

**Intervention for the meeting on the strengthening of the Economic and
Social Council and the review of the High-level Political Forum on
sustainable development
15 February 2024
10 am**

- Statement by Croatia -

Co-facilitators,

Thank you for organizing this meeting and for providing us with the guiding questions.

Croatia aligns itself with the statement by the EU and would like to state a few points in its national capacity.

The political declaration of the SDG Summit underlines our commitment to multilateralism and ensuring that multilateral institutions keep pace with the rapid changes taking place. We should approach this review in this context. Let me make three points in this regard.

First, the review in 2021 grouped ECOSOC meetings so that they reinforce each other and encourage focus, coherence and efficiency to accelerate achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. We should examine if we have achieved this and whether the cycle running from July to July is the best timeline since ECOSOC membership runs from January to December. The previous review also requested the Bureau to streamline the work of the Council and to consider joint discussion of some agenda items. We are not aware that this has happened.

We should also examine how we are utilizing ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and ECOSOC's coordinating role to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs and whether some commissions should be revitalized. We believe that the Commission on the Status of Women and the NGO Committee would definitely profit from that.

Another important area of cooperation should be strengthening cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission and encourage bi-monthly meetings of the President of ECOSOC and the Chair of the PBC to find ways to work together beyond one annual joint meeting to make better impact on the ground especially as there is a request from many to shift to prevention where root causes of conflict are mostly socio-economic and environmental.

Second, regarding the HLPF, it would be important to see how we are implementing what we committed to in the previous review, and that is to, and I quote, "further

strengthen the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, harnessing data to track progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, strengthening analysis of the interlinkages across the Goals and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs”. Better using available data both at the global and national level to track our progress would be essential. VNRs would profit from that to make them show where we are nationally.

This brings me to my third and last point about themes of ECOSOC and HLPF. We should for once try not to have themes which are three lines long and no one understands, but really focus on what would speed acceleration of the 2030 Agenda while not duplicating other processes, but profiting from their outcomes.

I thank you.