



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 April 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, a letter dated 22 April 2021, from H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and H.E. Ms. Darja Bavdaž Kuret, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia, the co-facilitators leading the intergovernmental consultations, in pursuance of resolution 74/303 of 4 September 2020 entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", with specific reference to paragraph 6 regarding the Alignment Process. The co-facilitators are also sharing a note on possible general elements and ideas that could be used to formulate an agreed outcome of the Alignment Process for the seventy-fifth session.

In this regard, the co-facilitators are convening the second Ambassador-level informal consultation to be held in-person on Friday, 30 April 2021 at 10 a.m., in the General Assembly Hall. I will be attending this meeting and I look forward to your active participation.

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

22 April 2021

Excellency,

We are writing to you in our capacity as Co-facilitators for the alignment process during the 75th session. With reference to General Assembly resolution [74/303](#) and the [letter](#) of President of the General Assembly of 6 November 2020, we wish to share with you an updated co-facilitator's proposal on the alignment process and invite you to a second Ambassador-level informal consultation to take place on **Friday, 30 April 2021, at 10:00 A.M, in the General Assembly Hall**. The President of the General Assembly will also participate at the meeting.

We prepared the present note based on the extensive consultations with different groups and delegations, which include consultations at the first Ambassadorial level meeting and the two expert level meetings. It responds to requests made by some delegations to the Co-facilitators to suggest possible general elements and ideas that could be used to formulate an agreed outcome of the alignment process for inclusion in the General Assembly revitalization resolution of the 75th session.

The Co-facilitators invite delegations to consider the content of this note and provide their valuable response and concrete proposals at the upcoming meeting.

Access to the meeting will be restricted to delegates (one delegate per Member State and one delegate each from Holy See, the State of Palestine, the European Union) and staff members of the United Nations Secretariat. The meeting will also be livestreamed via the Cisco WebEx virtual platform, where up to two additional members of your delegation will be able to follow the proceedings. The technical details about the livestream will be circulated soon.

We count on your full personal engagement and cooperation to move this process forward.

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



Rabab Fatima
Permanent Representative of
Bangladesh to the United Nations



Darja Bavdaž Kuret
Permanent Representative of
Slovenia to the United Nations

75th session of the General Assembly

Possible proposals on alignment

Note by the Co-facilitators

The present note has been prepared by the Co-facilitators for the alignment process during the 75th session to support the continuing discussion among delegations. It responds to requests made by some delegations at the informal consultations of 29 January 2021 and at the virtual experts' informal meeting of 19 March 2021 for the Co-facilitators to suggest possible general elements and ideas that could be used to formulate an agreed outcome of the alignment process for inclusion in the General Assembly revitalization resolution of the 75th session. The note mainly draws from reports and notes of co-facilitators of the alignment process since the 70th session as well as views expressed, or proposals offered by various groups and delegations during those sessions and during the 75th session. The Co-facilitators invite delegations to consider the content of this note before considering concrete wording for the input into the GA revitalization resolution.

Consideration of general principles:

From the discussions thus far, it appears that there is convergence on a set of general principles on alignment. The following principles have been identified.

1. Member States have emphasized that United Nations intergovernmental bodies need to effectively address the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, in order to effectively and efficiently support its accelerated implementation during the Decade of Action.
2. They agree that it is therefore necessary to further align the agendas of the General Assembly, ECOSOC and its functional commissions and expert bodies with the 2030 Agenda and address gaps, overlaps and duplications in a balanced manner where they are found to exist.
3. Member States recognize that gaps, overlaps and duplications need to be identified and addressed taking into account the respective mandates and distinct functions of each intergovernmental body¹ and on a case by case basis.
4. Member States underscore the right of any delegation to propose a new agenda item or resolution.
5. Member States agree that the mapping exercises undertaken during the 70th and 73rd sessions serve as an important tool, allowing notably to identify gaps, and informing delegations, and not as a mandatory document.

¹ For example, the General Assembly serves as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. The Economic and Social Council serves as the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development. It has a key role in coordinating the UN system and in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits and in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Possible gaps in the agendas of intergovernmental bodies:

6. Member States could recall that the analysis and mapping undertaken during the 70th and 73rd session of the General Assembly has identified the SDGs whose targets are covered in a relevant and inclusive manner under the General Assembly and ECOSOC agendas, as well as those that have limited coverage, and those that remain largely uncovered.
7. Member States could note that SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) has remained largely uncovered under the GA and ECOSOC agendas. It has also been observed that other Goals have limited coverage under the agendas, such as SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reducing inequality), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). Furthermore, SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) has been mentioned in previous years and partially addressed by the Second Committee during the last session. SDG 2 (zero hunger) has been noted during the 75th session.
8. Member States could accordingly consider recommending to the Second Committee to take steps to address SDG 6 and SDG 9 in its work. These are among the issues that may be discussed in the second committee's consultations on the revitalization of its work.
9. Member States could agree that the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or the Commission for Social Development could have a dedicated agenda item on SDG 10, reducing inequalities and addressing multidimensional inequality, which has become even more urgent due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
10. Member States could consider inviting the Second and Third Committees and ECOSOC and its functional commissions to address targets of SDG 16 within their purview.
11. Member states could consider addressing gaps in the SDG 2 and targets, especially in the area of hunger.
12. Member States could highlight that the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting all SDGs and that dedicated attention by intergovernmental bodies is required to address these impacts, notably on the most affected SDGs and resulting gaps. It will be important to closely monitor various aspects of the 2030 Agenda to enable governments to respond to the pandemic and its impacts and establish the way forward to build back better and to strengthen international cooperation.
13. Member States could consider adding an agenda item on health emergencies in the General Assembly plenary (possibly repurposing the existing agenda item on "Health and Foreign Policy") or an item on "Major shocks and international crises requiring the urgent attention of the General Assembly".
14. Member States could also include an item on the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda to be considered in the plenary of the General Assembly, while noting that the Second Committee could refocus its work in the context of the consultations on the revitalization of the work of the Second Committee. Under this chapeau item, the General Assembly plenary would be notably informed by the work of ECOSOC, the HLPF and the Main Committees regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
15. Member States agree that general solutions for addressing gaps could include: (i) inscribing new items or sub-items under the agendas of the General Assembly or ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and developing resolutions relating to these SDGs – which should be done

with an eye on the periodicity of such resolutions and the existing resolutions, or (ii) reviewing or broadening the scope of an existing item/sub item or resolution.

16. Member States recognize that when considering SDGs that are not fully covered by intergovernmental bodies, care should be taken to address these through an integrated approach across the intergovernmental bodies, and not in silos.

Possible overlaps and duplications in the agendas of UN intergovernmental bodies:

17. Member States could agree that addressing overlaps and duplications in the agendas of the General Assembly, ECOSOC and its functional commissions and expert bodies will free up time and allow resources to be applied effectively. This also will allow these bodies to address the 2030 Agenda in its entirety and emerging global issues of an important and urgent nature.
18. Member States need to identify duplications and overlaps in the agendas of the intergovernmental bodies, in particular by referring to resolutions that are adopted on the same topic and with similar content by both the General Assembly and ECOSOC. One way to address overlaps and duplications is through consideration of the periodicity of these items.
19. Member States could consider whether such resolutions could be adopted in alternate years by the General Assembly and ECOSOC – or whether the General Assembly could decide on general political direction and guidance for the international community every two or three years, with ECOSOC focusing on effective implementation notably by the UN system in the intermediate years.
20. Member States may consider merging resolutions under same Agenda items and with a similar focus on a case by case basis.
21. Member states may consider streamlining languages of similar resolutions to avoid duplications of the same language in different resolutions unless those are important cross cutting themes or add important value in specific context of a particular resolution.
22. Member States could also consider addressing cases of overlaps and duplications where an agenda item and resolution cover a sub-issue of another item or resolution (such as on trade and commodities).
23. Member States could consider that eliminating overlap and duplication may require reducing the frequency of some resolutions or agenda items in some intergovernmental bodies, adjust or merge reporting and ensure that each body addresses the issue from its own perspective.
24. Member States may consider mainstreaming some of the good practices of the 75th UNGA such as technical roll over of some resolutions (opening up a limited number of paragraphs for negotiations and having provisions for one or two overarching paragraphs to address priority issues to enhance efficiency and avoid duplications of work).
25. Member States could consider that any new resolution is not overlapping with existing resolutions or processes. The country presenting a new resolution would be invited to show how the new resolution is aligned with the 2030 Agenda (bearing in mind that the work of the General Assembly, ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies go beyond the 2030 Agenda) and, if necessary, how it adds unique value. New resolutions could be on a one-off basis unless they address an ongoing challenge, in which case they could be triannual or addressed as a technical roll over on specific years

26. Member States could suggest that resolutions of a regional nature in the General Assembly be only be put forward in relation to challenges with global repercussions. They could recommend merging regional resolutions on the same overarching subject.
27. Member States could consider limiting the number of resolutions on international days and years to exceptional issues of global importance that have been so far largely neglected by the international community.

Continuation of the alignment process in future General Assembly sessions:

28. Member States could consider inviting a more active role of the General Committee to initiate alignment, including when it comes to clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly. Discussions could be initiated by the General Committee and then be taken up by other bodies.
29. Member States could request the Bureaux of the relevant Main Committees of the General Assembly and ECOSOC and its functional commissions and expert bodies, to review their respective agendas and outcomes to pursue alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and address gaps, overlaps and duplications within their respective areas of responsibility. The Committee Bureaux could be requested to make sure that the principles identified in the resolution on the revitalization of the General Assembly are implemented. Member States could request that the Secretary-General, in preparing reports, ensure that the analysis supports the specific role and mandate of the intergovernmental body concerned. The Secretary-General's reports could also refer to the work that other intergovernmental bodies are doing on similar issues, so as to prevent gaps, overlaps and duplications.
30. Member States could also consider to invite the Bureaux of the Main Committees of the General Assembly to hold joint meetings with the Bureau of ECOSOC to discuss how their work relates to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ensure synergies among their work and outcomes, as well as seek advice from the Secretary-General on the feasibility of issuing joint UN reports on interconnected issues.
31. Member States could encourage the President of the General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC to continue to convene an annual joint briefing, highlighting the connection between agenda items of the two bodies and their relationship to the 2030 Agenda.
32. Member States may consider requesting the President of the General Assembly at its 77th session to identify new proposals on alignment, and that alignment be addressed by the respective Chairs and Bureaux of the Second and Third Committees and the President and Bureau of ECOSOC on an on-going basis or through the Revitalization process.