



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 August 2020

Subject: Draft resolution entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, resolution 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level and resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council” (A/74/L.83)

Excellency,

Sequel to my letter dated 7 August 2020, in accordance with General Assembly decision 74/544 of 27 March 2020, entitled “*Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic*” and decision 74/561 of 21 July 2020, entitled “*Extension of the procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic until the end of August 2020*”, placing the draft resolution entitled “*Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, resolution 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level and resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council*” (A/74/L.83), under silence procedure until 12 August 2020, at 3:00 p.m., it is my pleasure to inform you that the silence procedure has concluded without objections.

Accordingly, the resolution is considered adopted by the Assembly as resolution 74/298 and is in effect from 3:01 p.m., today, Wednesday, 12 August 2020. The General Assembly will take note of resolution 74/298 at its next plenary meeting to be held at the United Nations Headquarters.

Also find enclosed the explanation of position received regarding this resolution.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my solidarity with Member States who are fighting COVID-19 and extend my sincere condolences for their loss.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tijjani Muhammad-Bande', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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

Explanation of Position of the United States of America

Regarding Resolution A/74/L.83

“Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, resolution 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level and resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”

August 12, 2020

The United States takes this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Permanent Representatives and delegations of Benin and Georgia for their facilitation of resolution A/74/L.83 on the High-Level Political Forum and ECOSOC review process.

The United States wishes to underscore that the 2030 Agenda is non-binding and does not create or affect rights or obligations under international law, nor does it create any new financial commitments. The United States recognizes the 2030 Agenda as a global framework for sustainable development that can help countries work toward global peace and prosperity. We applaud the call for shared responsibility, including national responsibility, in the 2030 Agenda and emphasize that all countries have a role to play in achieving its vision. The 2030 Agenda recognizes that each country must work toward implementation in accordance with its own national policies and priorities. The United States also underscores that paragraph 18 of the 2030 Agenda calls for countries to implement the Agenda in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law. We also highlight our mutual recognition in paragraph 58 that 2030 Agenda implementation must respect and be without prejudice to the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including negotiations, and does not prejudice or serve as precedent for decisions and actions underway in other forums. For example, this Agenda does not represent a commitment to provide new market access for goods or services. This Agenda also does not interpret or alter any WTO agreement or decision, including the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property.

Thank You.

12 August, 2020

**Mexico General Statement on General Assembly Resolution entitled
“Review process of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions
67/290 and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development at the global level and resolution 72/305 on the
strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”**

Mexico expresses its appreciation to the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Benin and Georgia, for their efforts to bring to a successful conclusion the negotiations of the resolution entitled “Review process of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level and resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”.

The Government of Mexico recognizes the challenges involved in the methods of work imposed by the current global health situation.

Mexico did not break silence on the resolution that was recently adopted, which only covers the 2021 session, consequently joining consensus.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm our government’s longstanding disagreement to continue to divide in thematic and artificial clusters the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for review. The need to work in a multisectoral way has been made even more evident by the COVID-19 pandemic. Artificial divisions in the review of the SDGs in such so-called “clusters” does not promote this approach and may prove to be highly dysfunctional.

Mexico maintains its position regarding the need to avoid clustering the goals in a way that artificially divides them. We emphasize that the previous and current resolution refer to the integrated, indivisible, and interlinked nature of the SDGs. Any practical difficulty in reviewing all SDGs every year cannot justify a lack of action in the implementation of all goals and targets of the Agenda.

Mexico states that the decision of adopting the annual thematic clusters has directly caused sectionalized efforts of all actors involved, including the UN System. This ill-informed approach, at the start of the Decade of Action, has damaging potential. The Government of Mexico will continue to look for a formula that garners the agreement of Member States and effectively takes



into account the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs beyond pleonasms.

Mexico is also concerned about the evident and purposeful exclusion of SDG 5 in OP4, considering this SDG is the most cross-cutting among all SDGs, as well as one of the most pressing ones. The negative impacts caused by COVID-19 on this Goal are well documented. Yet, it is one more casualty of the absence of a truly integrated vision of the 2030 Agenda.

Mexico additionally regrets that the spaces for multi-stakeholder participation, including civil society, were not subject to unanimous support despite a general consensus that these actors can positively contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. We consider any loss from this moment forward in multi-stakeholder participation to be directly attributable to the artificial divisions of the SDGs enthusiastically promoted by certain delegations.

Mexico is fully committed to working actively and fruitfully during the 75th session in the process to review the two outstanding years in a coherent manner and in a way that contributes—in practice and not just in theory—to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs. We call upon all Member States to live up to our commitments and to leave no SDG behind.