Review process of the Economic and Social Council and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, 2024

Draft Statement, 5 minutes, (382 words with salutations)

Distinguished co-facilitators,

I wish to begin by thanking you for holding this informal consultation on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and review of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the G77 and wishes to add the following main points in national capacity.

First, the ECOSOC is a Charter-based platform for dialogue on development and its role in policy guidance, oversight and coordination must be reaffirmed and strengthened. This becomes all the more important in the context of the 2030 Agenda which mandates the ECOSOC, along with the General Assembly, with the central role in overseeing follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Second, it is important that the ECOSOC optimise the functioning of its subsidiary bodies to ensure that they can more effectively address the technical requirements for achieving the SDGs in areas that not addressed elsewhere.

Third, the ECOSOC could enhance its role in discussing trends and issues of a contemporary nature, such as supporting the progress on sustainable development through the deployment of Digital Public Infrastructure in developing countries, providing policy guidance on the optimal use of artificial intelligence for sustainable development and providing policy guidance that promotes sustainable lifestyles, particularly drawing from the good practices already being pursued in developing countries.

Fourth, the ECOSOC should continue to strengthen its support to the thematic reviews of the HLPF focusing on a cluster of SDGs. The substantive analysis emanating from the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies should be critical inputs for the thematic reviews. The ECOSOC system should also commit to follow-up on the technical findings of the thematic reviews.

Fifth, the ECOSOC in general and HLPF in particular should be the foremost platforms for Member States to engage at the highest levels and share experiences and best practices on their development journeys. This exercise may be undertaken periodically to optimize replicability and effectiveness.

Sixth and final point, the ECOSOC and HLPF should guide the countries not only in preparation of their Voluntary National Reviews but also the post VNR activities that countries may take towards achievement of SDGs in the light of experiences in other countries and leveraging the information presented in their respective VNRs.

I thank you.