



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 December 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a memorandum of my meeting on 17 December 2020 with the President of the Economic and Social Council, His Excellency Mr. Munir Akram, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan 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.

Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Missions
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 Thursday, 17 December 2020

The President of the 75th session of the General Assembly, H.E Mr. Volkan BOZKIR and the President of the 2021 session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, held their third monthly coordination meeting on Thursday, 17 December 2020, as part of their efforts to strengthen relations between the two principal organs of the UN and increase collaboration and coherence in the work of the General Assembly (GA) and ECOSOC.

Joint Presidents Briefing (GA and ECOSOC)

In line with their commitment to maintain the Joint Presidents Briefing, to reinforce the importance of the two organs and maximize their common impact, both Presidents discussed the topics and issues to be highlighted in the meeting. It was agreed that the briefing will focus on matters including but not limited to Financing for Development, Alignment, the General Assembly's review of ECOSOC and HLPF; Business Continuity; as well as priorities and mandates of the two organs for the resumed session. The briefing will be convened in late January subject to the availability of the General Assembly Hall.

Special Segment in ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum

The Presidents recalled the mandate from resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development" to be adopted in the General Assembly Plenary on Monday, 21 December. The resolution in paragraph 18 "invites the President of Economic and Social Council in consultation with the PGA to consider convening a special segment during the 2021 forum on financing for development follow-up, as a one-time event, to discuss concrete steps towards a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, in relation to the efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda."

The PGA underlined the timely call for the special segment which provides a window of opportunity/platform to further address the remarkable challenge for the international community to assure a global economic recovery consistent with the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. He further noted that the special segment could advance the discussions from Panel 3 of the UNGASS-31 on "Resilience and Recovering Better from COVID-19" which highlighted the worrying outlook of a global recession as a consequence of the pandemic.

The President of ECOSOC outlined his initial reflections on the scope and format of the special segment which he proposed be organized at the beginning of the ECOSOC FfD Forum scheduled on 12-15 April. He said that there was an interest of some Heads of State and Government to participate. They could consider and build support for a list of emergency actions in response to the COVID crisis. The President of ECOSOC underscored there are few countries, which have

already defaulted, others may follow. Besides there are reports indicating impending food shortages and famine. In this context, there was an urgent need to address liquidity crisis in developing countries, including through debt issues, issuance of Special Drawing Rights, and involving private sector creditors in debt suspension initiatives.

The PGA recommended a focus on credible proposals that can lead to concrete outcomes on issues relating to debt; concessional financing; climate finance; economic recovery packages; aligning financial flows to SDG implementation; and ODA. Both Presidents also agreed on the need for integrating the menu of options from the initiative of the Governments of Canada and Jamaica and the Secretary-General on “Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond”. It was agreed that participation from international financial institutions would be vital.

The President of ECOSOC informed the PGA of his upcoming meeting to engage in an initial discussion to identify emergency actions. He suggested that a coalition of leaders could be launched to support these actions. A detailed implementation strategy on the proposed emergency plan of action would be defined. The PGA noted that the upcoming High-level Meeting on Middle-Income Countries and the joint thematic event on Least Developed Countries could also be opportunities to follow-up on discussions from the segment to ensure coherence and synergies across the mandates. Both Presidents committed to close collaboration on the substantive and organizational arrangements to fulfill this mandate.