



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

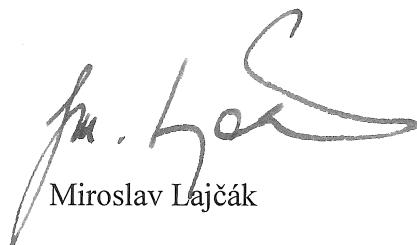
8 June 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter, dated 8 June 2018, from H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed S. Al Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar and H.E. Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland, Co-facilitators to lead intergovernmental consultations on the ECOSOC review process, in accordance to 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 circulating the revised draft resolution and will be convening the ninth informal consultations on Wednesday, 13 June 2018, at 10.00 am and 3.00 pm in the ECOSOC Chamber.

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



Miroslav Lajčák

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



PERMANENT MISSION
OF ICELAND TO THE UN

8 June 2018

Excellency,

We are pleased to share with you, for your consideration, a revised draft resolution outcome document. The revised draft builds on the consultations held on 4 June, the written inputs you provided after our discussions, as well as our understanding of your views on different areas of the draft.

We wish to thank delegations for their participation at our last meeting on 4 June, where we had a substantive reading of the revised zero draft resolution. We found your comments and insights on the revised zero draft resolution to be extremely useful.

We also wish to invite you to the ninth informal consultations on the review of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on ECOSOC on Wednesday, 13 June, at 10:00 am and 3:00 pm in the ECOSOC Chamber. During these meetings, we intend to seek your guidance through a final substantive reading of the revised draft where we come together and reach agreement on our outcome.

We believe that we have made significant progress. We see that views have converged on a number of areas, and we believe that convergence on the remaining areas is not far away. With your constructive engagement and guidance, it is our aim to continue to make the final progress necessary during our meetings on 13 June to conclude our consultations with agreement on our outcome document by 15 June.

We wish to thank you for the progress we have made and for your continued engagement. We look forward to seeing you on 13 June.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink.

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.

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

8 June 2018

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

Revised draft resolution

The General Assembly,

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

PP2 Recalling further its resolution 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”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

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, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

PP5 Welcoming the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits including the Paris Agreement as well as the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 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 and outcomes on LDCs and SIDS,

PP6 Reaffirming the role that the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly have vested in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and recognizing the need for a more effective Council as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development as well as for the implementation of the SDGs and the other international development goals agreed at the major UN conferences and summits and¹ recognizing the key role of the Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

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,² so that it best supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in the integrated and coordinated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits,

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 72/279 of 31 May 2018 for the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and also reiterating the role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and looking forward to the update by the Secretary-General to the Member States on the alignment of the Department with the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016,³

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;

¹ Based on PP4 of 68/1

² UNDS second report on repositioning, A/72/684-E2018/7, para. 107

³ A/RES/72/299, OP 31

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 the implementation of the resolutions on ECOSOC and the HLPF will be merged.

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 throughout its segments and looking also to emerging and frontier issues. It should also address urgent developments in the economic, social, environmental and related fields and, overall support the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and a strengthened 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.
2. The working modalities of the Council should be guided by the principles of inclusiveness, transparency, efficiency, effectiveness 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 under the auspices of ECOSOC. It should also ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions by promoting a clearer division of labour among them and providing clear policy guidance to them. It should ensure the critical aspects and principles of the 2030 Agenda are addressed.
3. ECOSOC shall improve its outcomes and the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies, making them more relevant, coherent and solution oriented to address implementation

challenges 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 main theme for the HLPF and ECOSOC, bearing in mind the provisions of resolution 70/299. The themes of the segments of ECOSOC 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 and that are also, as appropriate, coherent with the main theme of ECOSOC.
5. The ECOSOC subsidiary bodies will similarly adopt their own respective themes, based on the main theme, while continuing to address issues or a theme necessary to discharge on their other functions.
6. The President of the General Assembly of the 73rd session of the Assembly is requested to begin consultations in a timely manner on the main theme for the HLPF and ECOSOC in 2020.

Structure of the ECOSOC cycle

7. 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 focus, coherence and efficiency the ECOSOC segments and forums will be restructured into three groups per ECOSOC cycle.
8. The first group will be comprised of ECOSOC forums that place a strong emphasis on the global partnership for sustainable development. It will include the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) every second year, the Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (FfD Forum), the special meeting of the Council to consider international cooperation in tax matters, 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.
9. 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, the Humanitarian Affairs Segment and the special event to discuss the

transition from relief to development, which addresses the humanitarian and development nexus.

10. The third group will be comprised of segments and forums that provide overall policy guidance and foster progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, contribute to the overall review of the 2030 Agenda at the HLPF, and look to the future of the advancement of sustainable development. It will include, in this order, the integration segment, the HLPF and the HLS.

Integration

11. The integration segment will be held for one day immediately before the HLPF. 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 main theme, develop action-oriented recommendations for follow-up and feed into the HLPF. It will also coordinate the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council, promoting a clearer division of labour among them, and the policies and activities of the specialized agencies relating to the SDGs and other internationally agreed sustainable development goals.⁴ The Secretary-General will present the annual overview 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. A dedicated effort will be made in 2019 to improve the role, functioning and impact of the segment along these lines. This will be reviewed at the 74th session of the General Assembly along with the HLPF.

ECOSOC High-level Segment and HLPF

12. 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

⁴ Based on GA 45/264 para 5 on coordination segment (reference to specialized agencies)

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.

13. In preparing the draft programme of work of the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC and the high-level segment of the Council, the ECOSOC Bureau is invited to consider ways of optimizing the time available for countries to present their VNRs during the HLPF ministerial days with a view to strengthening the exchange of national experiences on implementing the SDGs.

Operational activities for development⁵

14. The strengthened operational activities for development segment should serve as a platform to ensure accountability for system-wide performance and results in relation to the 2030 Agenda⁶ and provide guidance to and overall coordination of the United Nations development system⁷. 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.⁸ As part of its work on reviewing progress in the implementation of mandates contained in the QCPR resolution 71/243, and as mandated by resolution A/RES/72/279, the segment will exercise oversight on the implementation of the resolution for the repositioning of the UN development system
15. 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 for development of the United Nations system in support of issues relating to national development priorities. The segment should address cross-cutting and coordination issues related to operational activities for development.¹⁰
16. The 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 UN development system, in keeping with the mandates of the QCPR. This includes holding the segment closer to the annual session of the executive boards of the funds and programmes, while ensuring that there is sufficient time for the

⁵ 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

⁶ SG Report of December 2017 (A/72/684 - E/2018/7), para. 107.

⁷ QCPR resolution A/res/71/243

⁸ 68/1, OP 11(a). with addition of 2030 Agenda

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

¹⁰ 68/1, Annex, para. 11(a)

Council to prepare its guidance and for the preparations of the executive boards to take this guidance into account.¹¹ 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 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 for development, through which the Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system.¹²

17. The segment will adopt a resolution on operational activities for development but consider refraining from it in years when the General Assembly conducts the QCPR, when the President will issue a summary to inform the QCPR. The General Assembly will consider adopting a resolution on operational activities for development 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

18. 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
19. The special event on the transition from relief to development will help the Council to discuss and review more fully the implications of the transition from relief to development and improve the international community's efforts to respond better to transition situations. 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.

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

12 68/1, Annex, para. 11(a)

13 From para. 11(b) of Annex to 68/1

Peacebuilding Commission

20. 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' support to the 2030 Agenda and the other pillars of its work, including through the joint annual meeting.¹⁴ The Peacebuilding Commission is invited to draw on the expertise of relevant ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, as appropriate.¹⁵ The Council is likewise encouraged to seek advice from the Peace Building Commission on issues that are relevant for implementing the 2030 Agenda and for building and sustaining peace.

Stakeholder engagement

21. 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 development.¹⁶

22. While retaining its intergovernmental nature, the Economic and Social Council shall seek to promote the active participation of a broader range of relevant stakeholders, including major groups, non-governmental organizations, other relevant stakeholders and regional organizations in the activities of the Council and its functional and regional commissions, in accordance with the provisions of their respective rules of procedure and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 67/290 insofar as it pertains to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council.¹⁷

23. ECOSOC 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 HLPF (defined in resolution 67/290).

¹⁴ Based on OP 10 A/Res/262 and S/res/2282 (2016)

¹⁵ OP 10, A/res/72/262: Stresses the importance of closer cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, 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 development, human rights and humanitarian work, and encourages the Peacebuilding Commission to draw on the expertise of relevant Economic and Social Council subsidiary bodies, as appropriate;

¹⁶ From para. 22 of Annex to 68/1

¹⁷ Adapted from para. 23 of Annex to 68.1

24. The NGO Committee is invited to review its methods of work to see how it can accommodate effectively the growing number of applications of NGOs for consultative status.

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 focus 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 that enhances deliberation among Member States. The Programme of work and agenda should be circulated as early as possible.

28. Dedicated 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.

30. ECOSOC should mandate 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 with a special focus on the needs

and priorities of developing countries. 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 efficient, effective, transparent and inclusive manner.

31. ECOSOC should also request its subsidiary bodies to consider whether there is a continued need for annual negotiated outcomes and to ensure that, when they produced such outcomes, those are effective and action-oriented and result in increased levels of cooperation. Subsidiary bodies may also submit the main messages from their reviews of progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda in the form of a chair's summary.
32. The Secretariat is requested to consider the need to adjust the calendar of meetings of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and/or make adjustments to their reporting arrangements in the light of agreed changes to the structure and timing of the meetings of ECOSOC and to make recommendations to the Council for its consideration, as appropriate."
33. ECOSOC and its bureau are invited to consider ways to ensure continuity in the work of the Bureau.