



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 May 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 revised elements for the possible draft output from the Alignment Process for the seventy-fifth session.

The next meeting of the alignment process is scheduled to be held virtually on 17 May 2021 at 3 p.m.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance 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

12 May 2021

Excellency,

We are writing to you in our capacity as co-facilitators for the alignment process during the 75th session of the General Assembly. 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 revised elements for the possible draft output from the alignment process to be included in the General Assembly draft resolution on the revitalization of the General Assembly.

We have prepared these elements based on interventions at the second meeting at ambassadorial level and the comments you provided on the co-facilitators' note at the meeting at expert level on 7 May 2021.

We invite delegations to consider these elements and provide their valuable response and concrete proposals at the upcoming meeting which is envisaged to take place **virtually on 17 May 2021 at 3 pm at expert level.**

The technical details about the meeting will be circulated through e-delegate as per usual practice.

We count on your full 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

Working document on
Draft input from the alignment process to the Ad Hoc Working Group on GA revitalization

Consideration of general principles:

1. *Stresses* 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. *Notes* that it is necessary to further align the agendas of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and expert bodies with the 2030 Agenda, considering a comprehensive and holistic view of the agendas, and *also notes* that the General Assembly process on alignment needs to identify and address gaps, overlaps and duplications in a balanced manner and on a case by case basis, taking into account the respective mandates and distinct functions of each intergovernmental body;
3. *Underlines* that the work of the General Assembly on agenda alignment should not undermine the sovereign right of any member state to introduce an agenda item or resolution

Possible gaps in the agendas of intergovernmental bodies:

4. *Recalls* that it welcomed the mapping assessment of the coverage by United Nations intergovernmental bodies of the SDGs developed during seventy-third session of the General Assembly as an evolving reference document for the consideration of Member States; *Also recalls* that this mapping, along with earlier analysis to support the consultation of the General Assembly on alignment, have identified several SDGs whose targets are covered in a relevant manner under the General Assembly and ECOSOC agendas, as well as those that have limited coverage, and those that remain largely uncovered;
5. *Notes* that the mapping, along with the initial efforts to examine in-depth the coverage of SDG 2 (zero hunger) during the 75th session, offers an evolving reference document for the consideration of Member during the seventy-eight session of the Assembly;
6. *Invites* the General Assembly Main Committees, ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies to consider ways to address those SDGs with limited or no coverage, bearing in mind their respective mandates and the need to avoid overlaps and duplications;
7. *Recognizes* that, when considering SDGs that are not fully covered by intergovernmental bodies, due consideration should be given to addressing these through an integrated approach across the intergovernmental bodies, and not in silos;
8. *Highlights* 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, and that 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. *Decides* to conduct those discussions under a new item to be created in the agenda of the General Assembly on the impacts of COVID-19 for consideration in the Plenary of the General Assembly;

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

9. *Emphasizes* 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 and that this will also allow these bodies to address the 2030 Agenda in its entirety and emerging global issues of an important and urgent nature;
10. *Notes that* identifying duplications and overlaps in the agendas of the intergovernmental bodies may entail examining, on a case by case basis, resolutions that are adopted on the same topic and with similar content by both the General Assembly and ECOSOC;
11. *Notes* that eliminating overlap and duplication may require reducing the frequency of some resolutions or agenda items in some intergovernmental bodies, on a case by case basis and based on a thorough analysis including inputs by the UN system; as well as/or ensuring that each body addresses the issue from its own perspective;
12. *Invites* countries presenting a new resolution to explain 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 extends beyond the 2030 Agenda, and, if necessary, how it adds unique value. *Highlights* that new resolutions also need to take into account the General Assembly mandates on alignment and the work conducted in other intergovernmental bodies on the same topic *Further highlights* that new resolutions should also take into consideration the question of periodicity, taking into account that only resolutions on issues that significantly evolve from one year to the next need to be annual, and that other resolutions may be biennial or triennial or be adopted with minimal updates on specific years.
13. *Invites* the main sponsors of resolutions that are put for consideration of delegations, to consider following the procedural practices applied during the 75th UNGA session, where applicable and on a voluntary and case by case basis, to enhance efficiency of the work of the GA, ECOSOC and other subsidiary bodies.

Continuation of the alignment process in future General Assembly sessions:

14. *Requests* the General Committee, while exercising its functions under rule 40 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to consider discussing gaps, overlaps and duplications with items being considered by other bodies, in consultation with delegations;
15. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, based on those discussions, to facilitate meetings between the General Committee, the Bureaux of relevant Main Committees of the General Assembly, of ECOSOC and of its subsidiary bodies to consider any major issue related to alignment, during the 76th and 77th session;
16. *Invites* the Bureaux of the relevant Main Committees of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council 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; Also *invites* those Bureaux to make sure that the principles identified in the resolution on the revitalization of the General Assembly are implemented;
17. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in preparing reports for UN intergovernmental bodies, to ensure that the analysis contained in the report supports the specific role and mandate of the intergovernmental body concerned as well as to provide information on the work carried out by other intergovernmental bodies on similar issues, so as to prevent gaps, overlaps and duplications.

18. *Also invites* intergovernmental bodies, when adopting resolutions requesting a Secretary-General's report on an issue, to allow for sufficient flexibility for the Secretary-General to consider similar requests in other resolutions and submit a comprehensive report, where possible and while keeping the depth and breadth of the analysis on the issue at stake, so as to avoid duplications and ensure efficient utilization of resources;
19. *Invites* the Bureaux of the Main Committees of the General Assembly to hold joint meetings with the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council to discuss how their respective work relates to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ensure synergies among their work and outcomes, including identifying gaps, overlaps and duplications within their respective areas of responsibility on an on-going basis;
20. *Encourages* 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 and their interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda;
21. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its 78th session to draw lessons learned from the implementation of the provisions contained in the OP.... of the present resolution on the revitalization of the General Assembly and identify further proposals on alignment and, in the interim, *requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, during the 76th and 77th sessions, to hold one or more dedicated meetings, as required, on the topic of alignment;