



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 June 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter, dated 14 June 2018, from H.E. Ms. I. Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and H.E. Mr. Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve, Permanent Representative of Belgium, Co-facilitators to lead intergovernmental consultations aimed at enhancing synergies and coherence and reducing overlap where it is found to exist in the agendas 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.

The Co-facilitators are circulating a second “Food for thought” paper in preparation of the next round of consultations with Member States, to be convened on Tuesday 3 July.

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

A handwritten signature in black 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



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

[www.diplomatie.belgium.be](http://www.diplomatie.belgium.be)

14 June 2018

Excellency,

We write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations on issues relating to the alignment of the work of the General Assembly and ECOSOC on 2030 Agenda.

Further to our letter dated 06 June, we are pleased to attach a second “Food for thought” paper for your consideration.

We anticipate your usual participation in the third round of consultations on 03 July and we look forward to another constructive debate.

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

Rhonda King  
Permanent Representative of Saint  
Vincent and the Grenadines to the United  
Nations

Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve  
Permanent Representative of Belgium  
to the United Nations

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

**Review of alignment of agendas of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and their subsidiary bodies and the HLPF and other related forums in light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Draft elements for the way forward**

The Co-facilitators have prepared these draft elements for the consideration of Member States based on the informal consultations convened with Member States on 3 and 31 May. The elements also draw from the Report on Strategic Alignment of Future Sessions of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, prepared during the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly by the Permanent Representative of Colombia, with the support of four members of the General Committee – the Permanent Representatives of Morocco, the Netherlands, Slovenia and the Republic of Korea.

The elements also draw from the summary of discussions and recommendations contained in the final report prepared during the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly by the Co-facilitators on alignment (Argentina and Australia) after having convened consultations aimed at enhancing synergies and coherence and reducing overlap where it was found to exist in the agendas of the GA, ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies, as well as the HLPF and other related forums in light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

**The Co-facilitators wish to present the following draft elements for consideration:**

- The current process should continue into the next session of the General Assembly and focus both on (i) enhancing synergies and coherence and reducing overlap and duplications in agendas, and (ii) on ensuring that the United Nations intergovernmental bodies adequately cover the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and targets, with the understanding that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimension is the overarching priority.
- There remains a strong need for Member States to agree on a framework to address gaps and duplication in the agendas of UN bodies.
- The President of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly could continue the consultations on the issues of addressing gaps and duplication in the agendas of UN bodies.
- To ensure adequate preparations of this continuing work, the following options and proposals could be considered:
  - The General Assembly could request the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive, and substantive analysis and mapping to provide information for formulating positions and making informative decisions.

- The General Assembly could also request the Secretary-General to conduct a survey of Member States' views on addressing gaps and duplications to inform subsequent work on agenda alignment.
- The General Assembly could request the Bureaux of the relevant Main Committees of the General Assembly and the Bureaux of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies to review their respective agendas and outcomes to pursue alignment with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and address overlap and duplication.
- The General Assembly Committees and its Bureaux could hold joint meetings to discuss how their work relates to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the commonalities between their agendas as well as seek advice from the Secretary-General on the feasibility of issuing joint UN reports on some issues.
- The President of the General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC could convene annual briefing to Member States outlining the connection between the work of the GA and ECOSOC on the 2030 Agenda.
- The General Assembly could recommend that the PGA consider the feasibility of completing the alignment process by 2019.