



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1 November 2019

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to forward herewith, a letter from H.E. Mr. Craig John Hawke, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations and facilitator of the process related to the identification of the theme for the ECOSOC and HLPF.

The Facilitator is convening an informal consultation on Tuesday, 5 November 2019, at 3:00 p.m., in the Economic and Social Council Chamber. In this regard please find enclosed a note detailing the rationale for the proposed draft theme as well as the draft decision for the consideration of Member States.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small hook.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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



Permanent Mission of New Zealand
to the United Nations

31 October 2019

Excellency

I refer to the letter of the President of the General Assembly dated 11 October 2019 appointing me as Facilitator for the process related to the identification of the theme for the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the 2019-2020 cycle and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) for 2020, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 72/305.

Accordingly, I would like to invite you to an informal consultation to be convened on Tuesday, 5 November 2019 at 3 pm in the ECOSOC Chamber.

To kick start the discussion, and having consulted the Presidencies of the General Assembly and of ECOSOC, I would like to suggest that the theme for the ECOSOC 2019 – 2020 cycle and HLPF 2020 could be:

**"Transformative pathways to realize the decade of action and delivery
for sustainable development"**

This theme would allow the HLPF and ECOSOC to follow-up on the SDG summit and build momentum for accelerated action to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations

I am attaching a note further detailing the rationale for this proposed theme, and the draft decision for consideration.

I look forward to your participation in the informal consultation on 5 November 2019.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Craig Hawke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig John Hawke
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations

Non-paper on the possible theme

Background

In resolution 72/305, the General Assembly decided that it shall adopt one main theme for the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Previous HLPF themes were decided by the General Assembly in resolution 70/299, but no theme has yet been identified for 2020.

A decision on the theme is critical to preparations for the HLPF and the various segments of ECOSOC, given that the 2019-2020 cycle of ECOSOC began on 25 July 2019.

Proposed theme and rationale

The theme should provide scope for the HLPF and ECOSOC to carry forward the decisions adopted at the SDG Summit on 24-25 September 2019. It should support the implementation of the political declaration adopted by the summit (A/74/4) and the decade of action and delivery on sustainable development.

Having consulted the President of the General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC, I would like to suggest the theme “*Transformative pathways to realize the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”.

I believe that this theme is relevant to all countries and all actors (including civil society, private sector, academia etc) and could assist in mobilizing constituencies around the various SDGs.

The theme responds to the concern expressed by Heads of State and Government in the political declaration that more action is required in many areas related to the SDGs.

Transformation is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda (“Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”) and the theme’s emphasis on transformative pathways would reflect this goal. It would allow the HLPF to generate solutions for accelerated action to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as we embark on a decisive decade.

The theme would give the opportunity to examine measures related to the ten cross-cutting areas identified in the summit's political declaration for increased and accelerated action.¹ These areas correspond to challenges consistently identified by countries and incorporate national implementation, planning, budgeting and institutional dimensions.

The theme would also allow the HLPF to build on the Global Sustainable Development Report, and support the report's recommendations for a "systematic and holistic approach, taking into account the interlinkages between the goals and targets" - an approach which was endorsed by the political declaration of the SDG Summit.

Overall, the theme encourages the mobilization of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, and the HLPF - along with all countries and actors - to find concrete ways and solutions to accelerate efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at national and international levels.

Finally, the theme would be consistent with the theme of the 2020 high-level event on the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, as defined in General Assembly resolution 73/299: "The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism". This approach is in line with the decision of the General Assembly that the theme of the seventy-fifth anniversary should guide the UN's work in 2020".

¹ Leaving no one behind; mobilizing adequate and well-directed financing; enhancing national implementation; strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions; bolstering local action to accelerate implementation; reducing disaster risk and building resilience; solving challenges through international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership; harnessing science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital transformation for sustainable development; investing in data and statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals; and strengthening the high-level political forum.

Draft decision on the main theme for the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Economic and Social Council

The General Assembly, recalling its resolutions 67/290, 70/1, 70/299 and 72/305, decides that the main theme for the high-level political forum on sustainable development for the year 2020 and the Economic and Social Council for the 2019-2020 cycle will be “*Transformative pathways to realize the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”.