



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

26 March 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a memorandum of my meeting of 10 March 2021, 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 Representatives
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 Wednesday, 10 March 2021

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 fourth monthly coordination meeting on Wednesday, 10 March 2021, 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. Both Presidents reflected on the work undertaken by the GA and ECOSOC since the Joint Briefing of the Presidents to the membership and utilized this coordination meeting to focus on the critical priorities for both organs in the coming months.

Racism

The PGA extended commendations to the President of ECOSOC on the Special Ministerial Meeting on “*Reimagining Equality: Eliminating racism, xenophobia and discrimination for all in the decade of action for the SDGs*”. The Presidential Statement issued by the President of ECOSOC outlined proposals which he proposed can be taken forward. The PGA recalled the commemorative meetings on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination scheduled for 19 March and the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade scheduled for 25 March. The PGA advised of his appointment of the Permanent Representatives of Portugal and South Africa for the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme for Action scheduled to be held in September during high-level week. He also noted his expectation to appoint co-facilitators to establish modalities for the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent and the Mid-term Review of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

FACTI Panel Report and the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum

The Presidents reflected on the 14 recommendations from the FACTI Panel Report and underscored their importance to future discussions in the GA and ECOSOC including the Financing for Development (FfD) Forum and the special session on corruption. The President of ECOSOC updated the PGA on the preparations for the FfD Forum to be held 12-15 April, including its format, organization arrangements and process for the outcome document, being co-facilitated by the Permanent Representatives of Fiji and Netherlands. Additionally, he informed that the co-chair of the FACTI Panel has also been invited to address the FfD Forum panel on illicit financial flows.

Countries in special situations

The Presidents engaged on their mutual priority to focus on common challenges of countries in special situation, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The PGA apprised the President of ECOSOC of the work of his Board of Advisers on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and

the deliberations of their February meeting, which addressed cross-sectoral partnerships, and partnership building. An invitation was extended to the President of ECOSOC to participate in the upcoming discussions of the Board given the importance of the Council in supporting LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, particularly in the lead up to the HLPF in July. He further noted the recommendation from the Chairs of the three groups of countries to consider the extension of the platform provided by the Board of advisers beyond the 75th session of the GA. The President of ECOSOC informed of his intention to organize a Special Meeting of the Council on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS at a date to be announced. This meeting would serve to complement the deliberations of the Board of Advisers and seek to foster new and innovative partnerships to better support these countries.

Upcoming Events of the GA and ECOSOC

Both Presidents noted with interest the various meetings of the GA and ECOSOC and their collective efforts and commitment to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The PGA noted that following the High-Level Meeting on the Water (18 March), a Presidential Summary will be transmitted to the President of ECOSOC as a contribution to the 2021 HLPF. Regarding the High-Level Meeting on Middle-Income Countries (MICS), due to an overlap in the dates with the ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment, the meeting will be scheduled for 17 June and 18 June in the afternoon. The High-Level Meeting on MICS will be convened back-to-back with the Joint GA/ECOSOC Thematic Event on LDCs to be held 18 June in the morning.

The Presidents reflected on the synergies between the High-level Thematic Debate on Digital Cooperation and Connectivity and the ECOSOC STI Forum. The PGA underlined key engagements with the Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation, the Office of the Tech Envoy and the broader UN system. He further noted that several UN partners have proposed follow up events and initiatives, to capture the momentum from the thematic debate and feed into other UN processes. The President of ECOSOC highlighted three priorities to be achieved during his tenure, namely:

1. the creation of a database on open source technology, in collaboration with UNCTAD and DESA;
2. identification of scientific objectives/breakthroughs aligned with the sustainable development goals; and
3. digital governance and financing for the implementation of the SG's Roadmap on Digital Cooperation.

Given his priority on sustainable infrastructure, the President of ECOSOC apprised the PGA of his engagements towards anchoring an institutional mechanism at the United Nations on sustainable infrastructure investment. He outlined that it would be difficult to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, if sustainable infrastructure investments are not beefed up, and noted this issue will find reflection in the FFD and HLPF, as well as the deliberations of the General Assembly.