18 March 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith, a letter dated 18 March 2020, from H.E. Mr. Kaha Imnadze, Permanent Representative of Georgia, and H.E. Mr. Jean-Claude do Rego, Permanent Representative of Benin, the co-facilitators for the intergovernmental negotiations for the review process of the Economic and Social Council and the High-Level Political Forum as per General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 entitled, “Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development”, and resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016 entitled, “Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level”, as well as resolution 72/305 of 23 July 2018 entitled, “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”.

Further to my letters dated 10 and 13 March concerning the need to limit the number of persons attending in-person meetings as a result of the continuing evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, the aforementioned letter conveys information on the cancellation of the thematic meeting on the ECOSOC review and outlines the approach for the submission of inputs by Member States.

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

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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

We are writing in our capacity as the co-facilitators for the intergovernmental negotiations for the review process of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF).

Given the rapidly evolving situation with regards to the COVID-19 and in light of recent guidance limiting availability to convey in-person meetings, we would like to inform you on our intention to continue the process using alternative mechanisms and web meetings.

In this regard, the thematic meeting on ECOSOC review previously scheduled for 12 March 2020 and postponed to this week will be cancelled. At the same time, we would like to ask all Member States to submit in writing their inputs in relation to the questions indicated in our letter (dated 26 February) by 25 March 2020. All those inputs will be disseminated to the membership in order to have them better informed.

Member States are kindly invited to send their inputs to Mr. Dewanou Narcisse Houenouvo Tognissou, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Benin to the United Nations (houenarcisse2@gmail.com) and Ms. Salome Supatashvili, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations (ssupatashvili@mfa.gov.ge).

We reaffirm our commitment to an open, inclusive and transparent process, and count on your continuous active engagement and support.

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

Kaha Imnadze
Permanent Representative of Georgia
to the United Nations

Jean-Claude do Rego
Permanent Representative of Benin
to the United Nations

To: All Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers of the United Nations
New York