

Readying institutions and policies for integrated approaches to
implementation of the 2030 Agenda
Expert group meeting in preparation for HLPF 2017
Vienna, Austria, 14-16 December 2016

**Opening statement by H.E. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure
Shava, President of the Economic and Social Council:**

14 December 2016

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to open this important expert meeting in preparation for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council that will take place from 10 to 19 July 2017 in New York.

I am particularly happy with the large number of participants who are in attendance today. I would like to thank the organizers, DESA and UNIDO, for bringing us together for three days of brainstorming on readying institutions and policies for integrated approaches to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Your work during these three days will inform the HLPF. The HLPF is the overarching UN platform for reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its ambitious set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted by all UN Member States in September 2015.

The theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development will be "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". The set of SDGs that are going to be reviewed in depth will be the following:

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

As well as Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. As you may recall, the HLPF will consider this goal each year.

The review of these goals and themes will constitute what we call the thematic review of the HLPF. Every year, the HLPF conducts a thematic review—in addition to a global review of SDG progress and voluntary national reviews. The review of a limited number of goals is dictated by time constraints rather than promoting a solo approach. Indeed the goals should be viewed as integrated and interlinked.

This will be the second edition of the HLPF since Member States agreed to the modalities for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. As a convener of the 2017 HLPF, it is very important for the Council that it set a high standard for thematic reviews of the SDGs. Thematic reviews are going to be one of the main bricks for building up a comprehensive a review of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, which will culminate every four years in a global review of the entire Agenda at the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly. As we embark on this exercise, we have to make it as useful as possible for decision-making. Specifically, we have to make it both credible and relevant to decision-makers. This will require,

over the coming months from now up until the HLPF, employing diverse approaches, and talking together across SDG areas. This meeting, which gathers experts, national decision-makers and representatives from international organizations, is a great way to get the ball rolling.

The focus of our discussions during the next three days is going to be on how national institutions can best adjust to the integrated nature of the SDGs. We all know that strong institutions will be critical in order to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and build on the synergies that exist between the various goals and targets. Since Agenda 2030 was adopted, many countries have made progress in preparing their institutions to meet the challenges and opportunities that this new ambitious Agenda poses. This came out clearly at last year's HLPF. This meeting is an occasion to share experiences and lessons learned on this process and how it takes the interrelations among the SDGs into account.

In this discussion, it will be important to go to the appropriate level of detail. I believe that looking at institutions relevant to the six SDGs that will be reviewed next July at the HLPF will help us focus on concrete ways to advance implementation. Over the next months and years, it will also be critical that

experts in different fields dialogue. I believe that the mix of participants who are here for this meeting will make it possible to draw concrete conclusions and suggest avenues for further reflection. By putting our broad collective expertise together, we can provide all Member States with the support they need.

I will be with you for the coming two days and I will listen attentively to the discussion. Your deliberations will provide important food for thought for intergovernmental discussions at the Forum. I hope that they will also pave the way for making thematic reviews at the HLPF concrete, relevant and innovative, given their importance to the review and follow-up of the Agenda.

I would be remiss if I did not bring up integration in the context of our work at the United Nations. This meeting is itself an example of integration, as it brings together the SDGs and the institutional dimension. Work on institutions and public management has a long history in the United Nations. ECOSOC has a standing Committee of Experts on Public Administration, CEPA, which has produced important work over the years. Some members of CEPA are in this room with us. I hope that they will bring back to the other Committee members the gist of what was discussed, and that CEPA will review the outcome of this meeting. In the coming months and years, I am sure

that we will see a fruitful dialogue emerging in the UN system between those who deal with SDGs as a whole, and those who are experts on institutions. The onus is also on us, Member States, to guide the UN system and encourage institutional collaboration on these topics.

Before we launch into our discussion, I would also like to briefly mention another example of strong institutional collaboration and preparatory work being done by DESA, UNIDO and others on the special initiative I have planned for ECOSOC in 2017. This initiative on "Innovations for Infrastructure Development and Promoting Sustainable Industrialization" will include two preparatory meetings in Senegal and Zimbabwe in early spring 2017, before culminating in a high-level Special Meeting of ECOSOC in May in New York. I want to thank our host UNIDO, and DESA, for their continued, constructive contributions to this project, in particular the Senegal meeting. I look forward to further brainstorming on how we can ensure that the special initiative could work in complement with the HLPF.

Let us make the most of these three days. And let us commit to continue the conversation on these issues and others related to progress on the 2030 Agenda in coming months.

I thank you.