



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4 October 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, a memorandum from my meeting with the President of the Economic and Social Council, Her Excellency Ms. Mona Juul, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations in New York. The meeting took place today, 4 October 2019, as part of my commitment to strengthening collaboration and coordination between the principal organs of the United Nations.

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

  
Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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

## **Meeting between the President of the General Assembly and the President of Economic and Social Council on Friday 4 October 2019**

The President of the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, H.E Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande met with the President of the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council, Her Excellency Ms. Mona Juul, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, on Friday 4 October 2019, as part of their efforts to strengthen relations between the principal organs of the UN and ensure close collaboration and coherence in the work of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC.

The two Presidents exchanged views on recent events and developments as well as upcoming activities, in particular:

### ***Theme for the 2020 ECOSOC and High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)***

The President of the General Assembly (PGA) and the President of the ECOSOC highlighted the urgent need to identify a theme for the 2020 session of ECOSOC/HLPF, in order to allow the Council to advance its work and give enough time for HLPF preparations. The PGA informed that he will launch very soon the intergovernmental process that allows the General Assembly to adopt the theme for the HLPF and ECOSOC, in accordance to Resolution 72/305 (paragraph 4 of the Annex). The President underscored that the identification of the theme must not prejudice in any manner the ECOSOC and HLPF review processes.

### ***Process related to the review of ECOSOC and HLPF***

The two Presidents discussed also the important process related to the review of ECOSOC which must be conducted during the 74th session, in conjunction with the review of the HLPF as mandated by paragraph 2 of resolution 72/305 and in resolution 70/299. The PGA informed that he will proceed to formally launch this process in the next few weeks, while ensuring that it will be open, transparent and intergovernmental in nature.

### ***Alignment of the agendas of the GA, the ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies with the 2030 Agenda***

The PGA and the President of ECOSOC discussed also the process related to the alignment of the Agendas of the General Assembly, the ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies as well as the HLPF to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Presidents agreed on the importance of making meaningful progress in the implementation of the mandates contained in GA resolution 73/341 entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", in particular its paragraphs 27 and 28.

In implementing this mandate, the PGA emphasized the need for close consultation with all Member States, the President of ECOSOC and the General Committee, based on the progress achieved during previous sessions of the Assembly.

### ***The commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations***

The PGA and ECOSOC President discussed also the Commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, which is offering a unique opportunity for youth engagement and a solid platform to make a substantive contribution to the Commemoration Event. In this context, they agreed to engage soon in the implementation of resolution 73/299,

dated 14 June 2019, which decided to convene a youth plenary under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session and the President of ECOSOC, in conjunction with the Youth Forum of the Council which will be held on 1-2 April 2020.

### ***Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women***

The Presidents discussed the important issue of accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women over the world. The next session of the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to be held on Wednesday, 23 September 2020, in the margins of the general debate of the Assembly at its 75th session, are offering in this context serious opportunities. The Presidents agreed to work closely to advance this agenda and ensure successful events.

### ***Financing For Development***

The two Presidents seized the opportunity to brainstorm on the recent High-Level dialogue on Financing for Development, which offered a platform for Member States and external stakeholders, to underpin the urgency to accelerate the implementation of the Addis Agenda, while making new announcements to mobilize financing for the SDGs. The outcome of these important deliberations should inform the important ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, to be convened on 20-23 April 2020. The Presidents agreed to join efforts to build on the momentum from the High-Level Dialogue, so that progress is made on this important issue for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### ***Participation of the PGA at the Retreat of the ECOSOC and UN Foundation***

The President of ECOSOC invited the President of the General Assembly to participate and address the opening of the Retreat on the HLPF, to be convened on Friday 1 November 2019. The PGA confirmed his availability to participate and address this important meeting.

### ***ECOSOC Special Meetings***

The President of ECOSOC informed the PGA on preparations related to a workshop to be convened by the ECOSOC Presidency in Oslo, on 19-20 November 2019, dedicated to preparing the 2020 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The meeting will be attended by countries that will present their VNRs at the next HLPF in July 2020. The President of ECOSOC invited the GA President to possibly send a video message as well as a representative of his Office to the workshop. She also informed of upcoming joint meetings of ECOSOC with the Second Committee and the Peacebuilding Commission which are aligned with the priorities of the 74th session.

The ECOSOC President invited the Office of the PGA to participate at these events.

### ***Joint briefing PGA/ ECOSOC President***

Finally, the Presidents agreed to keep up with the good established practice of convening a joint briefing of the PGA and the ECOSOC President, early in the resumed session (end of January 2020). The meeting will offer an opportunity to explore synergy and coherence in the work of the two bodies, both on substantive as well as procedural and planning matters, that are of interest for Member States.