



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 February 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a memo from my meeting on 5 February 2019 with the President of the Economic and Social Council, Her Excellency Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 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. The meeting was convened with the six co-facilitators for the processes on:

- Political Declaration for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development - H.E. Ms. Sheila Gweneth Carey, Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, and H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden;
- High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development - H.E. Mr. Marc-André Blanchard, Permanent Representative of Canada and H.E. Mrs. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Permanent Representative of Ghana; and
- ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development – H.E. Ms. Mariangela Zappia, Permanent Representative of Italy and H.E. Ms. Christine Kalamwina, Deputy Permanent Representative of Zambia.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. ESPINOSA'.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

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

Meeting of the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with the co-facilitators of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and financing for development

Tuesday 5 February 2019

The President of the 73rd session of the General Assembly (GA), H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa and the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), H. E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations met on Tuesday 5 February 2019 with the six co-facilitators for the following processes on:

- Political declaration for the high-level political forum on sustainable development;
- High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development; and
- ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development.

The meeting focused on underlining the interlinkages and facilitating coherence and synergies across the three critical processes and, the importance of close coordination among the co-facilitators.

Both Presidents used the opportunity to convene simultaneous meetings with their respective co-facilitators in preparation for the joint meeting.

In her meeting with the co-facilitators of the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development (HLD on Ffd) and the Political Declaration for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the President of the General Assembly noted that several processes and events throughout the 73rd session will be critical inputs for the political declaration of the HLPF and the HLD on FfD. Special mention was made of the High-Level Meeting on Middle-Income Countries, the BAPA+40 (South-South Cooperation), and the upcoming mandated events on Commodities and Illicit Financial Flows.

The co-facilitators (Sweden and Bahamas) underscored that based on their informal consultations and feedback from the Joint Briefing of the Presidents (January 31) some Member States have signaled the need for a concise political declaration which will focus on taking stock of successes, gaps, and challenges in realizing the SDGs and committing to accelerated action to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

It was widely agreed that the environment in which the 2030 Agenda was negotiated and adopted is considerably different today. The political declaration will vary from the Ministerial Declarations of the past three years and will go a step further and examine the challenges for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The co-facilitators expressed their intent to make the political declaration communicable to the broader public and also leverage all the upcoming events from the ECOSOC schedule to feed into the expectations of the HLPF Summit. The co-facilitators indicated that they are now in listening mode and will consult informally with regional groups. There were initial discussions on the timeline for the process, which will be submitted to the President of the General Assembly to inform Member States and other stakeholders.

The President of ECOSOC in her meeting with co-facilitators for the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development highlighted the need for collaboration with the co-facilitators for the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development. The co-facilitators discussed the tentative roadmap for the negotiations for the ECOSOC FfD Forum.

Joint Meeting with all co-facilitators

In the joint meeting with all six co-facilitators, both Presidents highlighted the importance of providing Members States with clarity on the distinction between the two FFD processes and synchronization in the organization of consultations. All four co-facilitators (Canada, Ghana, Italy and Zambia) recognized the importance of building on the positive elements on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and the inclusion of relevant elements in the Political Declaration for the HLPF.

The President of ECOSOC shared the tentative roadmap for the negotiations for the ECOSOC Forum on FfD with the meeting and it was agreed that the co-facilitators of the two FfD processes will collaborate closely. To this end, it was agreed that the co-facilitators for the two FfD processes hold a Joint Briefing to Member States (proposed for late February). The tentative roadmap begins with a series of informal briefings in March and foresees the zero draft (ECOSOC Ffd Forum) being presented before the end of March. Informals are planned until the beginning of April

The meeting was informed that the Retreat of the Group of Friends of Monterrey will be held on March 17 and 18 in Mexico City. The aims of the Retreat include: to discuss and analyse the 4th Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) Report on FfD; to identify concrete deliverables and mandates for the High-Level Dialogue on FfD; and to discuss experiences at country and sector level in order to promote peer-learning.

The co-facilitators of the HLD on FfD informed that they will convene a Retreat with the aim to determine work streams for concrete outcomes for September.

The meeting was informed that DESA will brief the 6 co-facilitators and experts on the preliminary findings from the Global Sustainable Development Report and the Financing for Development Report.