



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 July 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter, dated 9 July 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 the draft elements paper to be included in the resolution on the revitalization of the General Assembly, in preparation for the final informal consultations to be convened on Friday, 13 July 2018 at 3:00pm, in the ECOSOC Chamber.

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



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

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09 July 2018

Excellency,

We are pleased to share with you, for your consideration, the attached draft elements paper to be included in the resolution on the revitalization of the GA. The draft is based on the informal consultations convened with Member States on 3 and 31 May and on 3 July and our understanding of your views. These elements also build on the work done during the 70th session of the General Assembly on the Strategic Alignment of Future Sessions of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as on the work done during the 71st session of the General Assembly on alignment and 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.

We once more found your comments and insights extremely useful during our last meeting held on 03 July and we are grateful to you for your continued engagement.

We wish to inform you that we are convening the final informal consultations on the alignment of the work of the GA and ECOSOC on the 2030 agenda, on **Friday, 13 July, at 3:00pm in ECOSOC Chambers.**

During this meeting we intend to present the draft and seek your guidance through your general comments and feedback.

In light of the progress we have made in our discussions, and in anticipation of a fruitful meeting on 13 July, we wish to kindly request that any additional written comments be received by noon on Thursday, 12 July.

With your guidance, it is our aim to continue to conclude our consultations with agreement on our elements paper by 13 July.

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

Zero draft paragraphs

The Co-facilitators have prepared draft elements to be included in the resolution on the revitalization of the GA, for the consideration of Member States. These elements are based on the informal consultations that were convened with Member States on 3 and 31 May and on 3 July. The elements also build on the work done during the 70th session of the General Assembly on the Strategic Alignment of Future Sessions of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as on the work done during the 71st session of the General Assembly on alignment and 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.

Draft paragraphs for consideration:

The General Assembly,

Noting that UN intergovernmental bodies need to effectively and efficiently address the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Recognizing that there remains a need for Member States to agree on a framework to identify and address overlaps in the agendas of UN bodies and gaps in their coverage of the 2030 Agenda;

Recalling the right of Member States to propose new agenda items;

Requests the President of the General Assembly, at its 73rd session, to continue the present process of consultations and notes that these consultations should focus both on:

- (i) 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, and
- (ii) ensuring that the United Nations intergovernmental bodies cover the various dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets that are within their mandate and expertise, bearing in mind that the eradication of poverty is the overarching objective, and that some goals and targets may be addressed in other parts of the UN system;

Requests the Secretary-General, in order to support the reflection and decisions of Member States during the informal consultations, to conduct a survey to seek the views of Member States on what they see as critical overlaps in the agendas of the General Assembly and ECOSOC and what they consider to be gaps in these bodies' coverage of the 2030 Agenda;

Also requests the Secretary-General, based on this survey and on the work conducted at the 70th and 71st GA session on alignment of agendas as well as on contribution of UN system entities, to prepare, within existing resources, a substantive analysis and mapping of agenda items and resolutions of the General Assembly and ECOSOC on each SDG, as well as a possible roadmap for addressing critical issues. The analysis and roadmap would be based on the recognition that gaps and overlaps need to be analyzed on a case by case basis and taking into account the respective mandates of intergovernmental bodies;

Requests the Bureaux of the relevant Main Committees of the General Assembly and the Bureau of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies to review their respective agendas and outcomes so as to make proposals to ensure that these bodies adequately respond to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and address overlaps where they are found to exist, bearing in mind their respective mandates and the areas where they have the greatest expertise and value added;

Recommends that the President of the General Assembly convenes annual joint meetings of the Chairs and Bureaux of the Committees of the General Assembly to discuss how their work relates to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the commonalities between their work programmes as well as propose ways to simplify and rationalize reporting requirements in the future;

Requests the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene an annual briefing to Member States at the beginning of the General Assembly session outlining the connection between the work of the General Assembly and ECOSOC on the 2030 Agenda for that year;

Recommends that the President of the General Assembly at its 74th session consider the feasibility of completing the alignment process before the end of the 74th session.