



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15 May 2013

Excellency,

With reference to my previous communications related to the Review of the Implementation of Resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, I have the honor to bring to your attention the attached report by co-facilitators, H.E. Ambassador Bénédicte Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium, and H.E. Ambassador George Talbot, Permanent Representative of Guyana. The Report was drafted after seven open-ended informal consultations that the co-facilitators held between December 2012 and February 2013.

I would like to express my appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Bénédicte Frankinet and H.E. Ambassador George Talbot for their valuable work. I am also grateful to H.E. Ambassador Jan Grauls, former Permanent Representative of Belgium, for his contribution as a co-facilitator at the beginning of this process.

You will notice that the Report includes draft elements for a resolution on the strengthening of ECOSOC, to be considered by the General Assembly. I have asked Ambassador Frankinet and Ambassador Talbot to continue their work as co-facilitators and carry out consultations on the draft resolution. I am grateful to them for accepting this responsibility.

I count on Member States to provide support to the work of the co-facilitators and to productively engage in the forthcoming consultations.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Vuk Jeremic', written over a horizontal line.

Vuk Jeremic

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

Review of the Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 61/16 on the Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

**Report of the Co-facilitators
May 2013**

A. Introduction

The President of the General Assembly appointed H.E. Mr. Jan Grauls, later replaced by H.E. Mrs. Benedicte Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium, and H.E. Mr. George Talbot, Permanent Representative of Guyana, as co-facilitators of the process for the further review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

In this connection, it should be recalled that the World Summit Outcome document, in paragraph 155, reaffirmed the role that the UN Charter and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council, recognizing the need for a more effective ECOSOC as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development and related matters, as well as for implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals.

More recently, the Rio+20 Summit outcome (The Future We Want) in paragraph 83 committed to strengthen the Council within its mandate under the Charter, as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields and recognized the key role of ECOSOC in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The review has to be positioned therefore in the context of the follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome and of the unfolding elaboration of a post-2015 development framework.

Moreover, the current review takes place at a time of significant changes in the broader environment for global development cooperation, notably the changing nature of development challenges, the growth of new institutional actors, the emergence of new centers of economic dynamism, and the transformation of the relationship among states, markets and individuals, all of which have important implications for the work of the United Nations development system.

In pursuit of the commitment to continue to strengthen the ECOSOC, and in fulfilment of this mandate, the co-facilitators conducted seven open-ended informal consultations with Member States between 14 December 2012 and 26 February 2013. To facilitate the discussions, the co-facilitators provided several "Food for Thought" and a "Food for Progress" conference room papers as well as a "Possible Timeline" diagram. As mandated by resolution 2012/30 of the Economic and Social Council, a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the

strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”¹ was provided as an input to the discussions. Additionally, a number of bilateral consultations were conducted that also fed into the review process.

B. General objectives, context and scope of the review

The general objectives of the informal consultations were to ascertain the views of Member States of the United Nations on the further implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the ECOSOC and on charting the future course for the work of the Council in response to the mandates contained in paragraphs 82 and 83 of the Rio+20 outcome document.

The consultations were undertaken against the backdrop of several other related processes taking place in the General Assembly. These included the open-ended working group of the General Assembly on the sustainable development goals; the informal consultations of the plenary of the General Assembly to define the format and organizational aspects of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF); the expert group on SD Financing and the consultations underway on the elaboration of a post-2015 development framework. Member States emphasized the necessity of a coherent approach to the strengthening of ECOSOC with respect to these other processes. In this regard, ECOSOC should also be seen as a system.

C. A vision for the future

It is not the first time that the reform of ECOSOC is on the UN-agenda. Many attempts have been undertaken, often with mixed results. There is a general sense within the UN membership that the Council’s relevance as a principal UN organ has diminished over the years.

As a consequence a new **transformative vision** is needed in order to allow ECOSOC to live up to expectations again and make full use of its potential, by:

- capturing trends and **global challenges** that are of interest across the UN-system
- producing more real **added value** and defining its own “niche”
- attracting the right **stakeholders**
- being a genuine **thought leader**, offering recommendations and promoting policy consensus on economic, social and environmental issues in the context of sustainable development
- being a **convening hub** where the wider UN development system, together with World Bank, IMF, WTO and other stakeholders can debate, cooperate and enrich each other’s work, taking account of the respective mandates and responsibilities
- coordinating different bodies and institutions and bringing greater **coherence and “collective thinking”** within the UN system
- proactively supporting the **implementation** and follow-up of sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.

A more relevant ECOSOC can greatly enhance the visibility and influence of the UN in those fields.

¹ A/67/736 - E/2013/7

D. Why can we succeed this time? General Trends from the debate

Rio+20 reconfirmed the important role of ECOSOC for the **integration** of the **three dimensions** (economic, social and environmental) of sustainable development and the integrated and **coordinated follow-up** of the major UN Conferences in this regard. Rio+20 also agreed that poverty eradication and sustainability go hand in hand. In this context, the multilateral system is faced with a **new development landscape** post-2015 marked by a number of emerging challenges and opportunities. Against this backdrop, the strengthening of ECOSOC as requested in 61/16, comes at a very opportune juncture.

In order to improve ECOSOC's relevance, a number of general trends emerged from the consultation process that can be summed as follows:

- The need for a more focused and **relevant ECOSOC agenda** with real and distinctive added value;
- The desirability of having a well-chosen **main theme** (connected to 'real world' issues), to be taken up by all relevant parts of the ECOSOC-system², thus bringing better together the specific know-how available within the ECOSOC architecture, feeding inter-linkages / synergies;
- A readiness to shift from searching for structural coherence (along institutional lines) to **issue coherence** (depending on theme, different players involved) in setting the agenda of the Council;
- Making full use of ECOSOC's **convening power**: develop ECOSOC as a forum where the wider UN development system, together with BWIs, WTO and other stakeholders can debate, cooperate and enrich each other's work;
- Promote greater utilization of ECOSOC's prerogatives to respond quickly to pressing issues, major events, emergencies and **crises**; using the expertise of the ECOSOC system;
- A better **sequencing of activities** by ECOSOC in order to make the Council more relevant in the context of major initiatives and meetings within the UN system;
- An openness of many member states to revisit the **segment structure** and **timelines**, including stepping away from an automatic 2 year alternation between New York and Geneva towards a more NY-based approach, and consider holding meetings of ECOSOC on an ad hoc basis at other locations (e.g. in Africa) to bring the Council closer to those it serves;
- Importance of keeping a strong **focus on development** issues; with a special consideration for the concerns of SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs within the restructured sessions³;

² This would in no way preclude ECOSOC's discussion of other issues (taxation, public administration, narcotics, statistics ...) that subsidiary bodies might bring to the Council's attention

³ To be defined in the context of the negotiations on the establishment of the ILPF

- Contribute to a **balanced integration** of the **three dimensions** of sustainable development and enhance ECOSOC's key role for the **coordinated follow-up** of the outcomes of major UN conferences and summits, taking into account also of the other mandates of the Council in operational activities for development, coordination and oversight over the subsidiary bodies;
- Improving and **broadening the scope of its engagement with civil society** and other relevant stakeholders, while reaffirming the intergovernmental character of the work of ECOSOC;
- The need to promote complementarity and to **avoid duplication** and overlap in the work of the Economic and Social Council, especially with the work of the General Assembly and its Second and Third Committees and eliminate what no longer has a purpose;
- The need for more **action- and solution-oriented outcomes** of ECOSOC debates with more focus on substance and less on textual negotiations and resolutions (quality vs. quantity);
- Need for the strong leadership of ECOSOC through a strengthened Presidency;
- Full support for **increased interaction** between the ECOSOC Bureau/President and the Bureaux/Presidents of other organs of the United Nations and the subsidiary bodies of the Council and follow-up of this interaction in order to fill possible gaps;
- Encourage the funds and programmes and other subsidiary bodies to produce **executive summary-type reports**, with a focus on issues related to the annual theme of the Economic and Social Council in order to facilitate more **strategic discussions** between the Council and the heads of the subsidiary bodies. This will help to reduce the reporting burden while maintaining effective oversight;
- A call to the ECOSOC Bureau to **prepare** jointly with the Secretariat for important meetings well in advance, for example, with the international financial and trade institutions;
- Rationalization of the number of resolutions and avoid duplication of agenda items;
- The recognition that there is a clear **link** between the current review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and **other related processes** in the General Assembly, notably the work of the Working Group on the sustainable development goals, the high-level political forum (HLPF)⁴, and the process on the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;
- The need for the Council to continue to be proactive in assessing the effectiveness of the current measures.

⁴ To be defined in the context of the negotiations on the establishment of the HLPF

E. How can we succeed? Possible Deliverables

In designing this new vision for ECOSOC, there is a role for the GA, the ECOSOC Plenary, the ECOSOC Bureau and also the Secretariat.

Recommendations requiring a new GA mandate

- **Segment Structure:** Revise the current segment structure and timelines of the ECOSOC as follows: a coherence session in February/March, a humanitarian session between March/June, an integration session in May, a High Level Development Week in June/July. By spreading the different sessions throughout the year, the Council would create stepping stones from the bottom (bring coherence at operational level) to the top (give policy guidance at the normative level) and vice versa.
- **Coherence Session:** A coherence session would focus on improving coordination between various UN system entities, ensuring that they are complementing each other and indentifying linkages between their work. This session would be held after the meetings of the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes and will provide the opportunity for them and other agencies to contribute through the main theme to the wider UN development agenda. A crucial function of this session will be to focus on the follow-up of the QCPR and the coordination of operational activities at field level.
- **Humanitarian Session:** the humanitarian segment – which is widely considered to be successful - would be transformed into an independent and more visible “humanitarian session”. ECOSOC should also be able to convene ad hoc meetings on emergencies, especially with regards to humanitarian crises. This session could alternate between New York and Geneva, and other locations as necessary.
- **Integration Session⁵:** The integration session would consolidate in a balanced manner the inputs provided during previous sessions by organizations, commissions, agencies and other actors linked to ECOSOC in the social, economic, environmental and related fields in order to identify policy recommendations and orientations that conduce to an integrated sustainable development agenda.
- **High Level Development Week⁶:** the HL session of ECOSOC would be moved towards the end – rather than at the beginning of the substantive cycle – allowing momentum to build up in the preparatory process and would be “rebranded” as the High Level Development (HLD) Week. The AMR and DCF as established in 61/16 have been successful and would remain an integral part of this IILD Week. The denomination “High Level Development Week” speaks more to the imagination and gives greater political visibility. This Development Week needs to give enhanced focus to development cooperation and bring together a diverse base of participants to discuss development trends and emerging global development issues - such as inequality, youth, countries in special situations etc., as well as (sustainable) development financing - and promote mutual accountability in development cooperation This HL Development Week will validate the work of the past ECOSOC cycle and draw policy conclusions for the future.

⁵ To be defined in the context of the HLPF-facilitation

⁶ To be defined in the context of the HLPF-facilitation

- **Coordination and Management Issues:** aspects such as reviews and discussions of the reports of subsidiary bodies, procedural reports of the functional and regional commissions and coordination discussions with the CEB could be dealt with throughout the year within resumed sessions or in a dedicated stand-alone session. By separating this “housekeeping function” from the rest, the respective substantive sessions can focus on policy guidance and exchanges around an overarching theme, which should nurture the debate and high level attendance.
- **Elections:** Revise the scheduling of the Election of the Members and Bureau of ECOSOC, to align it with the new sessions, as per the proposed timeline;
- **Location:** Revisit the NY/Geneva alternation of ECOSOC sessions with a view to a more NY-based approach, including, however, the possibility of holding some meetings at other locations on an ad hoc basis to bring ECOSOC closer to those it serves (link with main theme).
- **Countries in Special Situations:** Clearly define a platform to address development concerns of SIDS, LDC, LLDCs and Africa⁷ within the restructured sessions.
- **International Financial and Trade Institutions:** Decide on an enhanced and more structured dialogue with international financial and trade institutions, including through the annual meeting back to back with the World Bank / IMF Spring Meetings, with a view to enhancing follow-up and implementation of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and promoting coordination of the Financing for Development process with the intergovernmental process on sustainable development financing. The dialogue could contribute to the integration of the economic dimension, including through a review of trends in international macroeconomics, trade and finance as they relate to the Council’s main theme.
- **Secretariat:** Enhance UN system-wide support in preparation of ECOSOC meetings, including those responding to emergencies and crisis, to bolster the capacity of the dedicated ECOSOC support secretariat through a more flexible secretariat structure.
- **AMR:** Facilitate a strengthened role for the AMR⁸ as a tool for integrated and coordinated follow-up through an improved preparatory process at global (policy drivers), regional (through the Regional Commissions) and national level (implementation of national SD strategies), improving implementation of agreed goals. This would help in promoting the integration of the three dimensions at different levels.
- **Civil Society:** Strengthen engagement with multiple stakeholders, for example, by holding the Partnership and Youth Forums on a regular, rather than an ad hoc basis.

<i>Recommendations requiring an ECOSOC decision</i>
--

1. From the ECOSOC Plenary

⁷ To be defined in the context of the HLPF-facilitation

⁸ To be defined in the context of the HLPF-facilitation

- **Early Election of the ECOSOC Bureau** (July-July cycle): New bureau of ECOSOC to be elected no later than July.
- **Work Program/Agenda:** Based on the early election, ECOSOC should discuss and adopt a focused and streamlined agenda, and an accompanying program of work, to be proposed by the Bureau.
- **Main Theme:** the streamlined ECOSOC agenda should include an overarching theme to be proposed by the bureau, at the beginning of the ECOSOC cycle, which also aligns DCF/AMR themes.
- **Reporting:** Request from subsidiary bodies, funds and programmes, and other relevant UN entities for more executive-summary-type reporting based on a similar template, with a focus on issues related to the main theme, in order to feed into each other's work and nurture overarching strategic discussions as well as rationalizing their regular annual and QCPR report.
- Request reports with improved policy content by subsidiary bodies, funds and programmes, and other relevant UN entities to be made available well in advance of ECOSOC meetings in order to give sufficient time to prepare its discussion.
- **AMR:** Improve the AMR preparatory process (through the Regional Commissions and UN Country Teams) by focusing on better dissemination of best practices and lessons learned and integrating regional and national perspectives.
- Transform the current National Voluntary Presentation into Voluntary Mutual Reviews with appropriate technical guidelines, reporting system and strengthened secretariat support; this also has the potential to fulfill the Rio+20 requirement for national and regional inputs.
- **CEB:** Enhance the interface between the CEB and ECOSOC beyond current practices;
- Invite the Executive Boards to recommend to ECOSOC issues they would wish to be considered in a broader perspective (preferably at the joint request by different Executive Boards).
- **Rationalization of Resolutions:** efforts should be undertaken – in coordination with the GA and its Second and Third Committee – to rationalize the number, scope and content of resolutions negotiated by the Council.
- **Civil Society:** strengthen the engagement of civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders with the Council as partners in development.

2. From the ECOSOC Bureau

- **Program of Work:** Establish a programme of work at the beginning of their term in order to ensure synchronization with the wider UN agenda.

- **Preparation of Meetings:** Take a more proactive role in the preparation of meetings, in regard to agenda-setting and in contacts with the wider UN system.
- **Coordination with affiliated partners :** Arrange meetings with the Bureaux of the Second and Third Committees at an early stage in order to:
 - discuss the respective programs of work (substance and calendars); and
 - seek complementarities
- Maintain regular contacts, including informal contacts, with the Bureaux of Second/Third Committee and with the PBC.
- Arrange timely meetings between the ECOSOC President and the President of the GA to promote coordination and coherence.
- Commence early and in-depth preparation of the meetings with BWIs/Funds and Programmes/subsidiary bodies, with a view to:
 - agreeing at an early stage on dates of meetings and agendas;
 - focusing on important and well-targeted items, related to ECOSOC's main theme; and
 - better coordinating the substance of the discussions
- **Better use of procedures/modalities:** Ensure more interactive debates where each organization uses its specific know-how to contribute to the specific ECOSOC theme.
- In the margins of the formal meetings, encourage informal and flexible formats of interaction between representatives of BWIs/specialized agencies and ECOSOC.
- Bring in a broader range of expertise and knowledge by making the right choices of speakers and participants (state and non-state, private sector, trade union, academics, think tanks and NGOs).

<i>Recommendations for the Secretary General</i>

- Increase **cooperation and coherence** across the UN family (secretariat, funds and programmes, other relevant UN system entities) to give better support to the reformed ECOSOC to fulfill its functions;
- As the **central hub** of support for ECOSOC, DESA should draw upon the resources from the rest of the UN System and call on members of the UN family to produce specific contributions;
- **Broaden support** to ECOSOC and its bureau through:
 - a better **integration** of the knowledge and expertise available within the wider UN-machinery;
 - a **flexible secretariat** structure in support of ECOSOC activities, taking account of the issues discussed; and
 - greater secretariat support for the President of ECOSOC.

F. Reflection on the Linkage between ECOSOC/HLPF

A careful review of the Rio+20 Outcome points to substantive convergence and synergies in the mandate and work of ECOSOC with that of the HLPF, and indeed of the GA, as it relates to the sustainable development agenda. This substantive convergence suggests the need for institutional coordination and complementarity if the sustainable development agenda is to be addressed in a coherent and integrated manner across the UN system. The pursuit of a "hybrid approach" to the Forum is therefore to be welcomed.

In the context of the hybrid approach it would be important that the substantive and institutional linkages between the ECOSOC and the HLPF are clearly defined and delineated in order to maximise substantive coherence and cross-institutional synergies. The following are among the possible areas for consideration in the relevant processes:

- An **integrated thematic focus** between HLPF and ECOSOC, where broad, periodic HLPF policy guidance by Heads of States/Government could be taken up by the whole UN development machinery. The yearly Ministerial Session under the auspices of ECOSOC could be organized around a specific main theme, proposed by the bureau and taken up by the ECOSOC system. This thematic coherence should contribute to the integration of the three dimensions of SD and facilitate ECOSOC's coordination role as well.
- Given the substantive convergence, an **institutional convergence** is advisable to avoid overlap/duplication:
 - **Link HLPF HoS / G meeting with the ECOSOC Implementation Agenda:** The yearly main theme put forward by ECOSOC should be such that it contributes to the implementation of the outcomes of the HoS /G meetings of the HLPF, as well as to the subsequent policy deliberations at the ministerial and Heads levels.
 - **Link HLPF Ministerial Meeting with ECOSOC HL Development Week:** The outcomes of the DCF and AMR could be taken into account by the Ministerial version of the HLPF. ECOSOC, currently tasked with the implementation of the MDGs (through its AMR), will thus have to transform into a post-2015 follow-up mechanism with poverty eradication and sustainable development as its overarching focus. Accordingly, the proposed "development week" could evolve into a "post-2015 development week/SD week" becoming the "landing zone" of the HLPF Ministerial Meeting.
 - **Link HLPF Prepcom with the ECOSOC Integration Session:** The role of integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, as a key point of convergence between ECOSOC and the HLPF, needs to be carefully considered in the context of the ECOSOC/HLPF relationship, taking into account the coordination role ECOSOC, and the need to draw on the strengths of the ECOSOC system. ECOSOC could thus organize its proposed integration session as a universal "special session of ECOSOC" in view of both integrating the three pillars and preparing the HLPF (accommodating the need for universality of the latter).

- Throughout these different levels, a strong focus should be maintained on development issues, with a special consideration for the concerns of countries in special situations.

Given the important linkage with the ECOSOC strengthening process, the HLPF should be seen as a process / forum, building on the strengths of other organs (GA/ECOSOC), and not as a new institution.

G. Areas requiring further reflection

The question of equitable geographical representation and the expansion of the **ECOSOC Membership** is an issue raised during the facilitation process on which further discussion may be required in a different context.

H. Moving forward

A phased approach to implementing the recommendations of this report is proposed. Member States will need to negotiate a resolution to address the recommendations requiring a GA mandate. Measures pertinent to the ECOSOC Bureau and ECOSOC Plenary should be brought to their attention for consideration and action as appropriate. The elements proposed by the co-facilitators can provide a basis for the negotiations in the General Assembly. Actions to implement the recommendations at various levels should be pursued as soon as is practicable.

Apart from the possible elements for a resolution (Food for Action), the co-facilitators also attach a possible Timeline for the New ECOSOC Cycle

The ECOSOC We Want

Food For Action

Draft Elements for Resolution on Strengthening of ECOSOC

Following seven rounds of consultations, we recommend that the elements that follow form the basis for consideration by Member States of aspects that require further deliberation and action by the General Assembly. The elements should be considered in conjunction with the co-facilitators report (with recommendations for ECOSOC Plenary, Bureau and the Secretariat and the co-facilitators' reflection on the link with the HLPF), the Report of the Secretary General and other explanatory documentation provided by the co-facilitators. To strengthen the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of ECOSOC in order to discharge its Charter mandate in the contemporary context we propose:

Preambular Elements

Recall General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006, on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, and 65/285 of 11 June 2011 .

Recall also the Rio+20 outcome document, in particular paragraph 82 and 83 related to the role of ECOSOC; and paragraphs 84-86 on the HLPF

Take note of the processes underway in the General Assembly, in implementation of the Rio+20 outcome and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, and their implications for the strengthening of ECOSOC.

Operative Elements

Report

Take note of the report of the open-ended consultations on review of resolution 61/16

Take note of the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

Encourage Member States, the Economic and Social Council, and the organisations and entities of the UN system to consider the recommendations contained in the report, A/67/...

Request the Secretary General to provide the fullest possible support to the implementation of the said recommendations.

ECOSOC Cycle

Decide to adopt a July – July cycle for the work of the Council and to adjust the election cycle to accommodate early election of members of the Council and members of the new Bureau. Transitional arrangements will be put in place to adapt to the revised schedule.

Main Theme

Emphasise the need for a strengthened issues-based approach to the work of the Council, and an enhancement of ECOSOC's profile as a thought leader on substantive issues relevant to the global development agenda;

Recommend that the Council base its annual programme of work on a main theme to be determined at the beginning of the ECOSOC cycle in order to provide substantive focus and coherence to the work of the entire ECOSOC system, drawing upon its diversity and specialized strengths.

Segment Structure and Timelines

Decide to revise the current segment structure of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in favour of discrete substantive sessions to be held throughout the ECOSOC cycle:

- **Coherence Session:** will focus on improving coordination between UN-system entities (and beyond) through the main theme. This session will be held at the beginning of the substantive ECOSOC cycle (after the meetings of the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes) - with the view to obtaining a horizontal system-wide approach to implementation of development policy recommendations. A crucial function will be to focus on the follow-up to the QCPR and the coordination of operational activities at field level.
- **Humanitarian Session:** will focus on emergencies with regards to humanitarian crisis, the transition from relief to development, and addressing special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance;
- **Integration Session:** will facilitate the consolidation by Member States and other stakeholders in a balanced manner of the inputs provided by organizations, commissions, agencies and other actors linked to ECOSOC on the social, economic, environmental and related fields in order to provide policy options, integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development as mandated in Rio+20, with a multi-stakeholder dialogue;
- **High Level Development Week:** will focus on development cooperation and implementation and bring together a diverse base of participants to consider development trends and emerging global development issues (such as inequality, youth, countries in special situations, sustainable development financing, et cetera). It will take place at the end of the substantive cycle, validating the work of the past ECOSOC cycle and drawing policy conclusions for the future.

Decide that **Coordination and Management Issues** such as the review and discussion of the regular reports of the subsidiary bodies, procedural matters, review of coordination related work of the UN interagency system will be dealt with through limited resumed sessions throughout the year or in a dedicated stand-alone session, guided by the need for timeliness and efficiency of action.

Alternation

Decide to standardize ECOSOC meetings in New York, with other meetings and sessions held in Geneva and other locations on an ad hoc basis.

The humanitarian session could continue to alternate between New York and Geneva and other locations as necessary.

Global Dialogue

Decide that the Economic and Social Council should continue to promote global dialogue, inter alia, through strengthening existing arrangements, including

- An enhanced and more structured dialogue with international financial and trade institutions, including holding the annual meeting back to back with the World Bank / IMF Spring Meetings, with a view to enhancing follow-up and implementation of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and promoting coordination of the Financing for Development process with the intergovernmental process on sustainable development financing. The dialogue could contribute to the integration of the economic dimension, including through a review of trends in international macroeconomics, trade and finance as they relate to the Council's main theme;
- An annual HL policy dialogue with the wider UN development system, together with international financial and trade institutions and other stakeholders in the framework of a strengthened HL Development Week, focused on a main theme;
- Other entities, not currently included in these meetings will be invited to participate.

More responsive Council

Recommend the strengthening of the Council's capacity to respond promptly, to crises and emergencies that affect the realization of development goals and the well-being of people including through the holding of ad hoc meetings, as necessary.

AMR / DCF

Reaffirm that the AMR and the biennial HL DCF as established in 61/16 remain an integral part of the HL Session, now called HL Development Week.

Decide to strengthen the role for the AMR as a tool for integrated and coordinated follow-up through an improved preparatory process addressing the implementation of agreed goals. The preparatory process would have a global (policy drivers), regional (through regional commissions) and national perspective (implementation of national development strategies), focusing on better dissemination of best practices and lessons learned and integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Decide to transform the current National Voluntary Presentation into Voluntary Mutual Reviews with appropriate technical guidelines, and to endorse in this regard the recommendation of the Secretary General (A/67/736).

Reaffirm the role of the DCF in promoting greater national and global accountability in development cooperation by promoting mutual accountability.

Harmonization of Work

Reiterate the need to continue rationalizing the agendas of the General Assembly and its Second and Third Committees, the HLPF and the Economic and Social Council with a view to eliminating duplication and overlaps, and promoting complementarity in the treatment and negotiation of similar or related issues

Request the Presidents of the GA and ECOSOC to convene meetings with the bureaux of all relevant organs and intergovernmental bodies of the UN to harmonize their programmes of work with the aim of achieving maximum synergy and impact

Linkage with QCPR

Encourage the Council to further explore possibilities for streamlining its work and functions, taking into account relevant aspects agreed in the QCPR resolution.

LDCs/LLDCs/SIDS Platform

Decide to define a platform to address the specific needs and concerns of the countries in special situations (LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS). Particular emphasis should be placed on providing an institutional focal point for the consideration of SIDS issues in keeping with the mandate of BPOA / MSI.

Strengthening Involvement of Stakeholders

Reaffirm the importance of the Economic and Social Council, as a platform for multi-stakeholder participation, and of engaging all relevant stakeholders in the work of the Council, particularly with respect to its role in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Encourage the active participation of major political groups and regional organizations in the activities of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

Youth and Partnership Forums

Recommend that ECOSOC should convene annually, as part of its regular programme of work, a Partnership Forum and a Youth Forum (currently convened on an ad hoc bases), in order to increase the Council's interactions with stakeholders and enhance the follow-up of its outcomes.

Flexible Secretariat

Request the Secretary General to make proposals to increase cooperation across the UN-system, taking account of the functions of a reformed ECOSOC, with DESA – as the central hub of support for the Council – drawing upon the resources from the rest of the UN system to broaden the support to ECOSOC and its bureau.

Call upon the Secretary General, the President of the General Assembly and President of ECOSOC to arrange for an interactive exchange on strategic guidelines between CEB and Member States after the CEB October Meeting.

Link with HLPF and related GA Processes [HLPF Placeholder]

Acknowledge that the actual format agreed in the end should take into account the mandates given in the Rio+20 Outcome Document and the decision that will be taken on the format and organizational modalities of the high-level political forum (HLPF) and in the related GA processes.

Further Review

Decide to further review the present resolution at its 70th session.

Possible Timeline ECOSOC cycle

Sept – GA Ministerial Week
HLPF HOS Meeting

August – January
Preparation by Bureau
(Main Theme)

February – March
Coherence
Session

March – May
Humanitarian
Session

April
HL Dialogue BWI

"Policy Guidance"

"Policy Guidance"

End of HL Dev Week
New Cycle
Election of New Bureau

Resumed Sessions
Throughout the year
Coordination &
Management
Issues
"Housekeeping"

May
Integration
Session

"Policy Guidance"

June – July
HL Development
Week

HLPF Ministerial Meeting

HLPF Prepcom

