



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 May 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 12 May 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”.

In this regard, I have further the honour to share the final draft resolutions on “Review process of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/290 and 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”, which is now under silence procedure until Thursday, 20 May 2020 at 6 p.m. (New York time).

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

 Permanent
Mission
of Austria

to the United Nations
in New York



12 May 2021

Excellency,

We are writing 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 resolution 67/290 on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, 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.

Further to the last informal consultations convened on 19 April and to the written inputs we have received, we have the honour to share with you the final texts of the draft resolutions entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council” and “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level”.

As described in the informal paper dated 8 April circulated to all Member States, the proposed format attempts to balance the different positions of delegations. In accordance with the proposed approach, the draft texts, once adopted by the Assembly, would be issued with a common symbol A/RES/75/xxx, consisting of resolution A on “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council” and resolution B on “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level”.

We very much want to thank you for the excellent cooperation we have had with you throughout this process. We started out from very different positions but after the seven rounds of informal consultations there is now a much better understanding for each other’s positions and much flexibility has been shown. Everyone will find elements that they contributed; everyone will have reasons for disappointment and reasons for satisfaction. We have undertaken a particular effort to accommodate the main priorities indicated and to respect every red-line that was conveyed to us. Overall, the draft proposal is not as ambitious as we had hoped but recognizes the responsibilities we have in the Covid-19 crisis and reflects the middle ground where we have come together as Team UN. We kindly appeal to you to show flexibility and consider the draft resolutions in a spirit of cooperation, compromise and consensus at this final stage.

We believe that the final draft of the resolutions has achieved the balance needed to be accepted by all. We would like to place this draft under informal silence procedure until 6:00 pm on Thursday, 20 May 2021. If the informal silence procedure passes without objection, the draft texts will be issued as separate 'L documents' and included for consideration at an upcoming plenary meeting of the Assembly.

We wish to express our gratitude to all of you for your active and constructive engagement and support throughout the process.

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 Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
_ May 2021

Original: English

Seventy-fifth session

Agenda items 14 and 122

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Draft resolution

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level

A

Economic and Social Council

The General Assembly,

PPI Recalling the Charter of the United Nations, which provides the mandate for the Economic and Social Council,

PP2 Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

PP3 Recalling its resolution 74/298 of 12 August 2020 entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of 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”,

PP4 Recalling also its resolutions 72/305 of 23 July 2018 entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council” and all previous related resolutions on strengthening the Economic and Social Council,

PP5 Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

1. *Reaffirms* the role that the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council;
2. Recognizes the need to strengthen the work of the Council as a principal organ for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, and recognizes also the key role of the Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;
3. *Reaffirms also* the commitment to reinforce the deliberative function of the Council, with an emphasis on accountability, knowledge-sharing and mutual learning for better results, so that it best supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the integrated and coordinated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits
4. *Recognizes* that the work of the Economic and Social Council plays an important role in the response to COVID-19, helping countries to rebuild better, reduce risks and build resilience to

future shocks and crises, by focusing on promoting a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery, in support of the 2030 Agenda;

5. *Notes* that the Economic and Social Council is a UN Charter body and the high-level political forum on sustainable development is held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;
6. *Declares* that the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development should be closely coordinated, in accordance with their respective roles and mandates, to ensure that their interconnected and interlinked work is coherent and mutually reinforcing in supporting the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development throughout the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development from now to the year 2030;
7. *Adopts* the annex to the present resolution on the review of the Economic and Social Council and calls upon the Council, its subsidiary bodies and other relevant bodies and platforms of the United Nations system, to implement the provisions contained therein in an expeditious manner;
8. *Decides* that the arrangements contained in the present resolution and its annex shall be reviewed at its seventy-eighth session, in conjunction with the review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in order to benefit from lessons learned from the previous cycles of the high-level political forum on sustainable development as well as from relevant processes under the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council related to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda;
9. *Reiterates its decision* that the review of the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council at subsequent review cycles shall be in conjunction with the review process of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, while recognizing their distinct roles and mandates;
10. *Recalls* its decision contained in resolution 74/298 and decides to agree at its seventy-seventh session on the annual theme of the 2024 session of ECOSOC and the 2024 high-level political forum and the set of Goals to be reviewed by the high-level political forum in 2024, without prejudice to the full review of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be conducted in conjunction with each other at the seventy-eighth session;
11. *Decides* that all mandates contained in resolution 72/305 and all previous related resolutions on strengthening the Economic and Social Council shall remain in effect unless updated or replaced in the present resolution or subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly. The mandates contained in the present resolution, and its annex, should be implemented starting with the 2021-2022 cycle of ECOSOC and its preparations.

**Annex: Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution
72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council**

1. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council shall continue to make recommendations with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters. The Council will also continue to make recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. It should continue to strengthen its leadership and policy guidance role, and its role as the central mechanism for coordination of the activities of the United Nations development system and its specialized agencies and supervision of its subsidiary bodies while integrating their analysis throughout its segments. It should also address new and emerging issues in the economic, social, environmental and related fields and provide overall support for a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.
2. The Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies should further enhance their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development, and to the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts, bearing in mind their respective specific functions and mandates. The Council should also promote a coordinated follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields. To that end, the Council should ensure that the agenda, work programme, and discussions in its segments and forums and its subsidiary bodies contribute to their implementation as well as the response to major challenges to the achievement of sustainable development such as the COVID-19 pandemic while ensuring that subsidiary bodies deliver on their specific mandates and functions.
3. The General Assembly shall continue to adopt one common main theme for the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development under its auspices, bearing in mind the provisions of resolution 70/299 and the provisions in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the annex to resolution 72/305. The themes of the segments of the Council shall focus on a particular aspect of the one main theme, bearing in mind their respective functions. The humanitarian affairs segment shall continue to adopt themes based on humanitarian considerations and that are coherent with the main theme of the Council. The subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council shall similarly decide on their own respective themes, aligned with the main theme, while continuing to address issues or a theme necessary to discharge their other functions.
4. The Economic and Social Council should provide integrated policy guidance on the follow-up and operationalization of the ministerial declaration of ECOSOC and HLPF and of the findings of the high-level political forum, notably its thematic reviews and Voluntary National Reviews, bearing in mind the unique role of the Economic and Social Council as a Charter body entrusted with the coordination of the United Nations system. To support this work, the Secretary-General should include in his report on the main theme to the Economic and Social Council lessons learned from the thematic reviews and Voluntary National Reviews following the conclusion of the July high-level political forum, with recommendations for follow-up by countries, various segments and forums of the Council, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders. The Council will also discuss issues on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and their implications for the theme of Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum and the implementation of the 2030

Agenda. The Council should place a focus on the poorest and most vulnerable, including those in vulnerable situations, to ensure no one is left behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

5. The Council's segments and its reports, work programmes and outcomes should give adequate attention to the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, in pursuing sustainable development. The reports of the Secretary-General should adequately address the diverse needs and specific challenges facing these developing countries, as appropriate.

[Arrangements of the Economic and Social Council]

6. The Economic and Social Council cycle will continue to run from July to July. To promote linkages in their work and enhance the visibility and impact of the Council, and to encourage focus, coherence and efficiency, the Council's segments and forums shall be structured into four groups per Council cycle.
7. The first group, to be held by early February each year, will comprise the Partnership Forum and the Coordination Segment.
8. The second group will comprise Economic and Social Council forums. It will include, annually, the Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, the Youth Forum and other related mandated meetings. The Development Cooperation Forum will continue to be convened every two years before the Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, with the next forum convened in 2023.
9. The third group will comprise segments that address actions by the United Nations development system and other actors, to implement the 2030 Agenda, along with distinct humanitarian assistance. It will include the operational activities for development segment, the humanitarian affairs segment, and the Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development. These will be organized independently and in a coordinated manner.
10. The fourth group will comprise segments and forums that provide overall policy guidance and foster progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, contribute to the overall review of the 2030 Agenda at the high-level political forum and look to the future of the advancement of sustainable development. It will include the high-level political forum and the high-level segment of the Council.
11. As mandated in the past, the Council may convene special sessions to address urgent developments in the economic, social, environmental and related fields that may require guidance and coordination by the Council. It should also continue to convene ad hoc meetings on specific humanitarian crises at the request of the affected country or following a recommendation of the Bureau. Such ad hoc meetings should raise awareness and promote the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations system, in support of international relief efforts aimed at addressing those emergencies.

12. The working modalities of the Economic and Social Council should be guided by the principles of inclusiveness, transparency and flexibility, based on the deliberative functions of its meetings. It should be a platform for discussion and the exchange of national experiences. The Council should aim at creating synergy and coherence as well as avoiding duplication and overlap in its work to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.
13. In supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda delivering on its other functions, the Council should work towards the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Council should also strengthen its efforts to mainstream a gender perspective across its agenda, work programme, meetings and documentation.
14. With a view to ensuring a streamlined consideration of related agenda items and optimal use of available time, the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council is invited to prepare a focused programme of work, including possible joint consideration of related items, that enhances deliberation among Member States. The programme of work and agenda of each segment/forum should be circulated as early as possible. The Bureau of the Council should make efforts to ensure that meetings and informal consultations are planned during United Nations working hours to better facilitate the active and constructive participation of all permanent missions in the work of the United Nations.

[Partnership Forum]

15. The Partnership Forum of the Economic and Social Council will be convened for one day by early February back to back with the Coordination Segment. The Partnership Forum will engage countries, the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, as well as international organizations, parliamentarians, local governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, scientists, academia, women, youth, and other stakeholders. The Forum will be organized in consultation with stakeholders and allow interactive discussions among all stakeholders on the main theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum. The Forum will be focused on the exchange of new ideas, expectations and priorities for the work ahead for the Economic and Social Council cycle and the high-level political forum on sustainable development held under Council's auspices. The Partnership Forum will also focus on forward-looking actions for consideration by countries and all relevant stakeholders as well as on innovative partnerships that can mobilize commitments and actions to advance the 2030 Agenda.

[Coordination Segment]

16. The way the Economic and Social Council delivers on its coordination function should be strengthened so as to help ensure that the UN system and subsidiary bodies of the Council contribute fully to the Decade of Action and Delivery and the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To this end, the Coordination Segment shall replace the integration segment and the informal meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and will be held annually for up to two days by early February, before the first session of an ECOSOC subsidiary body. Through this segment, the Council will take up coordination matters arising from subsidiary bodies, principal organs and specialized agencies in the economic, social, environmental and related fields. It will steer the Economic and Social Council system towards an efficient and integrated workflow throughout the

Economic and Social Council cycle leading up to the high-level political forum. It will provide forward-looking policy guidance to ensure coherence and direction in the policies and normative work of subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies relating to the 2030 Agenda as well as to other aspects of the work of the Economic and Social Council.

17. The Coordination Segment will formulate common action-oriented policy guidance on all matters requiring implementation or coordination efforts (i) by the Council's functional and regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies as well as (ii) by the United Nations system, notably the specialized agencies, in the policy and normative area, including detailed guidance on the implementation of the ministerial declaration from the previous year. In coordinating the policy and normative work of specialized agencies and other United Nations system entities as envisioned by article 63 of the UN Charter, the Council will avoid overlap with the operational activities for development segment which provides guidance on operational activities of the United Nations development system.
18. The Coordination Segment will examine key policy issues, lessons learned, best practices and recommendations emanating from the work of the Economic and Social Council subsidiary bodies including regional commissions, during the previous cycle. It will allow the Council to address issues identified by subsidiary bodies as requiring the Council's attention at the global level and to build on the policy conclusions of its subsidiary bodies, along with inputs of the UN system, so as to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. It will also provide guidance and coordination to subsidiary bodies, ensuring a clearer division of labour among them, aligning their work with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promoting their implementation of the ministerial declaration of the previous year bearing in mind these bodies' respective mandates and functions. The Coordination Segment will furthermore provide detailed guidance to the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations system on their upcoming work on the main theme and develop action oriented assessment and recommendations so that those bodies best contribute to the preparations for the thematic review of the high-level political forum. It will review how subsidiary bodies and the UN system work on the interlinkages among the sustainable development goals and the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, guiding their work for the rest of the Economic and Social Council cycle.
19. During the Coordination Segment, the Council will also hold a discussion on the following coordination-related mandated agenda items that have been thus far considered during the management segment:
 - i. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (*Item 12(c) of the Economic and Social Council's Agenda.*)
 - ii. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B, 60/265, 61/16, 67/290, 68/1 and 72/305 on strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.
20. An informal note will be prepared by the Secretariat to inform the discussions at the Coordination Segment. This note should include (i) integrated policy analysis emanating from the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council during the previous cycle and proposed guidance for their contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development; (ii) coordination issues emanating from the work of subsidiary bodies and the policy and normative activities of specialized agencies and other UN system entities and recommendations for addressing them; and (iii) proposals related to the

implementation of the ministerial declaration of the Economic and Social Council of the previous cycle and lessons learned from the thematic reviews and Voluntary National Reviews at the high-level political forum with recommendations for follow-up by countries, various segments and forums of the Council, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders.

21. Heads of United Nations system entities, Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions will be invited to participate. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, the private sector and other stakeholders involved in the policy and normative work of the United Nations system and the subsidiary bodies should be engaged in the Coordination Segment, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of the Council.
22. A non-negotiated summary will be prepared by the President of the Economic and Social Council in consultation with the Bureau of the Council to reflect the discussion and strategic guidance during the Partnership Forum and the Coordination Segment.

[High-Level Segment]

23. The high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council will continue to discharge the functions provided for in General Assembly resolution 72/305 of 23 July 2018 and 70/299 of 29 July 2016..

[Operational activities for development segment]

24. The operational activities for development segment of the Economic and Social Council will continue to discharge the functions provided for in General Assembly resolutions 75/233 of 21 December 2020, 72/305 of 23 July 2018, 72/279 of 31 May 2018 and 71/243 of 21 December 2016, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 2020/23 of 22 July 2020 and 2019/15 of 8 July 2019.

[Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development]

25. The one-day Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development will be convened immediately preceding the humanitarian affairs segment and replace the special event on the Transition from Relief to Development and alternate between Geneva and New York. The Meeting will address the linkages between humanitarian assistance, development assistance and assistance for sustaining peace, in accordance with the respective mandates of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies. It will aim to build resilience and preparedness and improve the efforts of the international community to respond better to transition from relief to development as well as to deliver better results for improving the situation of countries on the ground through enhanced cooperation, collaboration and coordination, with the ultimate goal to resume long term sustainable development. The meeting will focus on countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and countries facing humanitarian crises. The Meeting will also consider the existing Council's agenda items on issues related to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, South Sudan, the Sahel region and any country-specific item under the sub-item of African countries emerging from conflict for in-depth discussion to guide coordinated support at country-level. In accordance with the rules of procedure, the meeting should be open to participation by all relevant stakeholders, including organizations of the United Nations system, international financial and trade institutions, regional organizations, civil

society and private sector representatives. Full participation of all relevant stakeholders, in particular the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Chair of the Ad hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, should be ensured, inter alia, through the use of videoconferencing. This meeting will be organized without prejudice to the operational activities for development segment and the humanitarian affairs segment and their respective mandates.

[Humanitarian Affairs Segment]

26. The humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council will continue to discharge the functions provided for in General Assembly resolutions 72/305 of 23 July 2018, 68/1 of 20 September 2013, 61/16 of 20 November 2006 and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997.

[Management Segment]

27. The management segment of the Economic and Social Council will continue to discharge the functions provided for in General Assembly resolution 72/305 of 23 July 2018.

28. During the management segment in June, the Council will hold a discussion to integrate the key messages from the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the United Nations system on the main theme, develop action-oriented recommendations for follow-up and feed into the high-level political forum. This will be informed by the existing report of the Secretary-General synthesizing the inputs of the functional commissions of ECOSOC and other inter-governmental bodies and forums to the thematic review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

29. The Secretary-General's annual overview report of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for coordination will be presented by the Secretariat at the Management Segment of the Council.

[Cooperation with the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission]

30. As envisioned in the Article 65 of the United Nations Charter, the Economic and Social Council may furnish information to the Security Council and assist the Security Council upon its request.

31. The Economic and Social Council should strengthen its cooperation and dialogue with the Peacebuilding Commission, in accordance with their respective mandates. The President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission are encouraged to explore ways to improve the annual joint meetings of the two bodies and reinforce their impact on the situation at country level. To ensure the flow of information and complementarity of the work of Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council may work with a designated member of the Peacebuilding Commission on an on-going basis.

[Subsidiary bodies]

32. The Economic and Social Council should continue to strengthen its oversight, guidance and coordination role of its subsidiary bodies as outlined in OP. 28 and 29 of General Assembly resolution 72/305.
33. The President and Bureau of the Council are invited to work with the Bureaus of its subsidiary bodies and in consultation with delegations during the 2022 session of the Council, so as to identify possible actions to be taken to implement the provisions of OP. 28 and 29 of resolution 72/305.

[Engagement of civil society]

34. The engagement of civil society and relevant stakeholders in the Economic and Social Council should continue to be arranged in accordance with paragraphs 19, 20 and 21 of the Annex of the General Assembly resolution 72/305.
35. While retaining its intergovernmental nature, the Economic and Social Council should seek to promote the active participation of international and regional organizations, Members of Parliaments, academia, scientists, non-governmental organizations, local governments, the private sector, women, youth and major groups and other stakeholders, in activities of the Council and its functional and regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, in accordance with the provisions of their respective rules of procedure and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 72/305.

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
_ April 2021

Original: English

Seventy-fifth session

Agenda items 14 and 122

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Draft resolution

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level

B

High-level political forum on sustainable development

The General Assembly,

PP1 Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme

poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

PP2 Recalling its resolution 74/298 of 12 August 2020 entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of 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”,

PP3 Recalling further its resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 entitled “Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development” and 70/299 of 29 July 2016 entitled “Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level”,

PP4 Reaffirming its resolution 74/4 of 15 October 2019 entitled “Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly” and the relevance of the Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development; especially in the context of recovering better from the COVID-19 pandemic,

PP5 Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

PP6 Recalling that the 2030 Agenda is guided by the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law, is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties and is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development.

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States committed to engaging in systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of the Agenda in accordance with agreed guiding principles, including those set out in paragraph 74 of resolution 70/1, and asserted that the high-level political forum on sustainable development would have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates;
2. *Declares* that the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development shall be closely coordinated, in accordance with their respective roles and mandates, to ensure that their interconnected and interlinked work is coherent and mutually reinforcing in supporting the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development throughout the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development from now to the year 2030;
3. *Notes* that the Economic and Social Council is a UN Charter body and the high-level political forum on sustainable development is held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;
4. *Adopts* the annex to the present resolution on the review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and calls upon the Council and relevant bodies and platforms of the United Nations system, to implement the provisions contained therein in an expeditious manner;
5. *Decides* that the arrangements contained in the present resolution and its annex shall be reviewed at its seventy-eighth session, in conjunction with the review of the Economic and Social Council, in order to benefit from lessons learned from the previous cycles of the high-level political forum on sustainable development as well as from relevant processes under the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council related to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda;
6. *Reiterates its decision* that the review of the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council at subsequent review cycles shall be in conjunction with the review process of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, while recognizing their distinct roles and mandates;

7. Recalls its decision contained in resolution 74/298 and decides to agree at its seventy-seventh session on the annual theme of the 2024 session of ECOSOC and the 2024 high-level political forum and the set of Goals to be reviewed by the high-level political forum in 2024, without prejudice to the full review of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be conducted in conjunction with each other at the seventy-eighth session;
8. *Decides* that all mandates contained in resolutions 67/290 and 70/299 shall remain in effect unless updated or replaced in the present resolution or subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly. The mandates contained in the present resolution, including its annex, should be implemented starting with the 2022 high-level political forum and its preparations.

Annex: Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level

[Introduction]

1. The high-level political forum on sustainable development, consistent with its universal intergovernmental character, shall provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow-up and review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety and other sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels, while also addressing the pledge of leaving no one behind. It should have a focused, dynamic and action oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging challenges and mobilizing further actions to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs.
2. The Assembly reaffirms its resolutions 67/290, 70/299 and 74/298 and the central role of the high-level political forum on sustainable development established in the 2030 Agenda in overseeing follow-up and review of the Agenda at the global level, while also contributing to knowledge sharing and creating synergies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. In accordance with the Political Declaration of the “SDG Summit” (high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly) held on 24 and 25 September 2019, the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level should support the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of its 17 sustainable development goals through the Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development.
4. The principles established in the 2030 Agenda for guiding follow-up and review processes at all levels, including those set out in paragraph 74 of the Agenda, should continue to be implemented through the reviews conducted at the HLPF.
5. The preparations of the HLPF and its programme and proceedings, including the thematic reviews and the voluntary national reviews, shall reflect the universal, integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs, and give due consideration to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris

Agreement and the outcomes of other major UN conferences and summit in the economic, social and environmental fields, in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

6. The forum shall strengthen peer learning and implementation, by providing sufficient time for sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and on a voluntary basis, sharing of knowledge and advice including on successes and challenges. It will address the interlinkages between the global, regional, national and subnational levels of the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda, building on, the regional forums on sustainable development, VNR preparations and expert and other preparatory meetings leading to the high-level political forum.

I. The HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC

[Thematic reviews]

7. The high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the ECOSOC, without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs, shall continue to review a set of Goals and their interlinkages, including with other Goals, at each session, representing the three dimensions of sustainable development, with a view to facilitating an in-depth review of progress made on all 17 Goals over the course of its four-year cycle. Means of implementation, including with respect to Goal 17, shall be reviewed annually, including based on the outcome of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up.
8. The high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of ECOSOC shall strengthen its analysis of the interlinkages across the goals and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs, and of the three dimensions of sustainable development while also addressing cross-cutting issues, including, but not limited to poverty eradication, gender equality, human rights, effective rule of law and good governance, social protection, climate change and environmental protection, and the principle of Leaving No One Behind. While respecting its universal intergovernmental character, the Forum will continue to involve Governments, as well as the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, parliamentarians, local governments, women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, civil society, NGOs, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community and other major groups and stakeholders.

9. The forum will strive to strike a balance between giving greater attention to interlinkages across the Goals and targets, and ensuring in-depth reviews of individual SDGs. To better address the synergies and trade-offs across the goals, the high-level political forum shall also bear in mind, each year, areas where measures to achieve the SDGs can have the greatest and most transformative impact across multiple goals and targets, building on policy and scientific analysis.
10. The forum shall strengthen the science-policy interface to support actions by policy makers and other stakeholders with solid evidence on progress and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the related policies. To this end, it will also examine documentation, bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including through the *Global Sustainable Development Report*, building on existing assessments, enhancing evidence-based decision-making. It will give dedicated attention to issues related to the availability of data and the strengthening of capabilities for data collection and analysis.
11. For the remainder of the current cycle of the high-level political forum, the themes shall be:
 - a. For 2022: **Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda;**
 - b. For 2023: **Accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.**
12. For the remainder of the current cycle of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the sets of Sustainable Development Goals to be reviewed in-depth shall be:
 - i. For 2022: Goals 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17;
 - ii. For 2023: Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17.
13. The 2022 and 2023 HLPF shall take into account the different and particular impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all SDGs.
14. The 2022 and 2023 HLPF will also maintain the integrity of the 2030 Agenda and ensure continuous action on the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals with a 2020 timeline, while keeping track of and taking fully into account the related ongoing

intergovernmental processes to allow updated targets to reflect a suitable level of ambition for 2030.

15. In 2022 and 2023, the HLPF shall also promote and review the implementation of the political declaration adopted at the 2019 “SDG summit” (high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly), as well as Ministerial Declarations adopted by the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC, so as to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
16. In the conduct of the thematic reviews, the HLPF could consider the inputs to the HLPF from intergovernmental bodies and forums, including relevant multistakeholder forums, and, as appropriate, the findings, research, data and recommendations from the UN system as well as those emanating from the expert preparatory process organized by the UN Secretariat; and expert and scientific sources such as the Global Sustainable Development Report and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism that strengthen the science-policy interface.

[Countries in special situations]

17. The HLPF shall dedicate adequate time to review progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda in countries in special situations, especially with regard to the SDGs under review and their interlinkages, particularly in African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. The dedicated thematic sessions for countries in special situation in previous HLPFs must be maintained and the circumstances and challenges of countries in special situations should also be addressed throughout the HLPF thematic reviews. Specific challenges facing middle-income countries should also be considered.

[Voluntary national reviews]

18. Countries presenting voluntary national reviews (VNRs) are encouraged to report on their progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, consistent with the provisions of the 2030 Agenda and resolution 67/290. While bearing in mind the voluntary and country-led nature of VNRs and previous experience with VNR presentations, countries may wish to share best practices and experiences including successes, challenges, gaps and lessons learned as well as next steps. Such forward-looking accelerated action could also inform VNR country contributions to the SDG

Moment, convened by the Secretary-General in September. Countries having already conducted a VNR could consider, during the next VNR, to highlight trends, areas of progress, remaining challenges along with, as much as possible, the impact of measures taken since the last VNR.

19. While reaffirming the voluntary nature of the VNRs, countries are encouraged to conduct a VNR once during the four-year cycle of the HLPF at their convenience, including countries in special situations. Countries who have not conducted a VNR yet are encouraged to do so, bearing in mind their capacities and national circumstances.
20. The President of ECOSOC and the Bureau shall consider ways to allocate as much time as possible to the VNRs during the HLPF in order to strengthen interaction, substantive discussion and peer learning. Based on the VNRs, countries at the HLPF are encouraged to continue to share their own experience and lessons learned, constructive feedback and ideas to accelerate progress. Countries conducting VNRs may also continue to provide written answers after the HLPF if they so wish, in case time was too short from them to provide detailed answers during the HLPF. The participation of major groups and other stakeholders in the discussion of the VNRs at the HLPF should continue to be ensured as mandated in resolution 67/290 and the 2030 Agenda. Countries conducting VNRs should be given priority for organizing HLPF side events, on a voluntary basis, outside of the main sessions of the forum.
21. Bearing in mind the voluntary and country-led nature of the VNRs, countries are encouraged to involve all relevant parts of governments at all levels and relevant institutions as well as major groups and other stakeholders in the various steps and phases of the VNRs in accordance with paragraphs 74, 78 and 79 of the 2030 Agenda. The essential role of national parliaments is also acknowledged through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring implementation and accountability at national level for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, including through their possible engagement in the VNRs.
22. As decided in the 2030 Agenda, the VNRs will be people-centred, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind. They will build on existing platforms and processes, where these exist, avoid duplication and respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities.
23. Countries are also encouraged to work towards strengthening the evidence-, science-, evaluation- and data basis for their VNRs which may require enhanced national statistical capacities to address

the gaps in data on the 2030 Agenda and obtain high quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and statistics. Support should be provided for building such capacities in developing countries.

24. Countries are encouraged to continue the practice to follow the Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines as a suggested tool in preparations for voluntary national reviews. The Secretary-General is requested to update these guidelines, as appropriate, notably with a view to strengthening analysis and evidence-based reporting on all SDGs and on the 2030 Agenda as a whole, and taking into account feedback from countries participating in the high-level political forum and the lessons learned from the forum and to make them available to Member States.
25. Countries are also encouraged to participate in the various preparatory processes for the VNRs organized by the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant partners, as well as in the VNR labs and other side events during the HLPF which may allow them to continue the interaction on their VNRs or discuss specific themes from the VNRs with other countries.
26. During the preparations of the VNRs, countries, the UN system and other international and regional organizations and other stakeholders in a position to do so are invited to provide support to countries who request it for the conduct of their VNR.
27. To improve the follow-up to the VNRs, countries, the UN system and other international and regional organizations, and other stakeholders are invited and encouraged, to launch partnerships and provide support, including capacity building, to VNR programme countries at their request and in consultation with them, in order to help them address the challenges related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations development system is invited to support the follow-up to the VNRs in developing countries, at their request, including by addressing gaps and challenges in implementation identified by the VNRs in implementing United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks where possible.
28. Countries may use the voluntary national reviews as a voluntary, effective and integrated follow up and review framework to inform their citizens on their progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

[Regional level follow-up and review]

29. The regional forums on sustainable development convened by the regional commissions make an important contribution to the preparations of the HLPF and to peer learning and knowledge exchange in the regions. The regional forums shall feed into the thematic reviews and the

interaction on the voluntary national reviews at the HLPF. They are encouraged to prepare the thematic reviews of the HLPF and discuss regional progress, challenges, gaps and approaches as well as best practices, emerging issues and innovative ideas to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of SDGs, as well as to continue to strengthen regional capacity building and networking. The regional forums are also encouraged to enhance peer learning and exchange of experiences among countries during the preparations of the VNRs and to discuss and follow-up on issues arising from the VNRs, while avoiding overlap with the HLPF. They should also provide adequate space for stakeholder participation.

30. The high-level political forum should continue to strengthen the attention given to the outcomes of the regional forums in its proceedings and declaration, with inputs from the regional commissions and other regional and sub-regional entities as needed, while improving cross-regional dialogue and incorporating regional dimensions in its reviews. The regional forums are encouraged to submit their respective reports as early as possible to ensure a timely consideration by the high-level political forum.

[Local level implementation and review]

31. In recognition of efforts by local authorities to conduct local reviews, the HLPF should continue to strengthen the attention given to efforts to bolster local action to accelerate SDG implementation, in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, and the regional forums are encouraged to discuss trends and findings from voluntary local reviews.

[Reports]

32. The meetings of the high-level political forum under the auspices of ECOSOC shall continue to be informed by the Secretary-General's annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level as well as other relevant inputs. The Secretary-General is invited to include in the SDG progress report information on data gaps and capacities and options to address the capacity gaps as well as to explore reporting on the interlinkages among the SDGs under review that year, while maintaining the statistical nature of the report. The SDG progress report should be available early each year in order to inform negotiations of the declaration in the run up to the HLPF. The *Global Sustainable Development Report* will also continue to be presented to the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly every four years. The President of ECOSOC and the Bureau of ECOSOC are encouraged to invite the scientists preparing

the *2023 Global Sustainable Development Report* to participate in the 2022 and 2023 high-level political forum under the auspices of ECOSOC, including to bring new and emerging issues related to the 2030 Agenda to the attention of the HLPF. The *Global Sustainable Development Report* should be available by the end of April 2023 to inform negotiations on the political declaration for the 2023 meeting of the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit).

33. Thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, at the high-level political forum, shall continue to be supported by inputs from the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them. The thematic reviews shall also continue to engage all relevant stakeholders.

[Declaration]

34. The declaration of the high-level political forum should be concise, focused, action oriented, forward looking and outlining priority areas for accelerated action. It should demonstrate the shared political will of all countries to implement the 2030 Agenda. The HLPF will continue to have only one negotiated political declaration covering the different but complementary functions of the Forum when the Forum is convened twice in the same year.

II. HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly

35. The meetings of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly (“SDG Summit”) shall begin on the first day of the General Debate or the Monday before the opening of the General Debate of the General Assembly to maximize their visibility and impact. In the year preceding the SDG Summit, the United Nations system should focus its global public communication efforts on the 2030 Agenda. The Secretary-General is encouraged to use the annual SDG moment to highlight inspiring action on the Goals, in the context of the general debate of the General Assembly and with participation of heads of state and government. The SDG moment will not be held in years when the HLPF meets under the auspices of the General Assembly.

III. Participation of major groups and other stakeholders

36. Reaffirming the provisions stipulated in paragraphs 14, 15 and 16 of resolution 67/290 on the participation of the major groups and other stakeholders in the HLPF, the high-level political forum should ensure broad, effective and balanced participation of a diverse and inclusive range of

major groups and other stakeholders in all aspects of its work, including through the use of information technology and innovative web-based interface as an additional means for participation, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of the forum. Countries are also invited to consider including major groups and other stakeholders in the preparations and follow up of their VNRs as well as to consider including them in their delegations at the HLPF as done by some countries in the past.

37. Major groups and other stakeholders are called upon to continue to report on their contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as provided for by paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda, and the Secretariat shall continue to compile and make available the discussion papers presented by major groups and other stakeholders on the theme of the HLPF.
