



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

16 July 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the draft ministerial declaration of the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council on the theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” and the draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2018 session of the Council on the theme “From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities” (E/2018/L.20 – E/HLPF/2018/L.2 (to be issued)).

I wish to express my thanks to the Co-Facilitators, Her Excellency Gillian Bird, Permanent Representative of Australia, and His Excellency Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, for the extensive efforts they have made in co-facilitating the negotiations on the draft ministerial declaration. I also wish to thank delegations for the cooperation and flexibility demonstrated during the negotiations.

In its resolution 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the General Assembly decided that the outcome of the high-level political forum meetings under the auspices of the Council should be a negotiated ministerial declaration and that “in all meetings of the forum, every effort should be made to reach consensus”. It is my firm view that this text is the best attempt at reaching consensus and represents best efforts to accommodate views of all States in a balanced manner.

The draft ministerial declaration will be presented for adoption by the 2018 high-level political forum at its closing meeting on Wednesday, 18 July. It is my understanding that there is no full agreement on the paragraphs 12, 16, 17, 23 and 28. I kindly call on all States to join in the adoption of the draft ministerial declaration and achieve a successful conclusion to the 2018 high-level political forum held under the auspices of the Council.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marie Chatardova', with a checkmark at the end.

Marie Chatardova
President of ECOSOC

All States Members of the United Nations and
States members of specialized agencies