

First informal consultations of the General Assembly's review of arrangements contained in its resolutions 75/290A and 75/290B and their annexes on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and the review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development

Thursday, 15 February 2024, ECOSOC Chamber

**Remarks by H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez
President of the Economic and Social Council**

Distinguished Co-Facilitators, Ambassadors Zoumanigui and Pavluta-Deslandes, Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to address you as President of the Economic and Social Council at this first informal meeting of the General Assembly's review process of its resolutions on ECOSOC and the High Level Political Forum.

I thank the Co-Facilitators for this opportunity to engage in these important discussions.

Excellencies,

The review process that kicks off today comes at a critical juncture in our world.

The increasing number of crises and conflicts are a stark reminder of the need for greater cooperation and complementarity across the domains of peace and security, humanitarian action, human rights, and sustainable development.

Their interlinkages are strong.

As stressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we need peace and security for sustainable development. And for peace and security, we need sustainable development. In this time of complex crises, we need strong and effective international bodies, institutions, forums and mechanisms through which we can together address our many challenges.

We need a strong and effective Economic and Social Council.

As you embark on your reviews today, I ask that you keep in mind the overwhelming significance of – and need for -- sustainable development in our world. And thus, the crucial role of ECOSOC and the HLPF in promoting, guiding, and supporting our efforts to make our world a better place for all, leaving no one behind.

Distinguished Delegates,

Since the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 75/290 A and B on ECOSOC and HLPF in 2021, we have completed another cycle of the HLPF, culminating in the 2023 SDG Summit.

We can reflect and build on what we have learned from the previous two four-year cycles of HLPF and their SDG Summits. We should also consider the ongoing preparations for the Summit of the Future, as well as for the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Development States, the Third United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries, the Fourth Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Summit for Social Development.

Through the previous ECOSOC review, Member States reinforced the Economic and Social Council as a Charter body.

The Council has taken action to implement the outcomes of the previous review. Two weeks ago, we completed the Coordination Segment, to follow the Partnership Forum early in the ECOSOC cycle.

As President of the Economic and Social Council during the current cycle, I am prioritizing the leveraging of the Council's various segments, forums and subsidiary bodies to turn the commitments of the recent SDG Summit into policy guidance and concrete action to realize the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Resolution 75/290 A also strengthened the peace and development interlinkages in the work of the Council, clarifying ECOSOC's relationship with the Peacebuilding Commission and reaffirming its role vis-à-vis the Security Council.

During this time of conflict, you may wish to consider this area for possible further strengthening. As I mentioned, there will not be peace and security without sustainable development. This is also true the other way around.

Excellencies,

The high-level political forum on sustainable development continues to translate the vision of Goals into reality by providing political guidance and a platform for countries to share experiences and lessons learned on implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The HLPF provides a global platform for follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda—examining a theme each year linked to the 2030 Agenda and a subset of goals.

Through its thematic reviews, we continue to foster in-depth analysis of progress toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the interlinkages among the Goals.

As you review the HLPF, it will be important for moving forward to agree upon the annual themes for 2025 through 2027 and the groups of SDGs that will be reviewed in depth each of these years.

The Voluntary National Reviews have been immensely successful. From 2016 through 2023, 188 countries plus the European Union presented reviews to the HLPF. 123 countries have already carried out a second review.

The interactive and peer-learning character of the VNRs fosters implementation at the and meaningful exchanges with Member States and Major Groups and other Stakeholders.

Going forward, you may wish to consider possible steps to make a good thing even better.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Strengthening ECOSOC's engagement with civil society is a priority for my Presidency.

Building on the work of my predecessors, I am encouraging greater participation of civil society at the forums, segments and special meetings of the Council to bring diverse voices into our work to ensure no one is left behind.

Dear Colleagues,

Meaningful engagement of Member States in all aspects of the work of ECOSOC and the HLPF remains critical for supporting countries in their pursuit of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs.

We must deliver on the promise of sustainable development.

I wish you every success in your deliberations and look forward to its successful outcome.

Thank you.