



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7 November 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, a memorandum from my meeting with the President of the Economic and Social Council, Her Excellency Ms. Mona Juul, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations in New York. The meeting took place on 6 November 2019, as part of my commitment to strengthening collaboration and coordination between the principal organs of the United Nations.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a long, sweeping horizontal stroke followed by a circular flourish.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Meeting between the President of the General Assembly and the President of Economic and Social Council on Wednesday 6 November 2019

The President of the 74th session of the General Assembly, H.E Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande met with the President of the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council, Her Excellency Ms. Mona Juul, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, on Wednesday 6 November 2019, as part of their efforts to strengthen relations between the principal organs of the UN and ensure close collaboration and coherence in the work of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC.

The two Presidents exchanged views on recent events and developments as well as upcoming activities, in particular:

Theme for the 2020 ECOSOC and High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

The President of the General Assembly and the President of the ECOSOC welcomed the progress made by the Ambassador of New Zealand, H.E. Mr. Craig John Hawke, facilitator of the process related to the identification of the theme for the 2020 session of ECOSOC/HLPF, in the intergovernmental consultations. They agreed that the draft theme under the consideration of Member States would provide the needed support for the implementation of the SDGs Summit Political Declaration and contribute to the Decade of action and delivery.

The PGA informed that, as soon as Member States come to an agreement on the final version of the theme, he will immediately convene the Assembly to adopt it, in order to allow the Council to advance its work and give enough time for the HLPF preparations.

Process related to the review of ECOSOC and HLPF

The two Presidents discussed also the important process related to the ECOSOC and HLPF review, as mandated by paragraph 2 of resolution 72/305 and in resolutions 67/290 as well as 70/299. The PGA informed that, as soon as the process related to the theme of the ECOSOC/HLPF is finalized, he will nominate co-facilitators to engage with Member States, without prejudice to the nature and format of the outcome document. He also ensured that the process will be open, transparent and intergovernmental in nature.

Countries in special situations:

The President of the General Assembly informed the President of ECOSOC about the progress made in the preparation for the Mid-term review on the Landlocked-Developing States, to be convened on 5-6 December 2019. A concept note has been shared with Member States and his Office is finalizing other arrangements related to the programme of the Event as well as the participation of civil society. The PGA seized the opportunity to invite the ECOSOC President to attend and address the meeting, who kindly accepted the invitation.

Alignment of the agendas of the GA, the ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies with the 2030 Agenda

The PGA briefed the President of ECOSOC on the informal meeting of the General Committee, convened on Thursday 31 October 2019, to discuss this important process, as mandated by GA resolution 73/341 related to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, in particular in its paragraph 27 and 28. The PGA informed also that he will appoint co-facilitators in the next few days, who should work closely with all Member States, the President of ECOSOC and the General Committee, based on the progress achieved during previous sessions of the Assembly. The President of ECOSOC expressed readiness to work closely with the PGA as well as his co-facilitators to make the needed progress on this matter.

Youth Plenary / Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations

The PGA and ECOSOC President agreed to join efforts in the in the implementation of resolution 73/299, which decided to convene a youth plenary under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC, in conjunction with the Youth Forum of the Council which will be held on 1-2 April 2020. The Presidents requested their teams to work closely with the UN Secretariat, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as well as the Youth Envoy, to frame the event while making sure that youth are included in all the activities towards the commemorative event of the 75th anniversary.

The Ocean Conference: The PGA informed that, as mandated by Resolution 73/292, he plans to appoint two co-facilitators in the next few days, to chair a two-day preparatory meeting in February 2020, with a view to considering the themes for the interactive dialogues of the conference; oversee the preparatory process and conclude the intergovernmental consultations on a brief, concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed declaration.

Multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the SDGs (STI forum): The two Presidents agreed to joint efforts and close coordination in the context of the STI Forum (12-13 May 2020), as well as the mandated High-Level Thematic Debate on Rapid Technological Change to be convened by the President of the General Assembly. The two events will be convened back to back, in order to ensure that both are mutually reinforcing.

Preparations for the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

The President of ECOSOC informed the PGA that a summary of the HLPF retreat on 1 November 2019 organized by the UN Foundation and the ECOSOC presidency will be shared with all member states. She thanked the PGA for his address at the retreat.