



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 January 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 January 2021 from H.E. Mr. Alexander Marschik, Permanent Representative of Austria and H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Permanent Representative of Senegal, 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 74/298 of 12 August 2020 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”.

The aforementioned letter conveys the date of the second virtual informal meeting to be convened on Friday, 5 February 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Additionally, the letter provides the guiding questions to inform the discussions of the meeting. Connection details for the meeting will be provided by the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management in a subsequent correspondence.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Volkan Bozkir'.

Volkan BOZKIR

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

 **Permanent  
Mission  
of Austria**

to the United Nations  
in New York



28 January 2021

Excellency,

We write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations related to General Assembly resolutions 74/298 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level and 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

We wish to thank you for your constructive engagement and the general views, perspectives and ideas that you presented, in light of the discussions held last year, during our first virtual informal consultation convened on Monday, 25 January 2021. We also thank those of you who have sent their written interventions – and remind you that you can use the following e-mails to send us any further inputs or statements: [new-york-ov@bmeia.gv.at](mailto:new-york-ov@bmeia.gv.at) and [senegal.mission@yahoo.fr](mailto:senegal.mission@yahoo.fr) with a copy to [olsone@un.org](mailto:olsone@un.org) and [mahmassani@un.org](mailto:mahmassani@un.org).

Further to our first meeting, we would like to invite you to the second virtual informal meeting on the review process of the resolutions on the HLPF and ECOSOC that will take place on Friday, 5 February 2021 at 10:00 am. The link to the meeting will be sent to you by the Secretariat in a forthcoming e-mail.

Building on the open discussion of the first meeting, we kindly invite you to share your views and ideas on different aspects of the review processes by addressing some of the following questions we are currently working on:

**HLPF:**

- What should the rest of the HLPF cycle look like until 2023 (themes, SDGs/interrelations/cross cutting themes in 2022 and 2023)? Is there a way to combine a review of subsets of SDGs and a review of the interrelations among the SDGs/cross cutting themes?
- How can we further improve the VNRs, and in which areas are new mandates required? How can the VNRs result in the launching of new partnerships and the provision of advice and support to VNR countries?
- How can the HLPF build better on the regional forums?
- How can the review process of the HLPF and ECOSOC take into account the targets with a deadline of 2020?
- What measures should be taken to strengthen the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit)?
- How can we improve the interrelations between ECOSOC and the HLPF?

**ECOSOC review:**

- Is there potential for improving the ECOSOC calendar and the sequencing of ECOSOC segments, forums and events? Does the Council need to create more space for discussion, exchange of experiences, knowledge and ideas?

- How can the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies assist countries in recovering and rebuilding better from the COVID-19 pandemic and getting on track to achieve the SDGs?
- What changes would be necessary for the Council to be better equipped to deliver on its functions to:
  - Provide policy guidance and policy dialogue,
  - Coordinate the UN system, including the specialized agencies,
  - Oversee the operational activities of the UN development system,
  - Coordinate and guide the work of its subsidiary bodies, channeling their contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and drawing on their expertise?
- How can the Council better address the remaining coordination items in the Management Segment such as on the UN Inter-agency Task Force on Non Communicable disease, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, the situation in the Sahel or gender mainstreaming in the work of the UN system?
- How could we improve the narrative around ECOSOC and make ECOSOC more understandable to outsiders and thereby increase its visibility, impact and relevance?
- What steps are needed to (i) strengthen the contribution of major groups and other stakeholders to the HLPF, and (ii) enhance the participation of civil society, the private sector and other actors such as local governments or scientists in ECOSOC?

We look forward to our discussions on 5 February 2021. Following that meeting, as announced at the 25 January 2021 meeting, we intend to share a zero draft text. We then plan to meet on the following dates: 19 February (10 am – 1 pm), 26 February (10 am – 1 pm), 11 March (10 am – 1 pm), 19 March (3 – 6 pm) and 31 March (10 am – 1 pm).

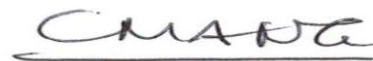
We plan to circulate revisions of the text in between the meetings for your comments and we will share all of your written proposals with all delegations. We will also make available all proposals from the 74<sup>th</sup> session in e-delegate. You can also access publicly available documents on ECOSOC and HLPF reviews at this [link](#).

We look forward to your views and active engagement in the upcoming meeting on these and other questions. We remain committed to ensuring that the process is completely open, transparent and inclusive and builds on the negotiations during the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

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



Alexander Marschik  
Permanent Representative of Austria  
to the United Nations



Cheikh Niang  
Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Senegal  
to the United Nations

All Permanent Missions of Member States  
to the United Nations and Permanent Observers  
of Non-Member States to the United Nations  
New York