



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 June 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter, dated 20 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”.

In this regard, I have further the honour to share the final draft of the resolution on the Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, which is now under silence procedure until Friday, 22 June 2018 at 5:00 p.m., New York time.

I would like to also take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Co-facilitators for their able leadership in facilitating the consultations as well as to all delegations for their constructive engagement throughout the process.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miroslav Lajčák

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



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF ICELAND TO THE UN

20 June 2018

Excellency,

We would like to thank you for your engagement and constructive spirit throughout the course of the General Assembly process on the review of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

After close to 10 sessions of consultations, we have now arrived at a concluding moment. Enclosed you will find the final draft of the resolution on the review of 68/1, based on the ideas, suggestions and feedback received.

The final draft will remain under silence procedure until 5pm on Friday 22 June. We count on your continued spirit of flexibility and cooperation so that we can adopt the text by consensus as is with a view to strengthen the effectiveness of ECOSOC.

ECOSOC's strategic direction and guidance on sustainable development at the global level is critical in the transformation we need to better respond to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We rely on your continued collaboration to conclude our work on the future focus of ECOSOC and its ability to support the realization of the 2030 Agenda. Let us come together towards the ECOSOC that is needed for the world we want.

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

A stylized signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal line with a small loop and a short vertical line at the end.

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

A stylized signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a short vertical line at the end.

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

20 June 2018

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

**Co-Facilitators' final text of resolution**

*The General Assembly,*

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

*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”, 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<sup>1</sup> as well as the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2023,

*PP6 Also welcoming* 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 the outcomes on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS,

---

<sup>1</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex

*PP7 Reaffirming* the role that the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council, and recognizing the need for a more effective Council as a principal organ for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, and recognizing the key role of the Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

*PP8 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, 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,

*PP9 Welcoming* 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,

*PP10 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,

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 and at subsequent review cycles in conjunction with the review of the high-level political forum (HLPF) for sustainable development.

## **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 development system and its specialized agencies and supervision of its subsidiary bodies while integrating their analysis throughout its segments. It should also address new and emerging issues 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 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 and overlap in its work to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. It should also ensure an adequate division of labour among its subsidiary bodies, harmonization and coordination of their agendas and work programmes while ensuring that the principles, critical aspects and implementation gaps of the 2030 Agenda are addressed.
3. ECOSOC should 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.
4. The General Assembly will adopt one 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 one main theme, bearing in mind their respective functions. The Humanitarian Affairs Segment will continue to adopt themes based on humanitarian considerations and that are coherent with the main theme of ECOSOC.
5. ECOSOC subsidiary bodies will similarly adopt their own respective themes, aligned with the main theme, while continuing to address issues or a theme necessary to discharge on their other functions.

6. 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 ECOSOC segments and forums will be restructured into three groups per ECOSOC cycle.
7. The themes of ECOSOC segment shall reflect the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals and the three dimensions of sustainable development, including cross-cutting issues as well as new and emerging issues;
8. The first group will be comprised of ECOSOC forums. It will include the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) every second year, the Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (FfD Forum), the Multi-stakeholder Forum on science, technology and innovation for the sustainable development Goals (STI Forum), the partnership forum and the youth forum and other related mandated meetings. These will be organized independently and in a coordinated manner.
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. These will be organized independently and in a coordinated manner.
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.
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 development goals. The Secretary-General will present to ECOSOC 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 as part of the broader review of ECOSOC segments and meetings at the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly along with the 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, based on the work of the United Nations and other regional and international organizations and bodies as well as other stakeholders. It should aim at enhancing knowledge sharing and regional and international cooperation. This will be reviewed as part of the broader review of ECOSOC segments and meetings at the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly along with the HLPF.
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 currently available for countries to present their VNRs during the HLPF ministerial days with a view to improving the exchange of national experiences on implementing the SDGs.
14. The strengthened operational activities for development segment should serve as a platform to ensure accountability for, and acceleration of, system-wide performance and results in relation to the 2030 Agenda and provide guidance to and overall coordination of the United Nations development system. Such guidance should be evidence based and 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. 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 functions 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.

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 close to the annual session of the executive boards of the funds and programmes. 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.
17. 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. The HAS should continue to alternate between Geneva and New York and should be convened preceding the annual session of the executive boards of the funds and programmes of the United Nations system.
18. The special event on the transition from relief to development, which addresses the linkages between humanitarian assistance and 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.



21. While retaining its intergovernmental nature, the Economic and Social Council should seek to promote the active participation of major groups, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, youth and 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.
22. 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).
23. Takes note of the current review of the NGO Committee's methods of work and encourages that process to be concluded in a timely manner.
24. The current Coordination and Management Meeting shall be renamed the "Management Segment".
25. The 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.
26. 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, including possible joint consideration of related items, that enhances deliberation among Member States. The Programme of work and agenda should be circulated as early as possible. The ECOSOC bureau should make efforts to ensure that meetings and informal consultations are planned during UN working hours to better facilitate the active and constructive participation of all Permanent Missions in the work of the United Nations.
27. Dedicated management 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.

28. ECOSOC and its bureau are invited to consider ways to ensure continuity in the work of the Bureau.
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 2030 Agenda. It should effectively integrate the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies into its own work.
30. ECOSOC should request 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 the SDGs. Their recommendations should build on a solid evidence-based review of progress on 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. As part of that review, each subsidiary body will 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.
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. Reaffirms the role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and looks 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;