

**Committee of Experts on Public Administration**

**Eighteenth session**

**Statement on HLPF on 8 April 2019**

**by**

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Madam Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

Colleagues,

Thank you for this invitation and opportunity to speak at your meeting.

I am going to address 3 points: 2 meetings of HLPF in 2019; outcome of HLPFs this year; and 2019 HLPF under ECOSOC auspices and your contribution.

After HLPF was established at the UN Conference on sustainable development in Rio in 2012, subsequent resolution on modalities (67/299) decided to hold 2 HLPFs – one under the auspices of ECOSOC every year and every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly at the level of Heads of State and Government (HOSG).

The resolution decided that HLPF will examine sustainable development issues in detail every year and hear national presentations through national voluntary reviews, and every 4 years at HOSG level give political guidance for the overall implementation of sustainable development. Outcomes will be ministerial and political declarations respectively.

Subsequently, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, HLPF was given a central role to follow up and review the 2030 Agenda and SDGs and in the latest resolution on HLPF (70/299) the themes and groups of goals to be reviewed each year had been decided.

As a consequence, after the first four-year cycle that will end this July, HLPF will have examined all 17 goals and discussed important themes from leaving no one behind, eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity, transforming towards sustainable and resilient societies to empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. It will have reviewed progress towards achieving SDGs, provided political leadership and guidance, as well as recommendations for SDG implementation and engaged the ECOSOC subsidiary and expert bodies like yours, entire UN development system as well as major groups and other stakeholders, including private sector. HLPF will also have heard from over 150 countries about their national implementation through VNRs.

The same resolution also decided that when HLPF meets twice in one year, there will be only one political declaration that will be adopted at the Summit and should also reflect the July HLPF. President of the General Assembly appointed Permanent Representatives of Bahamas and Sweden to conduct consultations and they will start doing it in May and June, although they have already been meeting with Member States and stakeholders. They have been saying that they want a short, focused and action oriented political declaration.

Since there will be no ministerial declaration from July HLPF, the President of ECOSOC has decided to have a very detailed and robust summary of July HLPF including through rapporteurs and friends of VNRs.

And lastly on this point, as you might know, Member States have decided that they will review HLPF during the next session of the General Assembly and will discuss how the follow up and review will look at the next cycle of HLPF. They might decide to follow the same pattern of

having a theme and a subset of goals to review each year, or they might decide not to have a group of SDGs every year, but to review them in some other way.

My final point is 2019 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC and your contribution. As you might know the President and ECOSOC Bureau have approved the HLPF programme for July and you can find it on line at the HLPF website. The theme for this year is “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” and I understand as per the letter of the President of ECOSOC you will be contributing to this theme. We have received over 50 contributions thus far from functional commissions and committees of ECOSOC as well as other intergovernmental bodies and platforms and they are posted on line and will be synthesized in an HLPF official document.

As you might know the SDGs that will be reviewed this year are 4 on education, 8 on decent work, 10 on inequalities, 13 on climate action, SDG 16 on a number of issues from violence, rule of law, illicit financial flows, corruption and bribery to effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance, access to information, strengthening national institutions and promoting non-discriminatory laws and policies and SDG 17 on MOI.

Thus, SDG 16 will be discussed as all other goals in a 3-hour session that is planned for Friday, 12 July from 3 – 6 pm under the title “Peace, justice and strong institutions”. Following the pattern of review of other goals, SDG 16 will have an expert group meeting to discuss all targets (1 – 10 and a and b). This and also other contributions will be inputs to a background note that will be available for SDG16 and other goals as well as other sessions of HLPF by end of May/beginning of June. The format of the session and speakers will be in the annotated programme that will be available some time in May/June. I am sure that your contribution in particular on target

16.6 “Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels” will be very valuable for the discussions on this goal bearing in mind that interrelations with other SDGs as stated in the HLPF programme will also need to be examined.

Thank you very much and I am happy to answer any questions.