THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

14 July 2021

Excellency,

I am writing about the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2021 session of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council.

I would like to thank the two co-facilitators, H.E. Mr. Jukka Salovaara, Permanent Representative of Finland and H.E, Mr. Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations, for their excellent conduct of the consultations on the Declaration and their tireless efforts to reach a consensus. I would also like to thank all delegations for their efforts to negotiate a strong and meaningful Declaration.

I believe we do have an excellent text for the Declaration that reflects well the current situation and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world and on the sustainable development goals. The text strongly affirms that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is our blueprint for a sustainable and resilient recovery from the crisis. It outlines the various challenges we face and highlights a number of policies and measures that are being undertaken. It also provides important proposals for actions to accelerate recovery.

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

I think we can be proud of our achievement. We have produced the kind of declaration that the HLPF and ECOSOC should adopt to send to the world a powerful message about our commitment to respond together to this historical crisis and to mobilize international solidarity to overcome the pandemic and move on to a path to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

We must now show our unity by achieving consensus on the text of the Declaration. I know that all delegations do not fully agree on entire elements in the Declaration. But I would like to encourage you to show flexibility and look at the text as a whole and the range of important statements and recommendations it contains rather than at its imperfections.

I hope that, on Thursday, 15 July, you will come to the meeting of the HLPF ready to adopt the declaration by consensus.

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

(Munir Akram)

President of the Economic and
Social Council