



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 February 2021

Excellency,

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

Following the virtual consultation held on 5 February, the co-facilitators have prepared the zero draft of the resolution for the HLPF/ECOSOC Review which is attached. It is the intention of the co-facilitators to convene a virtual consultation on 19 February 2021 at 10 a.m. to discuss the zero draft. Connection details for the meeting will be provided by the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management in a subsequent correspondence.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances 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



12 February 2021

Excellency,

We write 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.

We wish to thank you for your active engagement and the concrete proposals you shared, elaborating on the contributions you presented in the informal consultation held thus far during the 74<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> sessions of the General Assembly.

As announced during the informal consultations on Friday, 5 February, we have the honour to circulate herewith a zero draft of the resolution we propose for adoption during this General Assembly session. We have listened to your views and reflected them in a way that we believe would facilitate reaching a consensus agreement. We hope that this zero draft could serve as a basis for moving forward.

We also wish to note that, for the format of the zero draft, we have done our best effort to reconcile the two different approaches proposed during the informal consultations. Some delegations proposed two different texts, some proposed a single text. In order to bridge these views, we submit to you, as a possible compromise, one resolution containing two separate annex texts, one on ECOSOC and the other on the HLPF, reflecting that there are two distinct reviews being conducted, while a common chapeau at the beginning highlights the interlinkages between ECOSOC and the HLPF and demonstrates that they are being conducted in conjunction with one another, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 74/298. We wish to request your consideration and flexibility regarding this proposed format.

We will convene the next virtual informal consultations on Friday 19 February, at 10 am. The technical details for the virtual meeting will be provided by the Secretariat of the United Nations in due course by e-mail. We encourage Member States to come prepared to express their views on the zero draft resolution and its annexes. We look forward to your views and active engagement in the upcoming meeting.

We reiterate our plan to circulate revisions of the text in between the meetings for your comments and to share your written proposals with all delegations. You can also access publicly available documents on ECOSOC and HLPF reviews at this [link](#).

We wish to remind you that you can use the following e-mails to send us any further inputs or statements at any time during this process: [new-york-ov@bmeia.gv.at](mailto:new-york-ov@bmeia.gv.at) and [senegal.mission@yahoo.fr](mailto:senegal.mission@yahoo.fr) with a copy to [olsone@un.org](mailto:olsone@un.org) and [mahmassani@un.org](mailto:mahmassani@un.org).

Once again, we reiterate our commitment to ensuring that the process is completely open, transparent and inclusive and builds on the negotiations during the 74th session of the General Assembly and count on your active participation and support.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Alexander Marschik  
Permanent Representative of Austria  
Representative  
to the United Nations  
Senegal



Cheikh Niang  
Permanent  
of the Republic of  
to the United Nations

All Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and  
Permanent Observers of Non-Member States to the United Nations  
New York

**Zero draft – 12 February 2021**

**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**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 74/298 of 12 August 2020 and 72/305 of 28 July 2018 and all previous related resolutions on strengthening the Economic and Social Council,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 70/299 of 29 July 2016,

*Reaffirming further* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and reaffirming our unwavering commitment to achieving this Agenda and utilizing it to the full to transform our world for the better by 2030,

*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” (Political declaration of the SDG Summit) and the pledge to launch a Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development especially in the context of recovering better from the COVID-19 pandemic,

1. *Decides* that the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development shall be closely coordinated to ensure that their 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;

2. *Adopts* the texts contained in the annexes to the present resolution, and calls upon the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as well as other relevant

bodies and platforms of the United Nations system, to implement the measures contained therein in an expeditious manner;

3. *Decides* that the arrangements contained in the present resolution and its annexes shall be reviewed at its seventy-eighth session and that subsequent review cycles shall continue to review the Economic and Social Council in conjunction with the review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

4. *Decides* to agree at its seventy-seventh session, before the end of the calendar year, on the thematic review of progress for the next cycle of the forum, including the yearly sequence of themes and the set of Goals to be reviewed at each session;

5. *Decides* that all mandates contained in resolution 72/305 of 28 July 2018 on strengthening the Economic and Social Council and 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 text should be implemented starting with the 2021-2022 cycle of ECOSOC and the 2022 HLPF and their preparations.

## Annex 1:

### 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 and in view of the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development and the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Economic and Social Council 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 the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. It should promote a coordinated follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields;

*[ECOSOC, the HLPF and the Decade of Action]*

2. The Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies should further enhance their contribution to the Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development, and to the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts. To that end, the Council should ensure that the agenda, work programme, and discussions in its segments and fora and its subsidiary bodies are formulated to reflect the 2030 Agenda and the response to major threats to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda such as the COVID-19 pandemic;
3. The General Assembly shall continue to adopt one main theme for the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind the provisions of resolution [70/299](#) of 29 July 2016 and the provisions in OP.4, 5 and 6 of resolution 72/305;

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

4. ECOSOC should provide integrated policy guidance on the follow-up and operationalization of the findings and outcomes of the HLPF, notably its thematic reviews and Voluntary National Reviews, bearing in mind the unique role of ECOSOC as a Charter body entrusted with the coordination of the UN system. *[Based on views by G77 and China]* To support this work, the Secretary-General should include in his report on the ECOSOC theme to the Economic and Social Council lessons learned from the thematic reviews and Voluntary National Reviews following the conclusion of the July HLPF, with recommendations for follow-up by countries, various segments and forums of the Council, the UN system and other actors;
5. The priorities and concerns of African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States should be better integrated into ECOSOC segments and its work programmes and outcomes. The Secretary-General should adequately capture the diverse needs and specific challenges facing these developing countries within existing reporting obligations, as appropriate;
6. 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 three groups per Council cycle;
7. The main part of the ECOSOC cycle will open by the end of February with the one-day high-level segment of ECOSOC, which will provide directions for the various ECOSOC segments, forums and events as well as to ECOSOC subsidiary bodies. It will be followed by a one-day multi-stakeholder partnerships forum and by the new coordination segment. Accordingly, the last day of the high-level segment of ECOSOC will be moved from July to February and reframed as a high-level opening segment of ECOSOC;
8. The partnerships forum of ECOSOC will be reframed as the multi-stakeholder partnerships forum, and will be convened back to back with the high-level segment in February. The multi-stakeholder partnerships forum will engage countries, the United Nations system including international financial institutions, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and other actors. The forum will allow interactive discussions among all stakeholders on

the theme, major issues and future trends addressed during the high-level segment. It will be focused on the exchange of ideas and action-oriented proposals;

9. The first group will comprise Economic and Social Council Forums. It will include the Development Cooperation Forum every second year followed by, 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 all other related mandated meetings. These may be organized independently and in a coordinated manner;
10. The second group will comprise segments that address actions by the United Nations system, including 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 Transition Meeting to discuss the transition from relief to development. These may be organized independently and in a coordinated manner;
11. The third group will comprise the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, which has the central role in overseeing follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, including the three-day ministerial segment of the high-level political forum. The general debate of the Council, which also serves as the general debate of the High-level political forum, will continue to be held in meetings of the Council, for up to 3 days, in parallel to the ministerial days of the high-level political forum;
12. As mandated in the past, the Council may convene special sessions to address urgent developments in the economic, social and related fields that may require guidance and coordination by the Council. It should also convene ad hoc meetings on specific humanitarian emergencies on the request of the affected Member State and following a recommendation of the Bureau. Such ad hoc meetings should raise awareness and promote the engagement of all stakeholders in support of international relief efforts aimed at addressing those emergencies;
13. The Council should strengthen its efforts to mainstream a gender perspective across its agenda items and meetings;



*[High-level segment]*

14. The ECOSOC High-level Segment should be further reinforced as a preeminent forward-looking, political and agenda-setting platform for Ministers, Heads of international and regional organizations, including UN system, subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, non-governmental organizations and other regional and international organizations and stakeholders. The high-level segment will provide policy guidance on the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for further discussion and operationalization during the various segments and forums of ECOSOC and at the subsidiary bodies;
15. As per OP.7, the High-level Segment of ECOSOC will be convened as a ministerial meeting by the end of February. It will be followed by a multi-stakeholder partnerships forum;
16. This high-level segment will examine trends and issues of a global nature within the Council's mandates, taking into account the annual theme of ECOSOC and HLPF. It will draw on the work of the preceding session of the General Assembly, the HLPF during the previous cycle, United Nations and other regional and international organizations and bodies as well as experts, scientists and other stakeholders. It will elaborate on the trends and policy issues arising from those events and actors and their implications for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the long-term realization of sustainable development, also looking at broad scenarios and foresight. It will also discuss issues such as global economic risks, pandemics, digital disruption and innovation, international solidarity regarding global public goods, biodiversity, social and economic dimensions of climate change and their implications for the theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A non-negotiated Presidential Statement will be issued on the occasion of the Ministerial Meeting, the multi-stakeholder partnerships forum and the Coordination Segment to give strategic political guidance to the various segments and forums of the Council as well as the ECOSOC system for the year;

17. The outcome of the high-level political forum will continue to be a ministerial declaration. The declaration, which will also be the declaration of ECOSOC, will be adopted by ECOSOC at its last Management Segment of the cycle and by the high-level political forum on its last day;

*[Coordination segment]*

18. The coordination function of ECOSOC should be reinstated as a core mandate, which is essential for the Decade of Action and Delivery and the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this function, the Council should formulate common action-oriented policy guidance on all matters requiring implementation or coordination efforts by the UN system, notably the specialized agencies, and the Council's subsidiary bodies;

19. The integration segment shall be renamed the coordination segment. The new coordination segment will be held annually for two days preceded by the ministerial meeting of the high-level segment and the multi-stakeholder partnership forum;

20. The coordination segment will examine key policy issues, lessons learned and recommendations emanating from the combined work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and 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 follow-up on their work. Subsidiary bodies are invited to identify, in their report to ECOSOC, the critical policy issues requiring the attention of the Council. A note by the Secretariat will be prepared for the Council to better aggregate and distil the findings of its subsidiary bodies with clear policy guidance and recommendations;

21. The coordination segment will also examine the policies, normative work and activities of the specialized agencies and other parts of the UN system relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the outcomes of major United Nations conferences in economic, social and related fields and the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

22. The coordination segment will furthermore provide guidance to the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN system 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 HLPPF;
23. The Council will hold a discussion on its existing coordination-related agenda items in the new coordination segment. These will include:
  - i. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system;
  - 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 ECOSOC;
24. The Council should fully implement its authority to take final decisions on the activities and calendar of its subsidiary bodies and on other matters relating to its system-wide coordination and overall guidance functions in the economic, social and related fields;

*[Segment on operational activities for development]*

25. Through its Operational Activities Segment, ECOSOC serves as a platform to ensure and enhance accountability and oversight for and the acceleration of system-wide performance and results in relation to the 2030 Agenda, as well as to provide guidance and overall coordination of the United Nations development system. *[A/RES/75/233, OP79]* including on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;
26. The Council will also consider, at its operational activities segment, (i) the detailed performance report, including on progress made and remaining challenges and obstacles encountered, as well as on the operational, administrative and financial aspects of the activities of the Development Coordination Office; and (ii) the work of regional assets of the United Nations development

system in support of the 2030 Agenda, with a view to enhancing transparency, accountability, efficiency, coordination and results-based management at the regional level;

27. Arrangements should be put in place to strengthen the linkages between the governing bodies of specialized agencies and ECOSOC, including through presentation of the outcomes of ECOSOC to their annual sessions by the respective Executive Head or the President of ECOSOC, to promote a coherent and coordinated approach in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
28. The Council, during its operational activities segment, will also promote support required by developing countries to address the challenges identified in the VNRs, in order to mobilize other countries, the United Nations system and other stakeholders;
29. The operational activities segment should be held for three days to enable the Council to review and provide recommendations to the General Assembly on the expanded reporting and reviews mandated under General Assembly resolutions [71/243](#) of 21 December 2016; [72/279](#) of 31 May 2018; and ECOSOC resolutions [2019/15](#) of 17 July 2019 and [2020/23](#) of 22 July 2020;
30. The one day Transition Meeting will be convened back to back with the Operational Activities for Development Segment. The Transition Meeting will be enhanced to better reflect the nature of challenges to humanitarian action and development assistance and to re-emphasize the need for a whole-of-system response, including greater cooperation, coherence, coordination and complementarity among development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace, to deliver better results on the ground, with a focus on countries in post-conflict situations and countries facing humanitarian emergencies, including complex emergencies. The Council will also consider the report of ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, support to South Sudan, sustainable development in the Sahel region and African countries emerging from conflict during its Transition Meeting for in-depth discussion to guide coordinated support at country-level;

*[Humanitarian Affairs Segment]*

31. Through the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, the Economic and Social Council should continue to contribute to strengthening the coordination and effectiveness of United Nations humanitarian assistance and support and complement international efforts aimed at addressing humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters, in order to promote an improved, coordinated response by the United Nations. The Humanitarian Affairs Segment should continue to be held in June and alternate between Geneva and New York;

*[Coordination with the Peacebuilding Commission]*

32. The Economic and Social Council should strengthen its cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission, in support of promoting coherence and complimentary between the United Nations peace and security efforts and its development, human rights and humanitarian work. *(based on A/RES/70/262)* The ECOSOC President and the Peacebuilding Commission Chair are encouraged to explore ways to improve the annual joint meetings of these two bodies and reinforce their impact on the situation at country level;
33. The Economic and Social Council could furnish information to the Security Council and assist the Security Council upon its request, as envisioned in the Article 65 of the UN Charter. To this end, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council are encouraged to increase their interactions on issues of common interest and on countries and regions on the agenda of both Councils to help promote sustainable development and sustaining peace;

*[Management segment]*

34. The Management Segment will focus on the adoption of procedural decisions, sequential consideration of the recommendations of subsidiary bodies as well as the introduction of reports and consideration of draft proposals submitted under relevant agenda;
35. The Secretary-General will present to the Council the annual overview report of the Chief Executive Board for coordination at the Management Segment of the Council in July;

36. Dedicated management meetings will continue to be held to conduct elections to fill regular and outstanding vacancies in subsidiary bodies of the ECOSOC and related bodies, normally in the first half and last quarter of the year;

*[Subsidiary bodies]*

37. The Economic and Social Council should continue to improve its outcomes and the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies, making them more relevant, coherent and solution-oriented to address challenges to the implementing the 2030 Agenda and ensuring their follow-up so as to strengthen the impact of the work of the Council;
38. The Council needs to encourage its subsidiary bodies to review their agenda and working methods in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Decade of Action and Delivery. Subsidiary bodies should also, in their report, identify the top two or three critical policy issues emanating from their work for the attention of the Council;
39. The Council is invited to conduct a review of the work and agendas of its subsidiary bodies during the first half of 2022, so as to determine how they can most effectively support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and produce technical and expert analysis, assessments and policy recommendations with active participation of experts from capitals;

*[Engagement of civil society]*

40. The Economic and Social Council has an important role as a platform for multi-stakeholder participation and for engaging all relevant stakeholders in the work of the Council and relevant United Nations platforms, particularly with respect to its function related to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

41. While retaining its intergovernmental nature, the Economic and Social Council shall seek to promote the active participation of non-governmental organizations, local governments, Member of Parliaments, other relevant major groups and stakeholders and international and regional organizations in the activities of the Council and its functional and regional commissions;
  
42. The Economic and Social Council should further promote the integration of youth into its deliberations, building on the past positive experiences of the informal youth forums.

## **ANNEX 2:**

### **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. In accordance with the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit, the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level should support the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 sustainable development goals through the Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development;

#### ***I The HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC:***

2. We reaffirm the role of the Forum established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and General Assembly resolutions 67/290 and 70/299 and its central role in overseeing follow-up and review at global level. In preparing the Forum, the President of ECOSOC and the Bureau, Member States and the Secretariat will strengthen the focus of the Forum on peer learning and implementation, by providing sufficient time for exchange of experience and advice, encouraging interaction among countries before, during and after the HLPF, and giving more time for the interaction on the VNRs;
3. To ensure that the HLPF fulfills its mandate, an additional day will be added to the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC in order to enable adequate time for VNRs and for countries in special situations;

#### *[Thematic reviews]*

4. The high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of ECOSOC shall strengthen its analysis of the interlinkages across the SDGs, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs, and of the three dimensions of sustainable development while also addressing cross-cutting issues, including the integration of a gender perspective, human rights, governance, social protection, climate change and environmental



issues, and the principle of Leaving No One Behind. It will continue to involve Governments as well as parliamentarians, the United Nations system and other international institutions, local authorities, indigenous peoples, civil society, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community – and other actors;

5. For the remainder of the current cycle of the high-level political forum, the themes shall be:
  - a. For 2022: **Recovering better from COVID-19 while keeping SDGs implementation in focus:** Improving the response to the pandemic and strengthening SDG implementation during the Decade of Action and Delivery through quality education, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and protecting and managing the natural resource base;
  - b. For 2023: **Consolidating the recovery from COVID-19 and accelerating SDG progress:** empowering and supporting local governments, ensuring universal access to quality basic services and building resilience;
6. The high-level political forum on sustainable development shall continue to review a subset of Goals and their interlinkages, including with other Goals, at each session, with a view to facilitating an in-depth review of progress made on all 17 Goals over the course of a four-year cycle. Means of implementation, including with respect to Goal 17, shall be reviewed annually;
7. 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, taking inspiration from the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report;
8. 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 and areas/systems to be reviewed in-depth shall be:
  - i. For 2022: Goals 4 (*education*), 5 (*gender equality and women's empowerment*), 14 (*oceans*), 15 (*terrestrial ecosystems*) and 17 (*Means of implementation and Global Partnership*);

- ii. For 2023: Goals 6 (*water*), 7 (*energy*), 9 (*infrastructure/industry*), 11 (*cities*), and 17 (*Means of implementation and Global Partnership*)<sup>2</sup>;
9. 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, by reviewing and adjusting their frameworks as needed, to allow updated targets to reflect a suitable level of ambition for 2030;
  10. The July 2023 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC will also prepare the overall review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to be conducted at the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023;
  11. In 2022 and 2023, the HLPF shall also follow-up on the implementation of the political declaration adopted at the 2019 SDG summit, in addition to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This will include promoting the ten cross-cutting actions identified in the declaration;
  12. The preparation and format of the thematic reviews, and more generally the preparations of the HLPF and its programme and proceedings, shall reflect the universal nature of the SDGs and their integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature;
  13. In the conduct of the thematic reviews, the HLPF should make greater use of the findings, research, data and recommendations from the UN system and other expert sources, including those emanating from the expert preparatory process organized by the Secretariat; the inputs of intergovernmental bodies and multi-stakeholder and other forums to the HLPF; and sources such as the Global Sustainable Development Report and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism that strengthen the science-policy interface;
  14. The Secretary-General is requested to assist governments and major groups and other stakeholders in preparing and conducting the thematic reviews. Preparations should

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<sup>2</sup> The main area of focus of each SDG is indicated for the convenience of delegations but the wording does not reflect the full title each SDG. The text in parenthesis will be deleted in the final version of the draft

encourage the identification of good practices, lessons learned, challenges, solutions and the overarching principle to Leave No One Behind;

15. The Forum will also address the interlinkages between the global, regional, national and local levels;

*[Countries in special situations]*

16. 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 and small island developing States, as well as countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries. The special challenges of middle-income countries should also be addressed. The circumstances and challenges of countries in special situations shall also be addressed throughout the HLPF thematic reviews;

*[Voluntary National Reviews]*

17. While recognizing the voluntary nature of the Voluntary National Reviews, countries are encouraged to conduct a VNR once during the four-year cycle. Countries who have not conducted a VNR are invited and encouraged to do so at their earliest convenience;
18. Countries presenting voluntary national reviews (VNRs) shall report on their progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs. They are invited to share not only successes but also challenges, gaps and lessons learned as well as areas where more support and advice is needed in implementing the Agenda at the national level. They could also indicate the next steps they intend to take to accelerate implementation in the context of the decade of action and delivery, while respecting the country-led nature of the VNRs. Focus on such forward looking accelerated action could also inform VNR country contributions to the SDG Moment, convened by the Secretary-General each September;

19. Countries having already conducted a VNR are also encouraged to highlight trends, areas of progress, remaining challenges and measures taken since the last VNR, along with, as much as possible, the impact of measures taken;
20. The President of ECOSOC and the Bureau are encouraged to make the sessions interactive and conducive to discussions and peer-learning. Based on the VNRs, countries at the HLPF are encouraged to share constructive feedback, proposals and targeted recommendations to accelerate progress, including in written form. Countries conducting VNRs may also decide to provide written answers after the HLPF in case time was too short for them to provide detailed answers during the HLPF;
21. The President of ECOSOC and the Bureau are invited to consider ways to allocate as much time as possible to the VNRs during the HLPF in order to strengthen interaction and peer learning. Countries conducting VNRs should also be given priority for their participation, on a voluntary basis, in HLPF side-events to allow for further interaction with all stakeholders;
22. Bearing in mind the state-led nature of the VNRs, countries are encouraged to involve all 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 78 and 79 of resolution 70/1. They are also encouraged to report back at the national level on the outcome of the VNR presentation at the HLPF;
23. We acknowledge also the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs;
24. As part of their VNRs, countries are encouraged to review the mobilization of financial resources for implementing the 2030 Agenda, in conjunction with the elaboration of an Integrated National Financing Framework as mandated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;
25. Countries are also encouraged to strengthen evidence- and data-based statistical reporting through the VNRs and enhance national statistical capacities to address the gaps in data on the 2030 Agenda. This will allow for high quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and statistics.

Countries are also encouraged to fully integrate the Goals and targets in their monitoring and reporting systems and sharing of best practices in this regard;

26. Countries are furthermore encouraged to consider the Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines as a suggested framework in preparations for voluntary national reviews, bearing in mind the voluntary and country-led nature of the VNRs;
27. The Secretary-General is requested to regularly update these guidelines, as appropriate, and taking into account feedback from countries participating in the high-level political forum, with a view to strengthening analysis and evidence-based reporting;
28. Countries are also encouraged to engage in the various preparatory processes for the VNRs organized by the United Nations Secretariat and other partners, as well as to engage in the VNR labs and other side-events during the HLPF so as to continue the interaction on their VNRs or discuss specific themes from the VNRs with other countries;
29. To improve the follow-up to the VNRs, countries and major groups and other stakeholders are invited and encouraged to launch partnerships and provide support, including capacity building, to VNR programme countries at their request in order to help them address the challenges related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Countries could consider continuing to exchange experiences and to support one another after the HLPF through informal voluntary twinning arrangements, notably between countries of the same region. The UN development system is invited to support the follow-up to the VNRs in developing countries, including by focusing on addressing gaps and challenges in implementation identified by the VNRs and by building on their findings in developing and implementing United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Common Country Assessments where possible;
30. Countries are also encouraged to consider using the voluntary national reviews as a rigorous, voluntary, effective, and integrated follow-up and review framework to report to all their citizens on their implementation of the 2030 Agenda, maximize and track their progress and promote fulfilment of their commitments and accountability to their citizens;

*[Regional level follow-up and review]*

31. Countries are encouraged to use the regional forums on sustainable development convened by the regional commissions for discussing new issues and ideas, preparing the thematic reviews of the HLPF and discussing regional challenges and approaches. The forums can also discuss and follow-up on issues arising from the voluntary national reviews, while avoiding overlap with the HLPF;
32. 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 outcomes as early as possible to ensure a timely and full reflection by the high-level political forum;

*[Local level implementation and review]*

33. Countries are also encouraged to use the regional forums to discuss trends and findings from voluntary local reviews, and the high-level political forum should continue to strengthen the attention given to efforts to bolster local action to accelerate SDG implementation and to encourage the use of, and support for, open and inclusive space for review mechanisms at the local level;

*[New issues]*

34. The Forum shall also give greater attention to new and emerging issues that impact the implementation of the SDGs;

*[Reports]*

35. The meetings of the high-level political forum under the auspices of ECOSOC shall continue to be informed by a Secretary-General's annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals and all other relevant inputs, with the *Global Sustainable Development Report* presented to the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly every four years. The Secretary-General is invited to include in the SDG progress report information on data gaps and

capacities and options to address them. The President of ECOSOC and the ECOSOC Bureau are encouraged to invite the scientists preparing the *2023 Global Sustainable Development Report* to participate in the 2022 and 2023 HLPF, including to bring new and emerging issues to the attention of the HLPF;

***II. HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly:***

36. The meetings of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly (“SDG Summit”) shall be held 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 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 or 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:***

37. Reaffirming the provisions stipulated in paragraph 15 of resolution 67/290, which should be fully implemented, the high-level political forum should further enhance the participation of all major groups and other stakeholders in all aspects of its work, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of its discussions. It should ensure meaningful participation of a diverse and inclusive range of major groups and other stakeholders, including marginalized groups;
38. Countries are also encouraged to include major groups and other stakeholders in the preparations of their VNRs as well as in their delegations when presenting their voluntary national reviews at the HLPF;
39. 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 resolution 70/1, and the Secretariat shall continue to compile and make available their reports.