



SE.2016.036

Geneva, June 10<sup>th</sup> 2016

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 6<sup>th</sup>.

While I thank you for your prompt response and take note of the explanations you have kindly provided, I remain in fundamental disagreement with the outlined interpretation of the mandate of the bureau and the parameters set for the functional occupation of the President of the Human Rights Council. Moreover, we are surprised that the President decided to proceed with providing inputs to the High Level Political Forum of ECOSOC irrespective of the significant concerns voiced by a considerable number of Member States.

While, it was deliberately avoided in our last letter to address substantive aspects relevant to the issue, your letter's description of the inputs as "a mere showcase of work of the Human Rights Council related to SDGs that does not provide an assessment or opinion of the work of the Council" and that the inputs have been taken from Council resolutions, reports and discussions from the last six years, necessitate that I convey to you the following few questions and conclusions about the selected inputs:

- 1) The inputs circulated are not simply a descriptive account of the Council's work in the area of the contribution to the implementation of SDGs but include extensive analytical views and assessments about substantive issues including relevant challenges, opportunities and gaps. The inputs provided by the President also included suggested areas of interaction between the HLPF and the Human Rights Council and policy recommendations to accelerate progress on a number of issues. We do not recall that this assessment or these recommendations were previously

discussed at the Council in any format.

- 2) The "inputs" on several occasions provided spotlight on controversial issues that are associated with high degree of polarization and divisiveness such as LGBT and inter-sex people. These issues have no basis in international human rights law and have no connection to the goals and targets of the SDGs.
- 3) On the other hand the "inputs" deliberately neglected other topics and initiatives that fall squarely within the scope of the discussion and important work was disregarded. I recall, for example, HRC resolution 29/22 on the Protection of the Family and the pursuant report focused on the contribution of the family to the realization of the right to adequate standard of living for its members, particularly through its role in poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development. Moreover, the extensive and rich work that Council and its mechanisms had undertaken on the impact of illicit funds, vulture funds and unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and the realization of the right to development was entirely sidelined.
- 4) It was also noted that the inputs highlighted the Council's work on preventing violent extremism and on protection and promotion of human rights in the context of countering terrorism while disregarding the work that the Council has done through a panel, a report and two resolutions on the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights. A perspective which is equally important when addressing the impact of violence and compromised security as a challenge facing the implementation of the SDGs.

Mr. President,

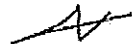
The above are only few examples, relevant to issues that we closely follow, to demonstrate the lack of balance, consistency and comprehensiveness in the inputs that were presented on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The annex to the inputs carries many other similar examples. Due to our conviction that it is virtually impossible to present inputs that

enjoy the general support of all Member States, we have cautioned the President against the challenging nature of undertaking substantive tasks and its possible counter-productive consequences on the bureau's mandate on organizational and procedural matters.

In follow up to your kind invitation to relay any further inputs to the President of ECOSOC as additional inputs, I would be thankful if you consider the present letter among the additional inputs to be shared in this regard with the President of ECOSOC.

I remain at your disposal in case you deem further consultations necessary in this regard.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Amr Ramdan

Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN at Geneva

**H.E Ambassador Kyonglim Choi**  
**President of the Human Rights Council**

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