

## Summary

### Monthly meeting of the President of the General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC 22 February 2022

The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council held their monthly coordination meeting on 22 February 2022. A summary of the discussion is placed below.

#### **Implementation of the General Assembly decisions on the reform of ECOSOC:**

The President of ECOSOC briefed the President of the General Assembly on steps taken by ECOSOC to implement the reforms decided by the General Assembly last June for strengthening ECOSOC (General Assembly resolution 75/290A). A kind of “**ECOSOC Moment**” was held on 2-4 February to inspire and guide the work of ECOSOC, its subsidiary bodies and the UN system in the coming months leading up to the HLPF. It included **ECOSOC Partnership Forum** and **ECOSOC Coordination Segment**. The revamped Partnership Forum attracted over 4,000 participants and shed light on stakeholders’ priorities and activities to implement the 2030 Agenda. The ECOSOC Coordination segment was also successful in providing guidance to ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN system and drawing from their work to discuss policies for an inclusive and resilient recovery from the pandemic aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda. The Summaries of the Meetings will be shared with Members in due course.

The President of the General Assembly welcomed the success of these first steps to implement the reforms envisioned in General Assembly resolution 75/290A. The events highlighted the role of stakeholders in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They improved ECOSOC’s coordination role and its impact on SDG progress. The President welcomed that the meetings also addressed issues closely related to his priorities including access to the vaccine and inclusive recovery and would be in sync with upcoming General Assembly events.

The President of ECOSOC shared progress made in strengthening the interaction between ECOSOC and the Peace Building Commission. The President further informed of the desire to forge stronger links between ECOSOC-PBC by holding more joint activities, in addition to the joint annual event.

The President of the General Assembly appreciated ECOSOC’s efforts to strengthen cooperation with the PBC. He noted that the GA is mandated to convene an event on financing for peace building, which will be held in April 2022.

#### **ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and outcome of the second meeting of the PGA’s Board of Advisors on LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS:**

The President of ECOSOC informed that the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development will discuss financing an inclusive and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 in the context of an uncertain and unequal global economic recovery. The Forum will include the annual Special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and UNCTAD on securing an inclusive

and sustainable recovery. The co-facilitators of the Forum's outcome document, the Permanent Representatives of Grenada and Iceland have launched consultations.

The President of the General Assembly looked forward to the FFD Forum, which will help to reinforce the call for mobilizing resources for the poorer countries and feed into the joint GA/ECOSOC event on debt sustainability. He also looked forward to the Inter-Agency Task Force report.

The President of the General Assembly thanked the President of ECOSOC for his participation in his Board of Advisors on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. At the most recent meeting, Board Members had shared views on short-term and longer-term actions to prioritize financing a sustainable recovery for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. Some of the issues highlighted included access to finance; systemic inequality; gender gaps; vaccine inequality; technical and capacity building support, debt sustainability, among others. The President will convey the Board's messages in his remarks to the ECOSOC FFD Forum.

The ECOSOC President informed that a Special Meeting of ECOSOC is being planned in March to coincide with the adoption of the annual Kimberly Process resolution. The meeting could address "Natural resources, peaceful societies and sustainable development" with a focus on lessons from the Kimberley process.

#### **Joint events of the Presidents of the General Assembly and ECOSOC:**

The President of the General Assembly shared information on the preparations of the joint GA/ECOSOC event on debt sustainability, stressing the importance of making this event impactful.

The President of ECOSOC appreciated the work of the Board of Advisors, whose messages he is also spreading through his own interventions in various meetings. He expressed his determination to consistently draw attention to the issue of debt sustainability and its impact on countries in special situations.

The President of ECOSOC updated on the planned joint GA/ECOSOC event on Africa, which would aim at reaffirming the international commitments to the development and aspirations of the continent in the current context, building on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The two Presidents concurred that this event could also address climate change among other issues and be held as part of ongoing and planned events related to Africa.

#### **Stocktaking on the follow-up to Our Common Agenda**

The President of the General Assembly said he was satisfied with the high-level of engagement of Member States in the GA informal thematic consultations on Secretary General's "Our Common Agenda" report. Summaries charting a way forward will be prepared when the consultations wrap up. The President will be guided by Member States in the process.

The President of ECOSOC concurred on the strong level of engagement in the thematic dialogues and welcomed the understanding that Our Common Agenda aims to "turbocharge" the SDGs. The

President mentioned that he participated in and followed closely the consultations on two thematic clusters, thus far. He offered to mobilize inputs from ECOSOC subsidiary machinery in case this appears to be needed during the stocktaking on the thematic dialogues, as a way to support the continuing General Assembly process.

At the end, the two Presidents re-affirmed their commitment to continue working and collaborating with each other in pursuing the mandates of the respective Organs they lead.

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