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The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, and has the honor to submit herewith Brazil's input to the report of the Secretary-General, requested in paragraph 90 of "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" adopted at the Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Division for Sustainable Development of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 17 November 2015



BRAZIL - Questionnaire's response

I - Institutional responsibilities for follow-up and review

1. How can the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the HLPF work coherently in follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda? What should be the role of the General Assembly in follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? Do you see a need to adjust the working methods and agenda of the General Assembly, its plenary, second, third committees in particular and their relation to ECOSOC to respond to the 2030 Agenda and ensure coherence, complementarity and efficiency? If so, how?

The UNGA Committees could review the thematic reports of progress from specialized UN agencies, programmes and funds, according to their respective mandates, expertise, and, based on these reports, the GA could suggest relevant issues for the consideration of the HLPF. This effort may imply updating the agendas of the UNGA Committees in accordance with the thematic structure of the SDGs.

All Main Committees of the General Assembly should also have their agendas updated according to the SDGs and the broader Follow up and Review Architecture.

Restructuring the II Committee's agenda, in particular, could provide an opportunity to enhance its integrated approach of the three dimensions of sustainable development, taking into consideration, for example, SDG 12 on sustainable patterns of consumption and production; SDG 8 on industrialization and infrastructure; and SDG 9 on decent jobs and economic growth. Currently, there is a predominance of environmental issues under the item of sustainable development (item 20) of the II Committee's agenda, while economic matters are addressed apart under other items of the II Committee, and social matters are discussed in the III Committee. Other examples are topics such as access to justice and rule of law (SDG 16), which are discussed at the VI Committee, and issues pertaining to the Law of the Sea (SDG 14) and health (SDG 3), dealt at the Plenary of the UNGA.

2. Given its Charter and other mandates, how can ECOSOC help ensure that global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda is coherent?

As reaffirmed by paragraph 82 of the document "The Future we Want", ECOSOC is a principal body for policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, for the follow-up of the outcomes of all major UN Conferences and Summits in the economic, social, and environmental fields; and for the coordination of the UN system.

ECOSOC should ensure coherence among funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the implementation of the SDGs, in order to achieve a balanced integration of the three

dimensions of sustainable development and avoid duplication of mandates and activities. To this end, ECOSOC's functional commissions should play the important role of adding value to the thematic review of SDGs, providing it with a transversal perspective.

They should base their review on the information received from funds, programmes and specialized agencies, with a view to inform the HLPF on the progress of cross-cutting issues of the SDGs. Regional Economic commissions will be critical for the success of the follow up and review at the global level. To this end, Regional Commissions should align their agendas with the HLPF annual themes, while also ensuring that the modalities of the Regional Fora will be defined at the regional level.

3. How can the HLPF most effectively make linkages with the follow-up and review arrangements of United Nations conferences and processes on (1) least developed countries (LDCs), (2) small island developing States (SIDS), and (3) landlocked developing countries (LLDCs)?

The HLPF could benefit from ECOSOC's review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action); the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway; and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024. In this regard, it is important to recall that paragraph 11 of resolution 67/290 affirms that the HLPF "shall devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries".

4. Should the General Assembly provide some guidance to ECOSOC functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums on how they should best reflect their contribution to the review of SDGs, and to the HLPF generally, in their work programmes and sessions? And what would it be?

The UNGA is the main multilateral political body of the United Nations and it can provide guidance to other intergovernmental bodies, such as ECOSOC functional commissions. However, the guidance for the reviews of the SDGs are expected to come from the High Level Political Forum, which has already the mandate to do so. It is important to recall, in this regard, that the GA decided, in resolution 67/290, that the HLPF will "provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments (...)".

Despite ECOSOC's contribution through its Annual Ministerial Review, it is important to recall that the functional commissions - such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) - did not participate in a structured manner in the follow-up process of the MDGs. Moreover, their working methods vary: while the CSocD usually

passes several resolutions on different matters, the CPD and the CSW tend to assemble its decisions in a negotiated document.

The UNGA could provide general guidelines on the content of the thematic information to be provided by ECOSOC functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies. ECOSOC functional commissions could best contribute to the work of the HLPF by exploring the interdependence of SDGs and reviewing cross-cutting issues of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, according to their respective mandates and thematic expertise.

5. How can the HLPF best build on the outcome of ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and the summary by the Co-Chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum on Science, Technology and Innovation?

The HLPF should be the pinnacle of the follow up and review process, reviewing both the progress on the implementation of the SDGs and the assessment of the FfD Forum, and issue recommendations on bridging the finance gap of the SDGs lagging behind. This scheme should build upon primarily the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions of the Forum, which should consider, among others, the report of the inter-agency task force. When the High Level Dialogue is held back-to-back with the HLPF, their agenda should be linked. This would allow for a more detailed stock-taking of progress made on implementing the FfD outcomes, the annual conclusions of the FfD Forum and the HLPF recommendations directed to the FfD Forum, and provide guidelines for overcoming obstacles in financing sustainable development. In these instances, it would be important to consider dedicated loci for civil society inputs.

The Multi-stakeholder Forum on STI is an initiative that can mobilize key constituencies for the implementation of the SDGs. The HLPF should allocate time to hear from the co-chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum on STI, as well as from members of the 10-member multi-stakeholder group.

Relevant provision for the Technology Facilitation Mechanism should also be included in the Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF, including the theme for the Forum on STI, as per paragraph 123 of Addis Ababa Action Agenda and paragraph 70 of Agenda 2030.

II - Overarching annual theme of the HLPF vs thematic reviews of progress of the SDGs to be carried out by the HLPF

6. Should the HLPF thematic reviews of the progress on the SDGs (i) focus on clusters of closely related SDGs or (ii) examine progress in all SDGs based upon on a transversal theme such as gender, health or education or (iii) address four SDGs every year, taken in a numerical order, along with SDG17? If option (ii) is preferred, when and how should the transversal theme be decided upon?

Brazil favors the focus on four clusters of four closely related SDGs over four years (4x4x4x4), ensuring that each time the HLPF takes an integrated approach of the three

dimensions of sustainable development. Means of implementation (SDG 17) should be assessed annually in conjunction with the other four SDGs under analysis and their specific means of implementation. Accordingly, the HLPF would undertake at least three complete cycles of reviews of all SDGs before 2030.

7. What kind of inputs should functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums provide to the HLPF (e.g. negotiated outcomes, summary of discussions and analysis or other)? And how should the inputs of various platforms be presented to the HLPF so as to best support its review and political leadership, guidance and recommendations?

Functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums could provide the HLPF with summaries of internal discussions on transversal themes related to the 2030 Agenda. The HLPF will provide an integrated vision of sustainable development, supported by those documents.

8. What would be good overarching annual themes for the HLPF to address (when it meets under the auspices of ECOSOC) and how can they be aligned to that the theme of ECOSOC? Please give several examples?

- (i) Sustainable consumption and production and job creation;
- (ii) Sustainable cities and access to energy, water and sanitation;
- (iii) Eradicating poverty while protecting and conserving biodiversity;
- (iv) Curbing inequalities through the empowerment of women and girls;
- (v) Inclusive institutions and equality among countries;
- (vi) Tackling inequalities through the promotion of food security and inclusive economic growth;
- (vii) Healthy lives and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- (viii) Access to justice and education in environmental matters;
- (ix) Climate change adaptation and the prevention of natural disasters.

9. How long in advance should HLPF themes be known? For example, (i) should there be a programme of work for the four years in between two meetings of the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly or for a longer time period or (ii) should themes be determined every year and if so how could other intergovernmental platforms and other relevant actors contribute to the HLPF review?

Brazil favors the adoption of a program of work for the four years in between two meetings of the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly. That would provide more predictability to the process and allow member countries, specialized UN agencies, programmes and funds, and other stakeholders to better prepare their reports.

10. Should the multi-stakeholder forum on Science, Technology and Innovation address the same theme as the HLPF?

The multi-stakeholder forum on Science, Technology and Innovation could benefit from addressing the same theme as the HLPF. Nonetheless, it should not restrain itself to the exact topics being discussed at the HLPF. The multi-stakeholder forum should have enough room to address any other topic of its interest on science, technology and innovation in the context of sustainable development.

11. How should the United Nations Statistical Commission best contribute to the work of HLPF?

The UN Statistical Commission should fulfill its mandate in producing indicators and statistics with coherence and using common standards for the purpose of international comparability. It could also contribute to the work of the HLPF by updating global indicators for the follow-up of SDGs as new data, methodological developments and consensus arise. The process of elaborating and updating global indicators will be a continuous task that goes beyond the decision that will be taken in March 2016.

12. What arrangements would be needed to allow the HLPF to identify and consider new and emerging issues?

In addition to its follow-up and review functions, the HLPF should be able to provide political recommendation to countries in issues pertaining to the promotion of sustainable development. Thus, the HLPF shall be provided with the necessary resources enabling it to discharge its broad mandate.

13. How can platforms and processes outside the UN system, including those run by other international or regional organizations and by non-state actors, contribute to thematic reviews at the HLPF?

In the case of processes outside the UN system involving regional organizations and non-state actors, an online platform could be used to consolidate all relevant contributions, such as recommendations and successful cases (see answers to questions 22 and 23).

III - HLPF National Reviews of implementation: Preparation and conduct of national reviews

14. How often would countries be expected to participate in regular state-led reviews in order to allow for a meaningful exchange of experiences and feedback at the HLPF? Should there be a minimum number of reviews within 15 years to be presented at the HLPF?

Considering that national reviews are voluntary and country-led, each country could participate at least once over the 15 year SDG complete cycle. Ideally, countries could participate twice, with a considerable amount of time from the first to the second reviews, in order to have a clear standard of comparison between both periods. There should be a limitation to a maximum of three regular state-led reviews per country over the 15 year period - with at least a time span of 4 years between each review -, so all countries will have the opportunity to submit their reviews to the HLPF.

15. How can the HLPF discussions on the reviews be best prepared in order to facilitate a sharing of experiences and the provision of political leadership, guidance and recommendations at the HLPF? How would countries like to be supported in preparing the review process at global level?

The HLPF shall build upon regional assessment processes, mainly through the reviews prepared by each regional forum taking into consideration national reports. Through regional inputs, the HLPF could create a portfolio of best practices, so as to facilitate the sharing of experiences. In addition, it could issue general recommendations, based on the identified common challenges of each region.

Voluntary common reporting guidelines

16. In order to help elaborate voluntary common reporting guidelines for State-led reviews at the HLPF, kindly indicate what issues you would want the HLPF to address systematically when it examines national implementation reviews?

HLPF could systematically address progress aimed at identifying the most successful policies, as well as the gaps in implementation and the availability of means when examining national reviews.

17. How can the guidelines leave enough flexibility to Member States while ensuring sufficient comparability between HLPF reviews to facilitate cross-country comparisons and to help track global progress? Could guidelines identify a core set of issues, in addition to the status of all SDGs and Targets, which all countries would be encouraged to address in their previews and, in addition, a number of issues which countries might consider addressing if feasible?

Brazil favors the adoption of the following guidelines to country reviews: (i) short introduction focusing on the interrelations of the SDGs and the main national strategies and policies for sustainable development; (ii) specific sections for the follow-up of the progress for each SDG; (iii) a section for financing challenges; and (iv) a technical section explaining the rationale of specific national or regional indicators.

Presentation of national reviews to the HLPF

18. How should the country reviews be featured and discussed at the formal HLPF meeting?

Country reviews shall be voluntary and country-led, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting policy space and priorities. Building upon pre-existing models of Millennium Development Goals reporting is recommended. Country reviews should be analyzed in light of regional and global trends, in order to assist them to find all possible strategies to accelerate progress in the implementation of SDGs.

19. How can national reviews give adequate attention to the means of implementation? How can they help to mobilize new support and partnerships?

National reviews could inform the amount of national resources made available for the promotion of SDGs, including international cooperation flows. In addition, countries could be invited to indicate eventual gaps of means of implementation for specific SDGs. Identifying good practices and policies could also help mobilizing new support and partnerships.

20. What kind of outcome should result from the HLPF national reviews of implementation, and how could there be a follow-up to these reviews?

HLPF national reviews of implementation could result in general recommendations to all countries, based on the best practices identified during the process. In subsequent reviews, countries could be invited to address those recommendations and other past issues raised by the HLPF.

IV - Regional reviews and processes

21. How should the outcome of regional review processes be considered at HLPF?

Regional review should identify trends and challenges in the region as a whole, as well as highlight successful regional and sub-regional cooperation initiatives on shared targets.

V - Inclusion of UN system and other stakeholders in global follow-up and review

22. How can the HLPF support the participation by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the follow-up and review processes conducted at the global level including the thematic and country reviews? What are possible options to seek their contributions to the reviews at the HLPF, (building on the modalities for the participation of major groups defined by General Assembly resolution 67/290 and the practices of the General Assembly open working group on SDGs)?

Countries should be encouraged to engage civil society in the consultation for national and regional reviews. Building on the experience of the SDGs negotiation, a civil society forum could be held during HLPF sessions. Furthermore, an online platform could consolidate all civil society contributions, including recommendations and successful cases. It should be aimed at a broader representation than the current major groups allow for. Arrangements to allow the representation of national civil society organizations and local authorities should be considered.

23. The 2030 Agenda calls on major groups and other stakeholders to report on their contribution to the implementation of 2030 Agenda. How can such reviews be prepared and conducted at the HLPF? How can these actors be encouraged to engage in such reviews?

The current structure of the major groups is inadequate to engage all stakeholders to report on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Civil society organizations, including local authorities, should be granted broad and free access to an online platform, which could consolidate their contributions and recommendations to be later used as reference to member countries and other stakeholders.

24. How should UN system contribution to the implementation of 2030 Agenda be reviewed?

Specialized agencies, programmes and funds should submit, upon approval of their respective governing bodies, all relevant information on the implementation of SDGs to the UNGA and ECOSOC as appropriate, to be later considered by the HLPF.

25. What steps can the UN system, including the Secretariat take to best support follow-up and review in a coherent and effective manner?

All international bodies should act according to their mandates - especially those provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - in order to best support follow-up and review in a coherent and effective manner, avoiding duplication of efforts and deepening coordination within the UN system.

VI - Other views and ideas

26. Please add any other points you would like to raise.