



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 February 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith a memo from my meeting, held on 18 February 2020, with the President of the Economic and Social Council, Her Excellency Ms. Mona Juul, Permanent Representative of Norway 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.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script.

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 Tuesday 18 February 2020

The President of the 74th 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, on Tuesday 18 February 2020, 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:

The Financial Integrity Panel initiative

The President of the General Assembly (PGA) and the President of ECOSOC discussed their interactions with Member States on this initiative including engagement with EU and JUSCANZ on 18 February, as well as a similar meeting to be convened with G77 and China. All delegations are welcomed to contact the Presidents and their teams. The Terms of Reference was shared with Member States and the deadline for submission of comments and suggestions is 21 February. The Presidents also used the opportunity to update on the immediate next steps.

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

The PGA informed of his address to the first informal meeting of the intergovernmental process, under the leadership of the co-facilitators — Montenegro and Botswana. He underscored the need to make progress on the positive momentum of the previous sessions, and the launch of the Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development which inspires the agendas, as well as the work of the GA, ECOSOC, their subsidiary bodies, and the HLPF. The two Presidents reflected on the various areas of convergence with other processes including revitalization and the review of HLPF and ECOSOC.

Review of ECOSOC and the follow-up and review of the HLPF

Both Presidents noted the positive engagement of Member States at the first informal meeting of the process convened by the co-facilitators — Benin and Georgia. With specific reference to the review of HLPF, the President of ECOSOC highlighted the importance of proposals to improve the structure and outcomes of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The President of ECOSOC updated the PGA on the appointment of the co-facilitators for the Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF — Bulgaria and Lebanon. She highlighted that the 2020 HLPF will be an important reflection point as part of the launch of the Decade of Action and Delivery. She informed that 51 countries will present their VNRs in July with 28 doing so for the first time.

Joint activities of the GA and ECOSOC

Both Presidents agreed on the date of 13 April for convening the Preparatory Meeting on Least Developed Countries on the road towards the 5th Conference to take place in Doha in 2021.

They also engaged on the preparations for the Youth Plenary and the ECOSOC Youth Forum which will be convened back-to-back from 31 March to 2 April. The Concept Notes will be circulated to Member States in a few days.

The PGA informed that the High-Level Thematic Debate on Rapid Technological Change will be convened on 11 May on the eve of the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum. Both Presidents reflected on the mutually reinforcing nature of both events for the work of the two organs.

Other ECOSOC events

The President of ECOSOC used the opportunity to apprise the PGA of the recent visit of the ECOSOC Bureau to the IMF and World Bank to discuss matters in relation to illicit financial flows, resource mobilization, debt sustainability and other themes for the Financing for Development Forum. She highlighted the need for continued and strengthened dialogue. The PGA informed of his upcoming mission to Washington in March and his intention to engage with the Bretton Woods institutions.

The ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, led by the Permanent Representative of Canada, is also scheduled to embark on a mission to Washington to discuss matters relating to donor coordination and to showcase the importance of addressing the needs of countries in special situations. The PGA indicated he will visit Port-au-Prince in late April. The President of ECOSOC notified the PGA of the meeting to support the Sahel Region scheduled for 14 April. There are many lessons to learn from this experience which will inform the PGA's upcoming travel to Mali.