



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 1 July 2013

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the consultations on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum, as mandated by paragraph 85 of the Rio+20 outcome document. In this regard, please find attached letter dated 28 June 2013 addressed to me by H.E. Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, and H.E. Cesare Maria Ragaglini, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, as well as the draft resolution entitled “Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development”, which will be issued as document A/67/L.72.

Please note that the General Assembly will take action on the draft resolution A/67/L.72 on Tuesday 9 July, 2013.

The agreement on this resolution is an important milestone in fulfilling the tasks conferred upon the General Assembly by the Rio+20 Conference. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Ambassadors Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado and Cesare Maria Ragaglini for their tireless efforts and commitment during several months of intensive consultations that resulted in the agreement on the draft resolution. I am equally grateful to H.E. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Ambassador and former Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, for her extremely valuable contribution to this process.

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

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

Vuk Jeremić

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

D. J.



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By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the PGA



*Permanent Mission of Italy  
to the United Nations*

New York, 28 June 2013

Excellency,

We have the honor to inform you that, after almost five months of intensive consultations with Member States, which included the acquisition of the views and inputs of the civil society, an agreement has been reached on the format and organizational aspects of the high level political forum, as mandated by paragraph 85 of the Rio+20 outcome document.

In this regard, we have the pleasure to convey to you the final version of the draft resolution entitled "Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development". We would appreciate it if a meeting of the General Assembly could be scheduled at the earliest possible date for the approval of this draft resolution.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude for the confidence you have placed upon us and upon Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, as well as for all your support throughout the process.

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

Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Brazil  
to the United Nations

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

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H.E. Vuk Jeremic  
President of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
United Nations  
New York



## General Assembly

Distr.: Limited  
27 June 2013

Original: English

### Advance unedited version

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#### Sixty-seventh session

Agenda item 20 (a)

**Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development**

**Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly**

#### **Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012 by which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”;

*Emphasizing* the need for an improved and more effective institutional framework for sustainable development which should be guided by the specific functions required and mandates involved; address the shortcomings of the current system; take into account all relevant implications; promote synergies and coherence; seek to avoid duplication and eliminate unnecessary overlaps within the United Nations system; and reduce administrative burdens and build on existing arrangements;

*Recalling* the decision contained in paragraph 84 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development establishing a universal, intergovernmental high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission, as well as the decision that the high-level political forum shall follow on the implementation of sustainable development and should avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost effective manner;

*Reaffirming* the role and authority of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter, and its central position as the chief deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the United Nations and recognizing the need for it to further integrate sustainable development as key element of the overarching framework for the United Nations activities;

*Reaffirming* the commitment to strengthen the Economic and Social Council within its mandate under the Charter, as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major

United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognizing the key role of the Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

*Recalling* the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development;

*Recalling further* the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

*Also recalling* the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, and the political declaration on Africa's development needs and the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

*Also recalling* the commitments in the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

*Recalling* also its resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012;

The General Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary General on the lessons learned from the Commission on Sustainable Development;
2. *Decides* that the high-level political forum, consistent with its intergovernmental universal character, shall provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow-up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels, and have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges;
3. *Decides* further that the meetings of the forum will be convened under the auspices of the GA and under the auspices of ECOSOC;
4. *Decides* that all meetings of the forum will provide for the full and effective participation of all Member States of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies;
5. *Decides* that, in all meetings of the forum, every effort shall be made to reach consensus;

6. *Decides* that the meetings of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly will:

- a) be convened at the level of Heads of State and Government;
- b) be convened every four years by the President of the General Assembly for a period of two days, at the beginning of the General Assembly session, as well as on other occasions, on exceptional basis, upon decision by the General Assembly;
- c) be chaired by the President of the General Assembly;
- d) result in a concise negotiated political declaration to be submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly;

7. *Decides* that the meetings of the forum under the auspices of the ECOSOC will:

- a) be convened annually by the President of ECOSOC for a period of eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment to be held in the framework of the substantive session of the Council building on and subsequently replacing the Annual Ministerial Review as of 2016;
- b) be chaired by the President of ECOSOC;
- c) have a thematic focus reflecting the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, in line with the thematic focus of the ECOSOC activities and consistent with the post-2015 development agenda;
- d) follow-up and review progress in the implementation of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, as well as their respective means of implementation, improve cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on sustainable development programmes and policies, promote the sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation of sustainable development and, on a voluntary basis, facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned and promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies;
- e) take into account the work of the Development Cooperation Forum, as well as other activities of the ECOSOC relating to the integration and implementation of sustainable development;
- f) benefit from regional preparatory processes;
- g) result in an negotiated ministerial declaration for inclusion in the report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly;

8. *Decides* that the forum, under the auspices of ECOSOC, will conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and further decides that these reviews will:

- a) be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant UN entities;

- b) be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants;
- c) provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders;
- d) replace, the National Voluntary Presentations held in the context of the Annual Ministerial Level Substantive Reviews of ECOSOC, building upon on the relevant provisions of GA resolution 61/16, as well as experiences and lessons learned in this context;
9. *Decides* that all meetings convened under the auspices of the General Assembly will operate under the rules of procedure of the main committees of the General Assembly, as applicable, unless otherwise provided in the present resolution, and that all meetings convened under the auspices of the ECOSOC will operate under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of ECOSOC, as applicable, unless otherwise provided in the present resolution;
10. *Underlines* that the arrangement established by the Economic and Social Council for the Commission on Sustainable Development in Council decision 1995/201 of 8 February 1995 will apply to the meetings of the forum held under the auspices of ECOSOC, and that the arrangement established by GA resolution 65/276 of 10 May 2011 will apply to the meetings of the forum held under the auspices of the GA;
11. *Decides* that the meetings of the forum will devote adequate time to discuss the specific sustainable development challenges facing developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and Africa, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments, and recognize the specific challenges facing the middle-income countries to achieve sustainable development, reiterating that their efforts should be adequately supported by the international community, in various forms, taking into account the needs and capacity to mobilize domestic resources of these countries;
12. *Encourages* States to ensure that their participation in the meeting of the Forum reflect the balanced integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development from their national perspective;
13. *Acknowledges* the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and invites the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the forum, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;
14. *Stresses* the need for the forum to promote transparency and implementation through further enhancing the consultative role and participation of Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to better make use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions, and in this regard decides that the forum will be open to Major Groups, other relevant stakeholders and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the GA, building on arrangements and practices observed by the Commission on Sustainable Development, including Economic and Social Council decision 1993/215 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, which will be applicable to the forum;
15. *Decides*, in this regard, that, while retaining the intergovernmental character of the forum, the representatives of Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders will be allowed to:
- a) attend all official meetings of the forum;

- b) access to all official information and documents;
- c) intervene in official meetings;
- d) submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
- e) make recommendations;
- f) organize side-events and roundtables, in cooperation with Member States and the UN Secretariat;

16. *Encourages* Major Groups as identified in Agenda 21 and other stakeholders, such as private philanthropic organizations, education and academic entities, persons with disabilities, volunteer groups and other stakeholders active in areas related to sustainable development, to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the high-level political forum and for actions derived from that participation at global, regional and national levels, in a way that ensures effective, broad and balanced participation by regions and types of organizations;

17. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, including the World Trade Organization to contribute within their respective mandates to the discussions of the forum;

18. *Emphasizes* that the forum shall provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development and that the agenda of all meetings of the high-level political forum will be focused, while allowing flexibility to address new and emerging issues;

19. *Reaffirms* that the forum shall contribute to the enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels and, in this regard, invites the Forum to take into account the contributions and work of relevant United Nations intergovernmental bodies in the social, economic and environmental fields;

20. *Decides* that the forum will strengthen the science-policy interface, through examination of documentation, bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments, as well as enhance evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contribute to strengthening ongoing capacity-building for data collection and analysis in developing countries and requests the Forum to consider, in 2014, the scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report, based on a proposal of the Secretary General reflecting the views and recommendations from Member States, as well as from relevant UN entities, including the Committee on Development Policy;

21. *Decides* further that the forum can provide recommendations to the board of the ten-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production, as well as to the United Nations Environment Programme as the secretariat of the ten-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production, taking into account their reports;

22. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC to coordinate with the bureau of ECOSOC and with the bureaux of the relevant committees of the GA to organize the activities of the Forum, benefiting from the inputs and advice of the UN System, the Major Groups and the other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

23. *Decides* that the forum will be supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat in close cooperation with all relevant entities of the United Nations system, including funds and programmes, multilateral financial and trade institutions, the Rio conventions and other relevant treaty bodies and international organizations within their respective mandates;
24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to carry over all the remaining funds from the CSD Trust Fund to a voluntary Trust Fund of the forum, in order to facilitate participation of developing countries, least developed countries, representatives of major groups, as well as other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in the work of the forum and to support the forum's preparations, and, in this regard, invites Member States, financial institutions and other organizations to contribute to the voluntary trust fund of the forum;
25. *Decides* that travel expenses for one representative of each Least Developed Countries will be paid from the United Nations regular budget for participation to all formal meetings of the forum;
26. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council abolish the CSD effective from the conclusion of its 20th and last session, to be held prior to the first meeting of the forum, pursuant to GA resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012;
27. *Decides* that the first meeting of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly will have an inaugural character, requests the President of the General Assembly to convene it at the beginning of the 68th session for the duration of one day, and decides that, on an extraordinary basis and only for the purpose of this meeting, the outcome of the meeting will consist of a President's Summary;
28. *Further* decides to consider at its 69th session the need to convene a meeting of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2015 in relation with the launch of the post-2015 development agenda;
29. *Decides* to review the format and the organizational aspects of the forum at its seventy-third session, unless otherwise decided;
30. *Emphasizes* that the review of UNGA resolution 61/16 should take into account the present resolution in order to avoid duplication.