



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 February 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 23 February 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”.

Following the virtual consultation held on 19 February to discuss the zero draft of the resolution for the HLPF/ECOSOC Review, it is the intention of the co-facilitators to continue those discussions. The virtual consultation will be convened on Friday, 26 February 2021 at 10:00 a.m. and will focus on four questions identified in the attached letter by the co-facilitators based on the zero draft and the consultations. 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



23 February 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 resolutions 67/290 on the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), 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 active engagement in the meeting on 19 February on the zero draft and for the concrete proposals you shared during the meeting and in writing.

We listened very carefully to your views and, for our upcoming meeting on Friday, 26 February, we have identified four questions which we would like to address in greater depth, based on the zero draft and the discussions thus far:

1. We noted that some delegations want the General Assembly review process to result in the adoption of two different resolutions, one on ECOSOC and one on the HLPF, while other delegations expect the process to result in a single resolution on both ECOSOC and the HLPF. Based on our mandate in Res. 74/298, we proposed to have a chapeau resolution with one annex text on ECOSOC and one annex text on the HLPF and seek your advice what alternative approaches may allow to bridge the diverging views on the format of the outcome of the review process.
2. In order to strengthen ECOSOC and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the recovery from COVID-19 and the other areas of responsibilities of the Council, we have proposed to hold the high-level segment, which currently takes place in parallel to the ministerial days of the HLPF and on one day following the conclusion of the HLPF, in February along with a multistakeholder partnerships forum and the coordination segment. The purpose would be to give impetus and guidance to the work of ECOSOC and its forums and subsidiary bodies for the following six months. We wish to seek your guidance on the focus, the timing, the duration, the format and the outcome of these meetings and hear any other suggestions for improving the ECOSOC cycle and its segments and meetings and their impact. [Annex I, paragraphs 14 – 24.]
3. What are your views on the themes and SDGs to be discussed in 2022 and 2023 as well as on addressing the interlinkages across the SDGs and cross-cutting issues? [Annex II, paragraphs 4 – 15]

4. How can we maximize the participation of stakeholders in the work of ECOSOC, while preserving its intergovernmental nature, bearing in mind the mandates regarding participation of NGOs in consultative status and other stakeholders in the work of the Council¹? Similarly, how can we maximize the participation of major groups and other stakeholders in the work of the HLPF, while preserving its intergovernmental nature, bearing in mind the provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the General Assembly mandates for their engagement²?

We look forward to your views on Friday, 26 February 2021. Following this meeting, we will circulate a revised draft by Friday, 5 March 2021 for consideration at our next informal consultations on Friday, 12 March 2021.

We wish to remind you that you can use the following e-mails to send us any further inputs or statements on the zero draft at any time during this process: new-york-ov@bmeia.gv.at and senegal.mission@yahoo.fr with a copy to olsone@un.org and mahmassani@un.org.

Once again, we reiterate our commitment to ensuring that the process is completely open, transparent and inclusive and builds on the negotiations during the 74th session of the General Assembly and count on your active participation and support.

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

¹ ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 on **Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations** and General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of ECOSOC (O.P. 20 and 21)

² General Assembly resolutions 67/290 (OP. 8, 13-16 and 22) and General Assembly resolution 70/299 (OP.12)