



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11 March 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to circulate a letter dated 11 March 2019 from H.E. Rubén Escalante Hasbún, Permanent Representative of El Salvador, regarding preparations for the informal consultations on the organization of the activities for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, under the auspices of the General Assembly, to be held on Friday, 15 March 2019, at 10:00 a.m., in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "M. ESPINOSA".

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

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



Misión Permanente de El Salvador ante las Naciones Unidas
46 Park Avenue,
New York, N.Y., 10016
Tel.: (212) 679-1616/ Fax: (212) 725-3467

Dear colleagues!

New York, 11th March, 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity of Facilitator appointed by the President of the General Assembly, to lead informal consultations with regards of the organizational aspects of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly, which will be held on 24 and 25 September 2019.

I wish to refer you to the letter sent on February 27th by the President of the General Assembly in which she communicated the convening of an informal consultation to be held this upcoming Friday March 15th 2019 from 10:00am to 1:00pm as announced in the UN journal. Additionally I would like to inform you that I have been conducting a series of meetings with Member States, both individually and as groups, regarding the organization of the activities of the forum.

In this regard, and to serve as basis for the consultations to be held this upcoming Friday 15th, I would like to kindly request Delegations to bear in mind the following points:

- The framework of these consultations are contained in General Assembly resolution 67/290 and General Assembly Decision 73/522, which established that the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly will take place during the afternoon of September 24th and all day during September 25th 2019.
- Delegations are encouraged to consider all the high level events to be held during the upcoming GA Session's High Level week in a complementary and comprehensive way, in order to devise the best content possible for the HLPF under the General Assembly, taking also into account the nature and content of the discussions scheduled to take place the rest of the week.
- It is my intention to provide the President of the General Assembly with recommendations that highlight best practices, trends, success stories, leapfrogging cases and enablers, as well as taking stock of the strides made since the adoption of

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, and taking advantage of the Global Sustainable Development Report as an inspiration to guide discussions.

- I believe that the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the General Assembly should build on, but not replicate the programme and structure of the High Level Political Forum held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in July, particularly due to time limitations. In this same line, a Debate is also not advisable, as this would imply allocation of about only 2 minutes per delegation, which I consider not feasible. Therefore delegations are encouraged to utilize the General Debate of the High Level week to convey their messages linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to allow the HLPF of the General Assembly for substantive theme-based discussions.

I have also attached as an annex, a paper outlining the mandates that underpin the holding of the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly.

I look forward to meeting with all of you and hearing your views with regards of the preparation process through your constructive engagement.

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

Yours sincerely,



H.E. Rubén Escalante Hasbún
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

*I look forward to
your support in the
common endeavor.*

All Permanent and Observer Missions
to the United Nations
New York

ANNEX & FOOD FOR THOUGHT

MANDATES THAT PROVIDE GUIDANCE TOWARDS THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM UNDER THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2019

The High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) was established at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012. The format and organizational aspects of HLPF were adopted in July 2013 in GA resolution 67/290. Paragraph 6 of this resolution defined the parameters of the meeting of the HLPF under the GA as follows:

“Also decides that the meetings of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly:

(a) Shall be convened at the level of Heads of State and Government;

(b) Shall be convened every four years by the President of the Assembly for a period of two days, at the beginning of the session of the Assembly, as well as on other occasions, on an exceptional basis, upon a decision by the Assembly;

(c) Shall be chaired by the President of the Assembly;

(d) Shall result in a concise negotiated political declaration to be submitted for the consideration of the Assembly;”

The same resolution also gave the mandate to the President of the General Assembly “to organize the activities of the forum so as to benefit from the inputs and advice of the United Nations system, the major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate”.

With the 2030 Agenda, the HLPF was tasked not only with “providing political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development” (67/290) but also with “providing high-level political guidance on the 2030 Agenda and its implementation, identifying progress and emerging challenges and mobilizing further actions to accelerate implementation” (70/1).

The GA, in resolution 70/299, also gave further guidance to the HLPF as part of the global architecture to review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also stipulated “that the meetings of the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly and those under the auspices of ECOSOC shall be closely coordinated to ensure coherence and provide for mutually reinforcing linkages, especially when it is deemed appropriate to convene the forum under the auspices of the Council in the same year that it is convened under the auspices of the Assembly” (paragraph 19).