

Minutes of the Human Rights Council Bureau

5 February 2018

On 5 February 2018, the Bureau held a meeting to discuss: (1) the efficiency of the Council; (2) preparations for the thirty-seventh session of the Council; and (3) any other business.

(1) The efficiency of the Council

The President informed the Bureau that during his recent meetings with each of the regional groups, general agreement was expressed by delegations that the process to improve the Council's efficiency should commence as a matter of urgency. After discussing various short-term efficiency measures that would affect only the General Debates and panel discussions, the Bureau agreed on one consolidated proposal and decided to transmit the proposal to Regional Coordinators for further consultations with their respective members. Moreover, open-ended inclusive informal consultations would be conducted.

The President also informed that delegations were supportive of the President's intention to appoint facilitators to hold consultations throughout the year in order to collect views and identify long-term measures to improve efficiency and strengthen the Council. The President expressed his desire for the Bureau to lead this task, with engagement from others outside the Bureau, and appointed:

- Ambassador Antje Leendertse (Germany) and Ambassador Evan Garcia (Philippines) – as co-facilitators on improving the annual programme of work of the Council;
- Ambassador Martha Maurás (Chile) and Ambassador Francois Ngarambé (Rwanda) - as co-facilitators on the rationalization of resolutions and initiatives; and
- Ambassador Janis Karklins (Latvia) and Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan (Fiji) – as co-facilitators for modern-technology.

(2) Preparations for the thirty-seventh session of the Council

- a. High-level segment:* The President informed the Bureau that the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General will attend the opening of the 37th session, and updated about the large number of high-level dignitaries that have already confirmed their participation in the high-level segment of the session.

b. *Programme of work*: The Secretariat informed the Bureau that there were two changes to the Programme of Work relating to the interactive dialogue with Fact-finding Mission on Myanmar and the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar as well as the interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi and the High Commissioner's oral update on Burundi.

(3) *Any other Business*

a. *Task Force on Accessibility*: The President and the Bureau thanked H.E. Ambassador Ms. Antje Leenderste, Permanent Representative of Germany, for volunteering to Chair the HRC Task Force on Accessibility.

b. *High-level Political Forum (2018)*: The President informed that he has received a letter from the President of ECOSOC inviting him to provide substantive inputs to the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) showcasing the Human Rights Council's contribution to the 2030 Agenda. The President expressed his intention to provide a balanced and objective contribution to the 2018 HLPF.
