

Revised draft resolution– 9 March 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 the Charter of the United Nations, which provides the mandates for the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also its 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”,

Recognizing that its resolution 74/298 on the Review Process of the Economic and Social Council, as a Charter body, and of the High Level Political Forum, meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC and the General Assembly, as the overarching platform to review and follow up the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, addresses two different mandates with interrelated outcomes;

Recalling 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,

Recalling also 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”,

Reaffirming 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 also 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,

Reaffirming further its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

1. *Reaffirms* the role that the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council as a principal organ for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for the implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields;
2. *Reaffirms also* the commitment to strengthen the Economic and Social Council, within its mandate under the Charter, and reinforce its deliberative function, 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 and delivers on its broad responsibilities;
3. *Reaffirms further* the central role and effective and participatory character of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in overseeing the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, working coherently with the Assembly, the Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates and the other mandates of the HLPF established in resolutions 67/290 and 70/299;
4. *Decides* that the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development shall be closely coordinated 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, while noting further 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;

5. *Adopts* the texts contained in the annexes to the present resolution on the review of ECOSOC and the review of the HLPF, respectively, 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;
6. *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;
7. *Reiterates* its decision at its seventy-seventh session 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;
8. *Decides* that all mandates contained in resolution 72/305 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. Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, 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 promote a coordinated follow-up and operationalization 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, in view of the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development and the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

[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 contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the response to major challenges to the achievement of sustainable development such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. The General Assembly shall continue to adopt one 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 main theme, bearing in mind their respective functions. The themes of the humanitarian affairs segment shall continue to be based on humanitarian considerations 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.

¹ 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 and with responsibilities that include and go beyond the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will also discuss issues on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, such as global economic and financial risks, disaster risk reduction, building resilience, pandemics, rapid scientific and technological change, digital disruption and innovation, international solidarity regarding global public goods, biodiversity, climate change and their implications for the theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
5. ECOSOC segments and its 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 Secretary-General should adequately address the diverse needs and specific challenges facing these developing countries within existing reporting obligations, as appropriate.
6. The ECOSOC 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 calendar shall be structured into an ECOSOC Focus Week and three groups of meeting segments and forums per council cycle.
7. The ECOSOC Focus Week, to be held by the end of February each year, will comprise the first day of the high-level segment of ECOSOC, the multi-stakeholder partnership forum and the new coordination segment. The Focus Week should bring the ECOSOC System together early in the calendar year to discuss the main theme of ECOSOC, help strengthening ownership among participating countries and partners and give guidance for the work of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies in the following months.
8. Accordingly, the last day of the high-level segment of ECOSOC will be moved from July to February and reframed as part of the ECOSOC Focus Week. The remaining days of the ECOSOC high-level segment will be convened in July in conjunction with the ministerial days of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of ECOSOC.

(High-Level Segment)

9. Through this ECOSOC Focus Week, the ECOSOC high-level segment will be further reinforced as a preeminent forward-looking, political and agenda-setting platform for Member States, UN entities, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. The high-level segment will provide policy guidance on the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda related to the annual theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF for further discussion and operationalization during the various segments and forums of ECOSOC. It will also provide guidance on the follow-up to the ministerial declaration of ECOSOC and the HLPF of the previous cycle, building on the findings from the reviews conducted at the HLPF.

10. This first day of the high-level segment of ECOSOC in February will thus 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 Economic and Social Council and 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 scenarios and foresight.

11. To support the work of the ECOSOC Focus Week, the two mandated reports of the Secretary-General on the ECOSOC theme and on the theme of the ECOSOC thematic discussion issued for the current high-level segment of ECOSOC in July will be merged into a single report to inform the discussions at the ECOSOC Focus Week. This report should include (i) a forward-looking analysis on the theme and major related issues, including projections and scenarios, (ii) proposals related to the implementation of the declaration of the previous cycle, (iii) integrated policy analysis emanating from the work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies 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 and (iv) lessons learned from the thematic reviews and Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF with recommendations for follow-up by countries, various segments and forums of the Council, the UN system and relevant stakeholders.

(Multi-stakeholder Partnership Forum)

12. The partnership forum of ECOSOC will be reframed as the multi-stakeholder partnerships forum and will be convened back to back with the first day of the high-level segment in February. The multi-stakeholder partnerships forum will engage countries, the United Nations system including international financial institutions, parliamentarians, local governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, scientists, academia and other actors. The forum will be organized in consultation with stakeholders and allow interactive discussions among all stakeholders on the theme, major issues and future trends addressed during the high-level segment. The forum will be focused on the exchange of new ideas and visionary expectations and priorities for the work ahead for the ECOSOC cycle and the high-level political forum on sustainable development held under Council's auspices. The forum will also focus on forward-looking actions for consideration by countries and all actors as well as innovative partnerships that can mobilize commitments and actions to advance the SDGs.

(Coordination segment)

13. 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. To this end, the coordination segment shall replace the integration segment and the informal ECOSOC meeting with the subsidiary chairs and will be held annually for up to two days. 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, as well as steer the ECOSOC system towards an efficient and integrated workflow throughout the ECOSOC 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 SDGs and other internationally agreed development goals as well as to other aspects of the work of ECOSOC. It should formulate common action-oriented policy guidance on all matters requiring implementation or coordination efforts (i) by the UN system, notably the specialized agencies, in the policy and normative area, as well as (ii) by the Council's functional and regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, including detailed guidance on the implementation of the Ministerial declaration from the previous year. Guidance on operational activities of the UN development system will continue to be addressed in the operational activities for development segment.

14. The coordination segment will examine key policy issues, lessons learned, best practices and recommendations emanating from the combined work of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies including regional commissions during the previous ECOSOC cycle 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 their implementation of the declaration of the previous year. The coordination segment will furthermore provide detailed guidance to the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and the UN 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 HLPF. It will review how ECOSOC subsidiary bodies work on the interlinkages among the SDGs and the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other major UN conferences and summits.

15. The Council will also hold a discussion on the following coordination-related mandated agenda items in the new coordination segment:

- i. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (*Item 12(c) of ECOSOC Agenda. ECOSOC adopted agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming contained in A/52/3 “Report of the Economic and Social Council for 1997”.*)
- 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.

16. 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.

17. Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, the private sector and other stakeholders involved in the policy and normative work of the UN system and the subsidiary bodies should be engaged in the coordination segment.

(Format and outcome of the ECOSOC Focus Week)

18. The ECOSOC Focus Week may be convened in a hybrid format, combining in-person participation in New York with a virtual component to enable wider participation from around the world.

19. A non-negotiated summary will be prepared by the President of the Economic and Social Council to reflect the discussion and strategic guidance during the first day of the high-level segment, the multi-stakeholder partnerships forum and the coordination segment. The outcome of the high-level segment of ECOSOC and the HLPF will remain the intergovernmentally negotiated ministerial declaration

which will be adopted on the last day of the ministerial segment of HLPF and for procedural reasons by ECOSOC at its last Management Segment of the cycle in July.

20. Following the ECOSOC Focus Week, the work of the ECOSOC shall continue in the three groups of the Council segments and forums. The first 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 all other related mandated meetings. The Development Cooperation Forum will be convened in 2023, and will then be convened quadrennially thereafter, as part of the lead up to the meetings of the General Assembly high-level week.
21. 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 Integrated Development, Humanitarian and Peacebuilding Meeting, which will replace the event on transition from relief to development.
22. 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 ministerial segment of the high-level political forum, which will now be extended from 3 to 4 days. 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 high-level segment of the Council and will be extended from 3 to 4 days, in parallel to the ministerial days of the high-level political forum in July.
23. 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 convene ad hoc meetings on specific humanitarian emergencies at the request of the affected countries or following a recommendation of the Bureau. Such ad hoc meetings should raise awareness and promote the engagement of all stakeholders, including the United Nations system, in support of international relief efforts aimed at addressing those emergencies.
24. 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. The Council should strengthen its efforts to mainstream a gender perspective across its agenda, work programme, meetings and documentation.

(Operational activities for development segment)

25. Through its three-day Operational Activities for Development 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.
26. Bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR), the Council will also consider, at its operational activities for development segment, a report by the Secretary-General on system-wide implementation of the provisions of the General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR), including an update and amendments where necessary of the existing monitoring and reporting framework for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development with specific and measurable performance indicators on progress made and a comprehensive report by the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group on an annual basis, including on the operational, administrative and financing aspects of the activities of the Development Coordination Office.
27. The Economic and Social Council should, furthermore, provide improved overall coordination and guidance on operational activities for development, on a system-wide basis, to the governing bodies of the United Nations development system, in keeping with the mandates of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. This includes holding the segment close to the annual session of the executive boards of the funds and programmes. With a view to avoiding repetition of discussions, the executive boards that report to the Council should further highlight in their existing reports to the Council the issues requiring examination and identify actions to be taken, guided by the chosen theme.
28. The segment should continue to contribute to the preparations for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system
29. Arrangements should be put in place to strengthen the linkages between the governing bodies of specialized agencies and ECOSOC to better inform the work of the ECOSOC and improve its work

and inter alia, to promote a coherent and coordinated approach in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

30. The Council, during its operational activities for development segment, will also promote support required by developing countries to address the challenges identified in the VNRs, including partnerships, capacity development, financial resources or other support, in order to mobilize other countries, the United Nations system and other stakeholders.

(Integrated Development, Humanitarian and Peacebuilding Meeting)

31. The one-day Integrated Development, Humanitarian and Peacebuilding Meeting will be convened immediately preceding the humanitarian affairs segment and replace the special event on the Transition from Relief to Development. The Integrated Development, Humanitarian and Peacebuilding 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. The meeting will focus on countries in post-conflict situations and countries facing humanitarian emergencies, including complex emergencies. The Council will also consider issues related to the ECOSOC 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 during the Integrated Development, Humanitarian and Peacebuilding Meeting for in-depth discussion to guide coordinated support at country-level. The Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission will be invited to participate in the Integrated Development, Humanitarian and Peacebuilding Meeting. All relevant actors, including civil society and the private sector, should be invited to participate in the meeting. The meeting may be held in a hybrid format and organized to ensure the full participation of all actors.

(Humanitarian Affairs Segment)

32. 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)

33. The Economic and Social Council should strengthen its cooperation and dialogue with the Peacebuilding Commission, in accordance with their respective mandates. The ECOSOC President and the Peacebuilding Commission Chair 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. One Member of the Peacebuilding Commission should ensure the flow of information and complementarity of the work of ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission on an on-going basis.
34. As the Charter recognizes social and economic development as essential for stability and prosperity, 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)

35. The meetings of the Management Segment will be held for up to two days, twice per cycle. The meetings will continue to focus on the adoption of procedural decisions, consideration of the recommendations of subsidiary bodies, as well as the introduction of reports and consideration of draft proposals submitted under relevant agenda items.
36. The Secretary-General's annual overview report of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for coordination will be presented at the Management Segment of the Council.
37. 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)

38. The Economic and Social Council should strengthen its oversight and coordination of its subsidiary bodies. Through its new Coordination Segment, it should continue to improve the work and the

outcomes of its subsidiary bodies, making them more relevant, coherent and solution-oriented to support the implementation the 2030 Agenda and ensuring their follow-up so as to strengthen the impact of the work of the Council. It should effectively integrate the outcomes of its subsidiary bodies into its own work.

39. The Council should encourage its subsidiary bodies to ensure that they best support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the work of the Council as well as to review their agenda and working methods in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Decade of Action and Delivery. Their work should reflect the need for an integrated and action-oriented approach to the Sustainable Development Goals. Their recommendations should build on a solid evidence-based review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and the outcomes of conferences and summits in their respective areas. They should work in an efficient, effective, transparent and inclusive manner. Subsidiary bodies should also, in their report, identify the critical conclusions, recommendations and policy issues that may require the attention of the Council.
40. 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.
41. As part of this review, the Secretary-General is invited to review the calendar of meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and, as appropriate, make proposals to ensure that the timing of the sessions of subsidiary bodies is aligned with the revised cycle of the Council.

(Engagement of civil society)

42. 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 related United Nations platforms, particularly with respect to its function related to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.
43. 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, academia, scientists, the private sector and other relevant major groups and stakeholders in all the 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 67/290 of 9 July 2013 insofar as it pertains to the meetings of the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Council.

44. The Economic and Social Council should consider possible ways of applying to other meetings and segments certain aspects of the modalities of engagement of major groups and other stakeholders in the high-level political forum, while retaining its intergovernmental nature and allowing sufficient time to Member States.
45. The Economic and Social Council should further promote the integration of youth into its deliberations, building on the past positive experiences of the ECOSOC 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” (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 for Sustainable Development 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.
2. The Assembly reaffirms its resolutions 67/290 and 70/299 and the central role of the high-level political forum on sustainable development established in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in overseeing follow-up and review of the Agenda at the global level, while also contributing to knowledge sharing, providing political guidance and creating synergies to achieve the SDGs.
3. The principles established in the 2030 Agenda for guiding follow-up and review processes at all levels should continue to be implemented through the reviews conducted at the HLPF.
4. 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 adequate attention to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.²
5. The forum shall address the interlinkages between the global, regional, national and local levels. The forum is the culmination of a year-long process that involves local and national analysis,

² Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

reviews and dialogues, notably on the preparations of the VNRs, regional consultations and peer learning at the regional forums on sustainable development, expert and other preparatory meetings, leading to the high-level political forum, which should then lead to feedback to the national and regional level.

6. The forum shall also give attention to new and emerging issues that impact the implementation of the SDGs.

I. The HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC:

7. In preparing the Forum, the President of ECOSOC and the Bureau, participating States in the Forum 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 and with stakeholders before, during and after the HLPF, and giving more time for the interaction on the VNRs.
8. Bearing in mind the mandate of the HLPF and to enable adequate time for interactive discussions on the VNRs and reviewing progress in countries in special situations and specific challenges facing middle-income countries, an additional day will be added to the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC, resulting in a ministerial segment of four days and a total duration of nine days. The ECOSOC Bureau is also invited to assist in making the organization and work of the HLPF as effective and efficient as possible.

[Thematic reviews]

9. 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 challenges, gaps and cross-cutting 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 and regional organizations, local governments, indigenous peoples, civil society, NGOs, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community and other major groups and stakeholders.
10. For the remainder of the current cycle of the high-level political forum, the themes shall be:

- a. For 2022: **Recovering from COVID-19 while bringing SDGs implementation on track:** Improving the response to the pandemic and strengthening SDG implementation during the Decade of Action and Delivery through quality education, affordable and sustainable energy for all and the sustainable management, protection and restoration of natural resources;
 - b. For 2023: **Strengthening the recovery from COVID-19 and accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda:** Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, access to water and sanitation for all, empowering and supporting local governments and building resilience.
11. 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, 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 a four-year cycle without prejudice to the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs. Means of implementation, including with respect to Goal 17, shall be reviewed annually. Peace, justice and strong institutions with respect to Goal 16 shall also be reviewed annually. The forum will strive to strike a balance between giving greater attention to interlinkages and ensuring in-depth reviews of individual SDGs. It will give dedicated attention to issues related to the availability of data and statistical capacities.
12. 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..
13. 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, 7, 14, 15, 16 and 17;
 - ii. For 2023: Goals 5, 6, 9, 11, 16 and 17.
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, by reviewing and adjusting their frameworks as needed, to allow updated targets to reflect a suitable level of ambition for 2030.

15. 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.
16. In 2022 and 2023, the HLPF shall also follow-up on 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), so as to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This will include promoting the ten cross-cutting actions identified in the declaration.
17. In the conduct of the thematic reviews, the HLPF should make 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.
18. The relevant entities of the UN system are invited to continue supporting the preparations of the thematic reviews. Preparations should encourage the identification of good practices, lessons learned, challenges, solutions and the overarching principle of leaving no one behind.

[Countries in special situations]

19. 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 should 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]

20. While recognizing the voluntary nature of the voluntary national reviews, countries are encouraged to conduct a VNR once during the four-year cycle, 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.

21. Countries presenting voluntary national reviews (VNRs) shall report on their progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving all the SDGs, consistent with the provisions of the 2030 Agenda and resolution 67/290. While bearing in mind the voluntary and state-led nature of VNRs and previous experience, countries may wish to share successes, challenges, gaps and lessons learned as well as areas where more action and new partnerships are needed in implementing the 2030 Agenda at the national level. They could also consider indicating the next steps they intend to take to accelerate implementation in the context of the decade of action and delivery. Focus on such forward-looking accelerated action could also inform VNR country contributions to the SDG Moment, convened by the Secretary-General each September.
22. 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.
23. The President of ECOSOC and the Bureau are encouraged to make the sessions interactive and conducive to discussions and peer-learning. The Group of Friends of VNRs is encouraged to continue supporting the preparations of the sessions on the VNRs. 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. It is important to enable and support the participation of major groups and other stakeholders in the discussion of the VNRs at the HLPF.
24. 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.
25. 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 the 2030 Agenda. They may also consider reporting back at the national level on the outcome of the VNR presentation at the HLPF.

26. The essential role of national parliaments is also acknowledged 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, including through engagement in the VNRs.
27. 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.
28. Countries are also encouraged to strengthen evidence-, science-, evaluation- 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.
29. Bearing in mind the voluntary and State-led nature of the VNRs, countries are encouraged to follow the Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines as a suggested framework in preparations for voluntary national reviews.
30. The Secretary-General is requested to update these guidelines, as appropriate, 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, the impacts of COVID-19 and other crises as well as the limited capacities of many countries.
31. Countries are also encouraged to participate in the various preparatory processes for the VNRs organized by the United Nations Secretariat and other 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.
32. The UN system and other international and regional organizations, countries 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.
33. To improve the follow-up to the VNRs, the UN system and other international and regional organizations, 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 mutually agreed arrangements. The UN development system is invited to support the follow-up to the VNRs in developing countries, at their request, 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.

34. Countries are also encouraged to use the voluntary national reviews as a voluntary, effective and integrated follow-up and review framework to inform 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]

35. 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 discuss new issues and ideas, prepare the thematic reviews of the HLPF and discuss regional challenges, gaps and approaches as well as best practices and innovative ideas to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and strengthen regional capacity building and networking. The regional forums are also encouraged to share their VNR progress for feedback and discuss and follow-up on issues arising from the voluntary national reviews, while avoiding overlap with the HLPF.
36. 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 consideration by the high-level political forum.

[Local level implementation and review]

37. The regional forums are also encouraged 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 as well as to encourage the use of, and support for, open and inclusive space for review mechanisms at the local level.

[Reports]

38. 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 the capacity gaps. 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.

[Declaration]

39. The declaration of the high-level political forum should be short, 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

40. 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 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:

41. Reaffirming the provisions stipulated in paragraphs 14 and 15 of resolution 67/290, which should be fully implemented, the high-level political forum should further enable the participation of major groups and other stakeholders in all aspects of its work, including through virtual and hybrid formats, 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 and women, youth, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.
42. Countries are also encouraged to include major groups and other stakeholders in the preparations and follow up of their VNRs as well as in their delegations when presenting their voluntary national reviews at the HLPF.
43. In organizing the meetings of the high-level political forum, consideration should be given to the innovative use of web-based interfaces as an additional means of supporting effective, broad and balanced participation by region and type of organization and stakeholder in accordance with the modalities on the participation of stakeholders in resolution 67/290.
44. 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 Agenda, and the Secretariat shall continue to compile and make available their reports.