly informed the President of ECOSOC of his participation at the first meeting convened by the co-facilitators of the process related to alignment of the Agendas of the General Assembly, ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies as well as the HLPF to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, in order to provide needed political support to the process. He also informed about the next meeting to be convened on 31 May, which will give an opportunity to Member States to engage in a discussion based on the “food for thought” paper prepared by co-facilitators.

Participation of the PGA at meetings of the ECOSOC

The President of ECOSOC invited the President of the General Assembly to participate and address the opening segment of the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development, to be convened on 16 July 2018, from 9:00 to 10:00 am. She informed also that the Deputy

Secretary General will attend and address the segment. The PGA confirmed his availability to participate and address this important meeting.

The President of ECOSOC informed the PGA that ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) will be convening a joint meeting on “Partnering with the Private Sector for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace” on 27 June, which will showcase country examples of initiatives that have been successful in engaging the private sector in peacebuilding, and explore inclusive business models for sustaining peace. She invited the PGA to address the meeting, who confirmed his availability and readiness to share also some of the conclusions of the High-Level meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, convened on 24-25 April.

As far as the Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum) is concerned, the President of the General Assembly expressed regrets for not being able to attend the opening of the Forum, due to his engagement at the GA meeting to elect the PGA of 73rd session on June 5. However, he confirmed availability to address the Launch of the exhibition of innovative technology solutions for SDGs.

Events related to SDGs during the 72nd session

The President of the General Assembly updated the President of ECOSOC on his upcoming Events related to the SDGs implementation, namely the Youth Dialogue and the SDGs financing, to be convened respectively on 30 May and 11 June, including conclusion of programmes and circulation to Member States. The two Presidents agreed on the need to ensure coordination and synergy between the two main bodies on these topics.

Other processes and events

The President of the General Assembly briefed also the President of the ECOSOC on other mandated processes and events, including:

- Health related events: the preparations for the high-level meetings on Tuberculosis (September 26) and Non-Communicable Diseases (September 27) are underway, including through holding civil society hearings on TB on June 4 and on NCDs on July 5. He also informed that negotiations on the outcome document for both meetings will begin in early June. On the other hand, he informed about the recent appointment of co-facilitators to lead the discussions on the modalities of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, to be held in 2019.
- Middle-income countries: the PGA informed about the nomination of co-facilitators on modalities for the high-level meeting on middle-income countries, to be held at the beginning of the 73rd session.
- The ongoing preparations for the mandated High-level Interactive Dialogue on Sand and Dust Storms, to be convened in the afternoon of Monday 16 July 2018.
- UNGA74 Consultations: the PGA decided to address the issue of proliferation of General Assembly’s activities in the beginning of the 74th session, including the mandated 4 high-level meetings, to be held in the beginning of UNGA74 together with the General Debate, including the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of the Assembly. The PGA nominated a facilitator, after having consulted with the General Committee, to lead the informal consultations with Member States and prepare a draft decision to address the scheduling of these meetings.

The President of ECOSOC briefed also the PGA about the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, which has just completed its annual mission to Haiti for 2018. She highlighted the need for the international community to continue providing full support to Haiti in order to consolidate its transition to a more secure and sustainable development future.