



Permanent Mission of Australia
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Peru
to the United Nations

13 June 2016

Excellency,

We are honoured to address you following the letter circulated on May 24 by H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon, President of the Economic and Social Council, advising that we will co-facilitate the informal consultations on the Ministerial Declaration for the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). This forum is the first to follow-up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We are pleased to transmit herewith a provisional consultation schedule, as well as a suggested list of elements to be considered by member states.

We are also pleased to transmit the outcome of consultations on the Global Sustainable Development Report, to be reflected in the 2016 HLPF Ministerial Declaration pursuant to paragraph 83 of the 2030 Agenda.

We look forward to your active engagement and support for the consultation process, starting with a first informal discussion to be held this Thursday, June 16, from 15:00 to 18:00 in Conference Room 6.

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

Handwritten signature of Gillian Bird in black ink.

Ambassador Gillian Bird
Permanent Representative of Australia
to the United Nations

Handwritten signature of Gustavo Meza-Cuadra in black ink.

Ambassador Gustavo Meza-Cuadra
Permanent Representative of Peru
to the United Nations

To all Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Potential elements of draft Ministerial Declaration

<i>Element</i>	<i>Content</i>
Framing the declaration	References to Rio+20 Conference, 67/290, 68/1, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement, Sendai Conference and other on-going processes; reference to the outcome of the consultations in the GA as well as anything left to be decided connected to programme and methods of work of HLPF
Preparations for 2016 HLPF	<p>Reference to the broad preparatory process, including preparations of national voluntary reviews, ECOSOC forum on financing for development, Multistakeholder forum on science-technology-innovation, regional forums on sustainable development STI, RFSD</p> <p>Reiterate that the HLPF is not an end in itself but rather a dynamic platform to spur implementation and action. The HLPF is successful only if links are made, partnerships forged, and new strategies absorbed, and if all these benefits translate into real progress on the ground.</p>
Theme for 2016 HLPF and thematic reviews	Paragraphs on the theme of 2016 HLPF of ensuring to leave no one behind and 17 SDGs, supported by reviews by ECOSOC functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and platforms, and engaging all relevant stakeholders.
SG SDG Progress report	Paragraphs on where we are in year one on the basis of the SG SDG Progress report
National Reviews at HLPF	<p>Paragraphs regarding national reviews on the basis of national voluntary presentations</p> <p>Commend the 2016 volunteering countries and emphasize that the HLPF was a valuable learning opportunity for Volunteers and other MS.</p> <p>Encourage MS to volunteer for 2017 and beyond.</p> <p>Emphasize the importance of high quality disaggregated data, and pledge support to build capacity in this area, in particular in developing countries. Note the importance of monitoring and evaluation, and evidence based decision making.</p> <p>Note the importance of nationalizing and localizing the SDGs, and acknowledge that the HLPF showcased successes and challenges in this regard.</p>
Regional Reviews	Reaffirm the importance of regional dimension and of annual regional fora for sustainable development and welcome their outcomes as well the importance of regional follow-up and review and encourage the regions to find most suitable ways for follow-up and review and any other substantive input from reports of regional forums on sustainable development.
Means of Implementation	Reference to means of implementation, , reference to financing for development agreed conclusions and global

Element

Content

Multistakeholder forum on science-technology-innovation	partnership for sustainable development/ Consideration of the innovative format and content of the Multistakeholder forum on science-policy-innovation; recommendations on the science-policy-innovation forum;
Science-policy interface	Importance of science-policy interface for informed decision-making; decision on Global Sustainable Development Report to be reflected in the Ministerial Declaration.
Countries in special situations	Paragraph on SIDS and other countries in special situations also in regard with their respective programmes of action (SAMOA Pathway, IPoA and VPoA) and conflict and post-conflict countries.
SCP, mainstreaming SD into the UN system, emerging issues	Paragraph on the basis of the report of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on consumption and production Board, SG report on mainstreaming.
Involvement of major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS)	Reiteration of importance partnership with major groups and other stakeholders for the achievement of sustainable development and of their inclusiveness and involvement at all levels and encouragement to present how they are contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
Contribution of ECOSOC	The declaration should also include language which takes note of the work of ECOSOC during its 2016 session, reflecting the deliberations of its segments, forums and special meetings as well as the policy recommendations on its annual theme. The President of ECOSOC will present the language to be included in the zero draft.

Global Sustainable Development Report:

Scope, Frequency, Methodology, Relationship between the annual SDG-Progress Report and Global Sustainable Development Report

Final text for integration in the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council

Scope

Recalling para 83 of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Stress that the Global Sustainable Development Report is one important component of the follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Further stress that the Global Sustainable Development Report will inform the high-level political forum, and shall strengthen the science-policy interface and provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policy-makers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development. It would be available for a wide range of stakeholders, including business and civil society as well as the wider public.

Resolve that the report should incorporate in a multi-disciplinary manner scientific evidence, considering all three dimensions of sustainable development, in order to reflect the universal, indivisible and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda. With its universal scope, the report should also consider the regional dimension, as well as countries in special situations. The report will provide guidance on the state of global sustainable development from a scientific perspective, which will help address the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, provide lessons learned, while focusing on challenges, address new and emerging issues, and highlight emerging trends and actions. The Global Sustainable Development Report should also focus on an integrated approach and examine policy options in view of sustaining the balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development. These policy options should be in line with the 2030 Agenda to inform its implementation.

Frequency

Resolve that a comprehensive, in-depth report will be produced every four years to inform the high-level political forum convened under the auspices of the General Assembly.

Resolve that each year in order to strengthen the science-policy interface at the high-level political forum convened under the auspices of ECOSOC, scientists who work on the report could be invited to provide scientific input into the discussion, including on the theme of the forum.

Methodology

Stress that the main principles to guide the methodology of the report should be objectivity, independence, transparency, inclusiveness, diversity, scientific excellence and integrity, and policy relevance. The report represents the result of an ongoing dialogue among scientists from all relevant fields on sustainable development worldwide, ensuring a geographically balanced participation, assessing existing assessments, including the relevant reports on sustainable development from a variety of sources including from the UN system, as well as bringing together dispersed information.

Request therefore the creation of an Independent Group of Scientists to draft the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report.

This Independent Group of Scientists comprises fifteen experts, and representing a variety of backgrounds, scientific disciplines and institutions, ensuring geographical and gender balance. The Independent Group of Scientists will be appointed for each Global Sustainable Development Report by the UN Secretary-General in open, transparent and inclusive consultations with member states, including the possibility of taking nominations from member states.

This Independent Group of Scientists will commence its work by the end of 2016.

The Independent Group of Scientists will be supported by a task team, co-chaired by one representative each of UN Secretariat, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD and the World Bank, with the logistical support by the UN Secretariat. The task team will co-ordinate inputs from a network of existing networks, representing the UN, private sector, civil society and academia. Inputs can also be posted onto the HLPF Online Platform annually.

Relationship with the SDG progress report

Acknowledge the distinct but complementary nature of the SDG Progress report and the Global Sustainable Development Report, both contributing to the high-level political forum from different perspectives.

The high-level political forum will be informed by the annual SDG Progress Report, which is to be prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the UN System, based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level.

The Global Sustainable Development Report will be more scientific and analytical, focused on the science-policy interface and will also inform the high-level political forum.

TIMELINE ON NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

16 June - CR 6 to seek inputs from Member States and stakeholders. On the basis of inputs a draft Ministerial declaration will be circulated to MS on 20 or 21 June

23 and 24 June – meeting to hear comments on the draft of the Ministerial declaration

27 and 28 June – informal informals on the Ministerial declaration