



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

14 January 2020

Dear Chairpersons,

The United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) will meet under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at UN headquarters in New York from 7 to 16 July 2020, with a ministerial segment from 14 to 16 July.

As you are aware, the General Assembly in resolution 70/1 called for thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs, including cross-cutting issues, to take place at the HLPF. In this context, as mandated by the GA, the 2019 HLPF received a total of 67 inputs from functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums. I would like to thank all those who informed the thematic reviews at the 2019 HLPF through their contributions. These inputs, together with the “*Synthesis of voluntary submissions by functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums*” (E/HLPF/2019/4) can be found at the HLPF website: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>.

The HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly (“SDG Summit”) resulted in the adoption of a Political Declaration that proclaimed a decade for action and delivery for sustainable development and outlined ten cross-cutting areas for accelerated action for the achievement of the SDGs. The General Assembly decided in November 2019 that the theme for the 2020 session of the HLPF and the Economic and Social Council will be “*Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”.

The forum in 2020 will follow up on the Summit’s Political Declaration, focusing on areas to accelerate action and delivery at all levels in advancing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

In this regard, I would like to seek your support, as Chair, in ensuring that the Commission/Council or its bureau provide a focused input to the 2020 HLPF and ECOSOC on the theme. This input should highlight your Commission/Council’s views on how best to accelerate action and achieve transformative pathways so as to realize the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The input should focus on the area of responsibility of the Commission/Council but also reflect the interrelations with other SDGs and targets. It could also highlight how the Commission/Council is contributing to accelerating SDG progress. It would be very useful if this input could identify four or five action points that the HLPF could address in its ministerial declaration.

I am attaching a short outline for the input and a list of possible areas of actions that may be considered by the Commission/Council in developing its input.

I would kindly ask you to send your contribution **no later than 16 March 2020** to the HLPF Secretariat (e-mail: wang24@un.org, vonlilien@un.org, vaturi@un.org). Inputs received will be synthesized as an official document of the HLPF and will be posted online on the HLPF website.

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

Mona Juul
President of ECOSOC

Chairpersons of functional commissions of ECOSOC
and other intergovernmental bodies and forums

Annex 1:**Outline of the input of intergovernmental bodies to the HLPF**

1. Key policies and measures to ensure “accelerated action and transformative pathways” for realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development
 - a. Critical gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda within the area of responsibility of the intergovernmental body (bearing in mind interrelations with other goals and targets)
 - b. Priority measures to:
 - i. accelerate action, and
 - ii. ensure transformative pathways to realize the decade of action for achieving the 2030 Agenda
2. Contribution of the intergovernmental body to accelerated action and transformative pathways and realizing the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda within its area of responsibility (including its cooperation with ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies)
3. Selected recommendations for accelerating progress and moving on transformative pathways for realizing the decade of action, for possible use in drafting the HLPF declaration.

Annex 2:**Examples of areas that could be addressed as part of the input of the intergovernmental body**

1. Advancing human well-being and building human capacity, including on eradicating poverty, advancing gender equality and reducing other forms of inequality, universal provision of and access to quality basic services, such as health, education, water, energy, sanitation, disaster risk management, information and communication technology, transport, adequate housing and social protection as well as ensuring that no one is left behind, focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable at the global, regional and national levels and meeting SDGs for all nations, peoples and segments of society;
2. Reducing inequalities in wealth and income through sustainable and just economies, providing adequate and well-directed financing, an enabling environment for sustainable investments and delivering on commitments to international cooperation, aligned to longer-term sustainability pathways and solving challenges through cooperation and partnerships at all levels;
3. Enhancing national implementation by proactively mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda into national planning instruments, policies, strategies and financial frameworks, while respecting national processes and ensuring ownership;
4. Undertaking substantial changes to existing infrastructure, policies, regulations and norms so as to transit toward food and nutrition systems that foster universal good health and eliminate malnutrition while minimizing environmental impacts;
5. Promoting clean, reliable and modern energy sources, including by harnessing the potential of decentralized renewable energy solutions and collaborating to reshape global energy system in order to achieve transmission to net-zero CO₂ emissions by mid-century including by introducing carbon pricing and phasing out fossil fuel subsidies;

6. Supporting global environmental commons through conserving, restoring and sustainably using natural resources and assessing environmental externalities and changing patterns of use through pricing, transfers, regulation and other mechanisms;
7. Strengthening effective, accountable and transparent institutions and ensuring more responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making processes for more integrated solutions, and addressing interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Goals and targets;
8. Implementing policies, investment and innovation to reduce disaster risk and build the resilience of countries, economies, communities and individuals to economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters;
9. Investing in data and statistics for the SDGs and strengthening statistical capacities to address gaps in data on the Sustainable Development Goals in order to allow countries to provide high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and statistics and to fully integrate the Sustainable Development Goals in monitoring and reporting systems;
10. Bolstering local action including at urban and peri-urban areas to accelerate implementation including by giving more autonomy and resources to local governments to engage in effective, evidence-based and inclusive participatory policymaking with an engaged and informed citizenry;
11. Identifying emerging issues likely to affect the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and areas where political guidance by the HLPF is required for achieving the SDGs and targets.