7 March 2019

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to forward herewith a letter dated 4 March 2019 from H.E. Mrs. Maria Helena Lopes De Jesus Pires, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste and H.E. Mrs. Marie Chatardová, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic, co-facilitators of the process 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 convening the first meeting of the intergovernmental process on Monday, 18 March 2019, at 3:00 p.m., in the Economic and Social Council Chamber. The co-facilitators are also sharing a note that includes suggested guiding questions as well as a brief background on the alignment process and an overview of the relevant mandates.

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

Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York
4 March 2019

Excellency,

We have the honour to write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations related to the General Assembly resolution 72/313 of 20 September 2018, entitled “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”, in particular paragraphs 29, 30 and 31 related to the need to “enhance synergies and coherence and reduce 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”.

We would like to invite you to the first consultation to be held with Member States. The meeting will be convened on Monday, 18 March 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Economic Council Chamber.

During our first consultation, we look forward to listening to your views and ideas on the continuing process on alignment and on the outcome and results you wish to see from this current process in light of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To inform our first consultations, we are attaching a note that includes suggested guiding questions as well as a brief background on the alignment process and an overview of the relevant mandates.

We look forward to your inputs and engagement.

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

Marie Chatardová
Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

Maria Helena Lopes De Jesus Pires
Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations

TO: The President of the General Assembly
New York
4 March 2019

Review of alignment of the 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

Note of the Co-facilitators to inform the first consultations with Member States

The alignment of the agendas of the General Assembly, ECOSOC and other bodies has been addressed through informal consultations over several recent sessions of the General Assembly. There is thus already a rich history of consultations and analysis on which to build, which is summarized in the brief informal history in Annex I.

Member States have agreed over the past sessions that the work of UN intergovernmental bodies needs to be aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There was a shared understanding that there remains a need for Member States to agree upon a framework to identify and address overlaps in the agendas of UN bodies and gaps in their coverage of the 2030 Agenda. These two complimentary dimensions have characterized what is meant by the alignment process. At the same time, Member States have also had a diverse range of views on possible solutions and on how to move forward.

Key aspects that emerged from the informal consultations convened during the 72nd session, facilitated by the Permanent Representatives of Belgium and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, were notably: (i) the need for in-depth analysis to inform the identification of overlaps in the agenda of the UN bodies and gaps in their coverage of the 2030 Agenda; (ii) the need to look at specific agenda items on a case-by-case basis; and (iii) the need to agree on a framework to conduct such analysis based on the two complimentary dimensions. While there was general interest in advancing alignment of agendas, no common ground was reached on a political framework for moving forward. The Co-facilitators’ summary of key messages from the informal consultations is contained in annex II.

Current context

During the current 73rd session of the General Assembly, the Assembly’s Second Committee showed the continued significance attached to addressing duplications by some delegations. In addition, many Member States underscored the role of the alignment process in ensuring that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is addressed in its entirety by United Nations intergovernmental bodies. In analyzing the agendas of intergovernmental bodies and their interrelations, it is important to bear in mind the different respective mandates of these various bodies. (A brief overview of relevant related mandates for the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum are contained in Annex III.)

In her letter of 20 November 2018, the President of the General Assembly at its 73rd session announced, following consultations with Member States, the appointment of H.E. Ms. Maria Helena Lopes De Jesus Pires, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste, and H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardová,
Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic, as co-facilitators to lead intergovernmental consultations on the alignment process.

The President of the General Assembly also referred in her letter to GA resolution 72/313, “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”, and particularly to its paragraphs 29, 30 and 31 related to the need to enhance synergies and coherence and reduce 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 ongoing process of these intergovernmental consultations was also welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/305 on the review of the strengthening of ECOSOC.¹

The current timing, including the upcoming SDG Summit in September 2019, may offer momentum in light of the renewed focus on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This year’s alignment process could advance the work on enhancing synergies and coherence and reducing overlap and duplications in agendas, and 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. This year’s process can build on the rich reflection and analysis of previous consultations to identify proposals for the consideration of Member States during the seventy-third session of the Assembly.²

Possible discussion questions

Some questions that could be addressed during the forthcoming consultations include:

- How can the General Assembly Committees, the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and the HLPF and other related forums, address the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated and coherent manner?
- How can the General Assembly Committees coherently incorporate into their agendas the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs? Should all SDGs be addressed in UN intergovernmental bodies or is it sufficient if some have a home in other intergovernmental bodies within the broader UN system?
- In your view, where are the greatest potential synergies between the agendas of the various respective bodies?
- How, by what mechanism, and by whom can it be determined that there is a gap or a duplication? Could criteria be developed for both? If so, by whom?
- Some Member States have indicated that overlaps in agendas should be examined on a case-by-case basis. Would you like such an analysis to be conducted for the informal consultations on alignment?
- What do you think would be a good outcome for the consultations during the 73rd session of the General Assembly?

¹ A/RES/72/305, preambular paragraph 9
² Please see A/RES/72/313, OP 31
Annex I

Brief background on the alignment process

Seventy-third (73rd) session of the General Assembly (thus far)

The President of the General Assembly, in her letter of 20 November 2018, referred to GA resolution 72/313 of 20 September 2018, and particularly to its paragraphs 29, 30 and 31 relating to the need to enhance synergies and coherence and reduce 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.

Following consultations with Member States, the PGA appointed H.E. Mrs. Maria Helena Lopes De Jesus Fries, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste, and H.E. Mrs. Marie Chatardová, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic, as co-facilitators to lead the intergovernmental consultations on this process.

Seventy-second (72nd) session

The PGA appointed H.E. Mr. Marc Pecsteen, Permanent Representative of Belgium, and H.E. Ms. Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as the co-facilitators of the process during the 72nd session (letter dated 21 December 2017).

The 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 was conducted during the 72nd session of the GA by the Co-facilitators in spring and summer 2018.

This was pursued in the context of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (AHWG), which completed its work on 17 September 2018.

Further to the AHWG’s work, the General Assembly adopted resolution 72/313, entitled Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, which calls for a continuation of the consultations on alignment that had been facilitated by Belgium and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

3. Also recalls the need to enhance synergies and coherence and reduce overlap where it is found to exist in the agendas of the General Assembly, especially of its Second and Third Committees, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council and the Assembly, as well as all other related forums, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and in the light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls for the continuation of such efforts during the seventy-third session of the Assembly;

30. Requests the General Committee, while exercising its functions under rule 40 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to pay special attention to reduction of such overlap;

31. Requests the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session to identify proposals, through consultations with all Member States and the President of the Economic and Social Council, as well as through the convening of the General Committee, aimed at addressing gaps and duplication in the agenda of the Assembly as they relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the report on the strategic alignment of future sessions of the Assembly and other relevant inputs, for the consideration of Member States during the seventy-third session of the Assembly;
Some messages conveyed by the Co-facilitators from the informal consultations included the following:

- The full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda is of the highest importance.
- The 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 is important to ensure adequate strategic direction and guidance on sustainable development at the global level.
- In the view of many Member States, the alignment should lead to an effective and comprehensive coverage of the 2030 Agenda, and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and targets by UN intergovernmental bodies, with the understanding that eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimension is the overarching priority. Some Member States emphasized that the exercise should also help to address not only gaps but also duplications and overlap in the agendas of UN bodies.
- Regarding the identification of gaps in covering the 2030 Agenda, past experiences showed that the majority of the SDGs and their targets are covered in the GA and/or ECOSOC agendas, yet intergovernmental gaps on substantive issues remain. There is low coverage by the UN intergovernmental bodies on SDGs 6 (water and sanitation) and 12 (sustainable consumption and production). Additionally, SDGs 9 (infrastructure, industrialization and innovation), 10 (reducing inequality), 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies) have limited coverage. SDGs 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land) are covered elsewhere in the UN system.
- With this in view, some of the Member States wish to consider discussions to create new agenda items where deemed appropriate and necessary to give those goals and targets with low coverage a place to be followed-up and reviewed.
- Based on the informal open discussions in the consultations thus far. It appears that some Member States are of the view that all SDGs should be addressed in the GA and its Committees and ECOSOC, emphasizing that the indivisible nature of Agenda 2030 make it imperative and urgent to ensure equal attention and consideration to all goals and targets of the SDGs aiming at a successful implementation of the Agenda in its entirety. Others feel that relevant parts of the UN system intergovernmental bodies can address some of the goals and targets, rather than having comprehensive coverage by the GA and ECOSOC.
- Some thus also stated that perhaps not all gaps need to be filled, and that efficiency, effectiveness, comparative advantage and the differential value of the UN need to be considered. It was felt important that Member States exercise self-restraint in bringing new items.
- Many Member States consistently underscored that duplication and overlap in the agendas of the GA, ECOSOC, HLPF and other bodies need to be addressed also with a view to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the UN intergovernmental processes. Some also felt there is an excessive number of meetings, negotiations and reports.
- Many member states were of the view that duplication and overlap should be considered on a case by case basis, and mandates of the respective bodies should always be considered. There is the feeling that, in order to assess whether duplication exists, it is important to look not only at the title of items but also at the outcomes of the intergovernmental bodies on a similar item.
- In the course of previous consultations, some delegations asked to explore the feasibility of discontinuing some items or pursuing joint reporting. There was also a call to review the outcomes and results of resolutions and declarations and consider what could be biennialized or triennialized. Other delegations were reluctant to discontinue or reduce the frequency of
some items and insisted on the need to keep sufficient substance in the agendas of the GA, ECOSOC and other bodies.

- Another message from the discussions was that the General Committee can play an important role in advancing agenda alignment, and that it is currently underutilized and could be used to more effectively.

- The Co-Facilitators and some Member States have estimated that there remains a need for Member States to agree upon a framework to identify and address overlaps in the agendas of UN bodies and gaps in their coverage of the 2030 Agenda.

- Some Member States were of the view that a comprehensive, and substantive analysis and mapping was required for moving forward to provide sufficient information for formulating positions and making informative decisions. There is ample material in this regard, developed by the previous alignment exercises, on which we can build.

- Some Member State made proposals on how to continue the work on alignment. One proposed that a survey of Member States’ views on alignment be conducted by the Secretariat to inform an SG report and subsequent work on alignment and harmonization. Some others had questions on how the survey would be developed and conducted, and noted that it was not a standard practice in the GA. They stressed the importance of Member States’ involvement in designing such a survey should it be decided to conduct one. They also stated that more time was necessary to discuss the potential survey before arriving at consensus. Some countries also raised the issue of a potential PBI.

Member States welcomed the proposal that the President of the General Assembly continue the alignment process during the Assembly’s next session.\(^4\)

**Seventy-first (71st) session**

During the 71\(^{st}\) session of the General Assembly, a report of the Co-facilitators (Argentina and Australia) on the consultations on the alignment of the work of the United Nations with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development provided tangible proposals and recommendations that could be drawn upon by Member States in the current alignment review.

In particular, the report recommended that:

- The General Assembly Committees and its Bureaux hold joint meetings as required to outline the relationship between the work of these bodies and the 2030 Agenda. Further recommend that the bureau of the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies be included, as appropriate in these meetings. Recommend seeking advice, within existing mandates, from the Secretary-General on the feasibility of issuing joint UN reports for Committee resolutions.

- The President of ECOSOC and the President of the General Assembly, in their annual briefing to Member States, provide more clarity on the interlinkages between the work of the UN including in the General Assembly Committees and ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, and the 2030 Agenda, taking into account the sub-set of goals to be annually discussed at the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development under the auspices of ECOSOC.

- Future work on this process, within its mandate, take into account other ongoing processes related to the 2030 Agenda including the UN development system reform and the review of the General Assembly resolution 68/1 regarding the work of ECOSOC.

\(^4\) The above summary reflects highlights of the discussions as collected by the Secretariat.
In the 72nd Session of the General Assembly, the General Committee, in consultation with the President of ECOSOC, present proposals to Member States on how to address gaps and duplication in the Agenda of the General Assembly as they relate to the 2030 Agenda, and use as a basis for these proposals, if deemed appropriate, the report contained within the letter issued by the President of the General Assembly on 13 September 2016, "Report on Strategic Alignment of future sessions of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

The President of the General Assembly consider the feasibility of completing the first stage of the alignment process by the end of the 73rd session of the General Assembly and as an input to the High-Level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly, including addressing gaps and duplication in the Agenda of the General Assembly, taking into account that further alignment of the UN will continue for the whole duration of the 2030 Agenda.

The President of the General Assembly consider convening a meeting early in the session of the General Assembly with the chairs and bureaux of the main committees of the General Assembly and the President and bureaux of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, to discuss how their work relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and how best to enhance synergies, coherence and address gaps and duplication.

The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council, further to the holding of the above mentioned meeting, consider providing a joint briefing to member states to provide more clarity on the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the work of the General Assembly committees, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, taking into account the sub-set of goals to be annually discussed at the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

The General Assembly, in the context of the consultations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly during the 71st session, consider requesting the President of the General Assembly to convene the General Committee to identify proposals, in consultation with the President of the Economic and Social Council, aimed at addressing gaps and duplication in the agenda of the General Assembly as they relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the Report on Strategic Alignment of Future Sessions of the General Assembly and other inputs, for the consideration of the 73rd session of the General Assembly in advance of the 2019 High Level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly.

Seventieth (70th) session

General Assembly

Pursuant to General Assembly (GA) resolution 69/321, paragraph 24, the President of the General Assembly (PGA) for the 70th session, appointed the Permanent Representative (PR) of Colombia (16 March 2016 letter) to find agreement on a proposal, in consultation with Member States, aimed at

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5 This provision was implemented for the first time via a joint briefing by the two Presidents convened on 31 January 2019.

6 Also recalls the need to avoid duplication and overlap of the agendas of the General Assembly, especially of its Second and Third Committees, the Economic and Social Council, and its subsidiary bodies, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council and the Assembly, as well as all other related forums, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure.
strategically aligning the agenda of future sessions of the Assembly with the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Given the scope of the work and with a view to ensure regional representation, four members of the General Committee of the General Assembly were invited to support the PR of Colombia. These were the PRs of the Republic of Korea (President of ECOSOC), Morocco (Chair of the 3rd Committee), the Netherlands (Chair of the 1st Committee), and Slovenia (Chair of the 2nd Committee).

To commence the work, the Secretariat was requested to prepare an in-depth mapping on how the substance from each target is addressed in the agenda of the GA, its Committees and ECOSOC and its Commissions, going beyond the mere titles of agenda items. The mapping assessment led to a "Findings and options for discussion" document as the first step in the process of strategically aligning the agendas of the GA and ECOSOC with the 2030 Agenda.

An informal meeting was held on 25 July 2016 to gather views and proposals on the findings and options. The final report of the process (Annex I) was circulated to delegations in a PGA letter dated 13 September 2016, in which the PGA expressed his intention to transmit the report to the President of the 71st session for his consideration.

In her letter transmitting the final report, the Permanent Representative of Colombia emphasized the following:

- The work done is a beginning. It is the first time the SDGs are mapped against the GA agenda.
- The timing of the work was affected by the processes of the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Second Committee revitalization that should have preceded the agenda realignment process but took longer than expected, not allowing proper consultations to take place.
- A large group of countries expressed the view that it is imperative that the work in the GA and ECOSOC is coherently aligned with the SDGs. It considers that the SDGs and targets should cut across the work of the GA and ECOSOC and its functional commissions. Where it is deemed appropriate and necessary, agenda items should be created. On overlaps, this group of countries called to take care not to eliminate important substance from existing agenda items and to be focused towards enhancing synergies to ensure coherence.
- Another group of countries highlighted the importance of continually reviewing the agendas of the GA and the ECOSOC to streamline them. They also considered that it should not be assumed that all SDG targets should be covered by these two organs.
- Two concrete ideas rose during the meeting and further informal discussions: the first is to construct a table that sees whether the GA agenda items are aligned to the 2030 Agenda; all GA items would be listed and analyzed regarding whether they are related to the 2030 Agenda. The second is to entrust an independent think tank or foundation with the task of studying overlaps in the agendas of the GA and ECOSOC.
- There is urgent need for further work on the issues and for the task to continue under the 71st session of the GA.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/305 on the revitalization of the work of the GA, took note of the report on the strategic alignment of future sessions of the GA with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development submitted by the group created pursuant to the letter dated 16 March 2016 of the PGA at its 70th session.

In the same resolution, the GA recalled the need to enhance synergies and coherence and reduce overlap where it is found to exist in the agendas of the GA, especially of its Second and Third
Committees, ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, and the HLPF convened under the auspices of ECOSOC and the GA, as well as all other related forums, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and in the light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and called for the continuation of such efforts during the 71st session of the GA.
Annex II

Related mandates for the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum

The General Assembly (GA) is the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. It has universal membership and a broad mandate: to discuss any matters within the scope of the Charter, with limited exceptions related to international peace and security. Specifically, the GA has a mandate on matters related to international political cooperation, codification and development of international law, UN budgetary matters, assistance in the realization of human rights and promotion of economic, social, cultural, educational and health cooperation.

The General Committee of the GA prepares the draft agenda for each session. Member States may request inclusion of supplementary items on the agenda. The General Committee considers the draft agenda and the lists of supplementary and additional items and makes recommendations with regard to each item proposed. The GA adopts its agenda at the beginning of each session on the basis of a report from the General Committee, including allocation of items to the Main Committees. The General Committee is further mandated to assist the PGA in coordinating the proceedings of all committees of the GA.

The six Main Committees of the GA are set in the rules of procedure (which only describe titles of the Committees). The issues dealt by each Main Committee have evolved over time.

(a) Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

(b) Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) deals with a variety of subjects which include those related to decolonization, Palestinian refugees and human rights, peacekeeping, mine action, outer space, public information, atomic radiation and University for Peace.

(c) Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) deals with issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions, financing for development, sustainable development, human settlements, globalization and interdependence, eradication of poverty, operational activities for development, agriculture development, food security and nutrition, and information and communications technologies for development. It also considers issues relating to groups of countries in special situations.

(d) Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee) deals with human rights questions, questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. In addition, the Committee addresses social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.

(e) Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) is the Committee of the GA with responsibilities for administration and budgetary matters.
(f) Legal Committee (Sixth Committee) is the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the GA.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has limited membership based on regional representation and rotation; 54 Member States elected for three-year terms. Composition and functions of ECOSOC are defined in Chapter X of the Charter. The functions and powers of ECOSOC are related to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters, on which it can make recommendations and prepare draft conventions.

The Economic and Social Council is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits. The Council, within its mandate under the Charter as a principal organ of the United Nations, has also the key role in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The General Assembly, through its resolution 61/16, undertook to strengthen ECOSOC and make it more effective. The implementation of resolution 61/16 was later reviewed by resolution 68/1, and then reviewed again during the 72nd session, resulting in resolution 72/305, which strengthened the effectiveness of ECOSOC, including through establishing a common theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF. Other issues addressed were strengthening ECOSOC’s impact through substantive interlinkages, thematic coherence and the flow of the ECOSOC cycle as well as reorienting the high-level segment of ECOSOC, which will look at scenarios and trends for longer term implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

ECOSOC has an annual High-level Segment which takes place in tandem with the three-day Ministerial Segment of the HLPF. ECOSOC’s sessions include the Operational Activities for Development Segment, Financing for Development Forum, Development Cooperation Forum, Science, Technology and Innovation Forum, Integration Segment, Humanitarian Affairs Segment, Management Segment, Youth Forum, Partnership Forum and special meetings on specific situations or issues. ECOSOC has various subsidiary bodies, including eight functional commissions and the Regional Commissions, as well as expert bodies and standing committees.

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF), which meets annually under the auspices of ECOSOC and every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly, was created in the "Future We Want" outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The HLPF has 197 Member States and was tasked to follow up on the implementation of sustainable development. The HLPF was envisaged to, inter alia, provide political leadership, make recommendations, follow up and review implementation of sustainable development commitments, promote system-wide coherence and the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and strengthen cooperation with stakeholders and science-policy interface. It should avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner.

The functions of the HLPF were revised when the 2030 Agenda was adopted and were further clarified through resolution 70/299. The 2030 Agenda gives HLPF a central role in overseeing its follow-up and review at the global level. Furthermore, the HLPF is to facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up. It will promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies. It should ensure that the Agenda remains relevant.
and ambitious and should focus on the assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries as well as new and emerging issues.

The HLPF meetings under the auspices of ECOSOC carry out thematic and voluntary national reviews, whereas HLPF meetings under the auspices of the General Assembly every four years provides high-level political guidance on the Agenda and its implementation, identify progress and emerging challenges and mobilize further actions to accelerate implementation.