



New York, 19 March 2013

Excellency,

We would like to invite you to the third open-ended consultation on the format and organizational modalities of the high-level political forum, to be held on **Thursday, 21 March from 3:30 to 6:00 pm** in Conference Room 2 (NLB).

As envisaged at the last consultation meeting of 1 March, we would like to hear your initial views on the attached elements for a future draft resolution on the HLPF. We would encourage delegations to take into consideration the SG report on lessons learned from the CSD.

We look forward to your active participation in this meeting.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Viotti', written in a cursive style.

Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil
to the United Nations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Ragaglini', written in a cursive style.

Cesare Maria Ragaglini
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Italy
to the United Nations

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York

Non-exhaustive elements on the format and organizational modalities of the high-level political forum

Preambular section

To be recalled:

Resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012 (endorsement of the outcome document of the UNCSD) - in particular, the decision to establish the forum (paragraph 84) - and resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012 (Agenda 21);

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”);

Programme of Action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States, the Declaration and state of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome document of the High-Level Review Meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States;

Commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields;

Operative section

Taking note of the report of the Secretary General on the lessons learned from the CSD (SG report);

Institutional format

The Forum shall be convened yearly, at ministerial level and with universal participation, by the President of the Economic and Social Council, for a period up to 3 days, during the high level segment of the Economic and Social Council, and every four years, for a period of up to two days, by the President of the General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and

Government, at the beginning of the GA session (**institutional link to ECOSOC and GA, periodicity, level and duration of meetings, as reflected in the chart**);

(optional) The forum will not meet at ministerial level in years when it meets at the level of Heads of State and Government (**different periodicity of the Forum's sessions**);

Member States will be encouraged to ensure that their participation in the ministerial sessions of the Forum reflect, in a national perspective, the integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development (**formula promoting the representation of the three dimensions of SD**);

The outcome of the ministerial level meeting will be a President's summary, whereas the outcome of the Heads of State and Government meeting will be a concise political declaration (**outcome**);

A preparatory committee of the Forum, with universal membership and an annually rotating Chair among regional groups, shall be convened every year in May, for up to 10 working days, including an implementation segment and a thematic segment, with one day devoted to the Small Island Developing States; the meeting of the preparatory committee shall lead to the adoption of a report with recommendations to the Economic and Social Council (**preparatory committee, as reflected in the chart**);

The report of the preparatory committee, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council, and the President's summary of the ministerial session of the Forum will be submitted annually to the General Assembly for appropriate action (**reporting line**);

The Forum will hold annual regional preparatory meetings, before the meetings of the preparatory committee, organized by the United Nations regional commissions and involving also relevant regional entities and major groups (**regional preparatory meetings, as reflected in the chart**);

The meetings of the preparatory committee and the meetings of the Forum will be held at the United Nations Headquarters, unless otherwise decided in accordance with established United Nations rules and practice (**venue**);

The Forum shall have a Bureau, elected annually by the preparatory committee and consisting of the Chair of the preparatory committee and one member from the other UN regional groups; the Bureau will define the programme of work of the forum and decide on other organizational and procedural matters (**Bureau, as reflected in the chart**);

UN System

The Forum shall be open, in all configurations, to high-level participants from UN agencies, funds and programs, other relevant multilateral financial and trade institutions and treaty bodies, to be invited on the basis of the agenda of the meetings and upon decision of the Bureau (**participation of UN system**);

Major Groups

The Forum shall also be open to participants from **Major Groups** and other relevant stakeholders with modalities to be based on CSD rules and practice.

Working principles and RoPs

The work of the Forum shall be guided by the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness (**working principles**);

The preparatory committee of the Forum shall operate under **rules of procedure** of the functional commissions of ECOSOC; the ministerial session of the Forum will operate on the basis of the organizational arrangements of the Development Cooperation Forum.

Functions of the Forum

The **functions** of the forum will be those listed in paragraph 85 of the Rio outcome document;

The Forum shall also assume, review and, where necessary, improve and rationalize all mandates, functions and responsibilities of the Commission on Sustainable Development in order to build on the strengths and experiences of the Commission (**CSD legacy**);

Additionally, the Forum may follow-up on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Secretariat

The Forum shall be serviced by the CSD Secretariat (**Secretariat**);

Financial aspects

The Secretary-General will be requested to establish the **Forum's voluntary trust fund** carrying over all the remaining funds from the CSD Trust Fund; Member States, financial institutions and other organizations will be invited to contribute to this Fund;

Closing paragraphs

The Economic and Social Council will be recommended to **abolish the CSD** effective from the conclusion of its last session;

The Forum shall review its organization and functioning modalities five years after its first meeting and report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly (**review clause**).

Indications will have to be provided to the PGA to convene the **first meeting of the Forum** at the beginning of the 68th session;

HLPF - Institutional Format

