

## ***Informal Consultations with NGOs on the agenda and work of the Second Committee***

### ***Concept Note***

The adoption by world leaders on 25 September 2015 of the new agenda for sustainable development sets a new vision for the future well-being of all humankind. Just as this vision and the associated goals are the result of the most open and transparent consultation process in the history of the United Nations, achieving these goals requires efforts from everyone, everywhere. All countries and all stakeholders will have to come together to make it a reality.

This will also require a new way of thinking and doing things. At the United Nations, the Second Committee of the General Assembly, which is - devoted to development issues, would need to review its agenda and improve its working methods, in order to better respond to the challenges of achieving the ambitious new goals, based on three main grounds:

First, the Second Committee must ensure that the focus of its work is in line with the requirements for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Second, General Assembly resolution 68/1 provides that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, especially its Second and Third Committees, should consider taking steps toward the rationalization of their agendas. The aim of this mandate is to eliminate duplication and overlap and promote complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues.

Lastly, General Assembly resolution 69/321 requested each Main Committee to discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session.

Therefore, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/1 and 69/321, His Excellency Mr. Andrej Logar, Chairperson of the 70<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Second Committee and Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations, is convening informal consultations with NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC on the agenda and work of the Second Committee **on 22 October 2014, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in Conference Room 2, at the United Nations Headquarters.**

This innovative step in the Second Committee represents a unique opportunity for civil society to share its distinctive perspective and concrete inputs to Member States' deliberations on the Committee's agenda and working methods in order to better respond to the challenges of implementing the Agenda 2030.

The event will be organized around the following two questions:

1. How can the Second Committee ensure that its work is in line with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
2. How should the agenda of the Second Committee look like in the coming years?

For each of these questions, 2-3 panelists will make a brief presentation, to which 2-3 Member States will respond, before opening the debate to a general discussion with all present stakeholders.

These discussions will be summarized in a comprehensive summary, which will be submitted to the Chairperson of the 70<sup>th</sup> Second Committee and used as an input to the Second Committee's discussions on the work of the Committee.

A call for nomination of Speakers will be open from 7 to 13 October 2015. Civil society representatives may submit their application [here](#).

These consultations will follow consultations among Member States scheduled for Friday 9 October 2015. A discussion paper being prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for this process will be made available ahead of the meeting.