

Briefing of the President of ECOSOC on the HLPF

Ms. Marion Barthélemy, Director OISC/DESA

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[Inputs]

The advance unedited copy of the Secretary-General's reports on Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals is available online at the HLPF website.

Inputs to the Forum's thematic review have been received from 38 functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums. The advance unedited copy of the synthesis of these inputs is also available online.

Furthermore, the advance unedited version of official reports to the HLPF, including Mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the UN system; and the 10-year framework of programme on sustainable consumption and production, as well as reports from the regional forums convened by ECE, ESCAP and ECLAC, and the discussion papers prepared by major groups and other stakeholders can be found online as well.

The advance unedited versions of the report on 2018 ECOSOC Main theme "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities" and the thematic discussion "Harnessing new technologies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" are also available at the high-level segment of ECOSOC page.

In addition, background notes will be prepared by the Secretariat for each thematic session and SDG session, on progress made so far, lessons learned, challenges, and key questions for further discussion and elaboration.

[Side events]

The Secretariat received until 30 April deadline over 600 applications for side events. They were also able to secure some additional rooms, so the number of slots is now 120. The side events will take place from 9 to 13 July and from 16 to 18 July. I understand the Secretariat will inform all organizers of the status of side-events by 31 May 2018, while the programme of side-events will become available on the HLPF website at the beginning of June.

[VNRs]

VNR countries have been requested to submit both the VNR report and the main messages to the Secretariat. The deadline for the full VNR reports is 15 June. The deadline for main messages was 18 May; a large number of VNR countries have already submitted their main messages. Early submission of main messages allows the Secretariat to translate the main messages into English from all six official UN languages and issue them as one official document. I would appeal to those countries, who have not yet done, so to do it urgently by cob today, if they want to have their main messages included in the official document. The main messages and the reports will be posted to their respective webpages.

The Secretariat will be contacting the Permanent Missions of the VNR countries shortly to inform them of the Secretariat focal points for their session. The Secretariat will be inviting the Permanent Mission representatives to working level preparatory meeting on the morning of 15 July with the venue to be communicated in order to go through the practical arrangements. Let me also kindly remind the VNR countries that they need to send all visuals by 21 June in order to leave the Secretariat the time to see if they are technically in order to be shown during VNR presentations. We would also kindly invite VNR countries to send us the name of their presenter or presenters and their full name and title by the same date, 21 June.

[VNR Lab]

The VNR Lab will aim to provide an informal platform to start a reflection on VNRs. It will comprise eight informal sessions held during the ministerial segment of the HLPF from 16 to 18 July 2018, in the morning, lunch-time and evening. It will focus on more in-depth discussions on countries' VNR presentations as well as themes identified in VNR messages of this year and VNR reports from previous years. It will provide an informal platform for mutual learning and exchange of experiences and lessons learned. A concept note will be soon available and the preparations for the sessions will begin shortly.

[Major groups and other stakeholders]

As mandated by the General Assembly, Major Groups and other stakeholders were invited by the Secretariat to provide sectoral papers on the theme of the HLPF. These papers were compiled into an official document of the HLPF, which is now available in its advance unedited version.

All NGOs that have accreditation with ECOSOC or that are part of the Commission for Sustainable Development roster can register participants to the HLPF. Registration is now open on the Indico platform until 15 June.

Using a generous grant from the European Commission, UN DESA will fund the participation of a limited number of Major Groups and other representatives from VNR developing countries to attend the HLPF. In 2017, 25 participants attended the HLPF thanks to these funds.

UN DESA will facilitate a one-day pre-HLPF workshop for stakeholders on Sunday, 8 July 2018.

[Communication and outreach]

UN DESA and the Department of Public Information have developed a communication strategy. The strategy envisages mobilizing the participation of celebrities, SDG advocates, UN Goodwill ambassadors, and key participants at the Forum to articulate their experiences and lessons learned for the implementation of the SDGs.

On social media, an SDG Media Zone, organized by the UN, will be a space where participants at the HLPF, guests, journalists, bloggers and other stakeholders will engage in conversations on the achievement of the SDGs. It will also provide an opportunity for government representatives and UN officials to interact more directly with policy experts and diverse audience. The conversations will be live streamed on UNTV and on diverse social media platforms.