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**STATEMENT
by Mr. Boris A. Meshchanov
representative of the Russian Federation
at the informal consultations to review arrangements contained in
resolutions 75/290A and 75/290B and their annexes on the strengthening of the
Economic and Social Council and the review of the high-level political forum on
sustainable development**

20th of September, 2023

Distinguished Ambassadors

Dear colleagues!

My delegation thanks the delegations of the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Latvia for convening today's informal consultations thus providing additional opportunity for delegations to present their approaches and concerns, for the intergovernmental process to review arrangements contained in General Assembly resolutions 75/A and 75/290B and their annexes on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and the review of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Let us also indicate a few preliminary points

1. First we consider this process as the main venue for discussing strengthening of ECOSOC issue, defining, adjusting and amending its modalities, as necessary, while also reviewing the HLPF arrangements based on the resolution 67/290 and other documents enlisted in the Concept paper.

2. It is necessary to develop common understanding around the processes especially the revitalization cycle and strengthening of the main Charter bodies of the UN that are also reflected in the zero draft of the Pact of the Future currently under the

consideration of Member States. I hereby refer to the GA decision on the scope of the Pact of the Future about avoiding overlaps and duplication with existing intergovernmental processes. This process should be leading and may provide input to the Pact of the Future.

4. It is therefore our strong conviction that strengthening of the ECOSOC should be promoted along the lines of fully implementing its existing mandate in accordance with the UN Charter and not through diluting the intergovernmental nature of its work. Similarly, on the HLPF track the potential and convening power of the UN with regard to promoting developmental issues should be leveraged, particularly in the Political declaration intergovernmental negotiations and presentations of VNRs, with valuable and appropriate contributions of relevant stakeholders including the CSO, in their respective roles and responsibilities.

In this vein, we would like to emphasize an importance of bringing academic expertise to ECOSOC fora and HLPF considering balanced geographic representation and wider spectrum of views. Enhanced engagement of the private sector would also be welcomed.

5. Furthermore, the ECOSOC and HLPF review process would benefit from inputs of subsidiary bodies, functional commissions, regional commissions and specialized agencies – all of them part of the ECOSOC system as was recently vividly demonstrated by deliberations of the Coordination Segment. Some of the remarks – for instance on information exchange between agencies implementing projects on the ground, effective and more systemic cooperation between the ECOSOC and the IFIs and regional organizations, strengthening of VNR process – could be taken into account. We also took note of requests of several bodies to the ECOSOC to draw attention to developmental issues inherent to its developmental mandate such as technology transfer, taxes, capacity building, digital cooperation for the SDGs etc.

6. The co-conveners of today's consultations justifiably put the recently adopted SDG political declaration in the center of our work – it is the developmental goals,

prosperity of people being at the core mandate of the Council should be analyzed and turbocharged, so to say, by the process ahead of us.

I thank you.