Dear co-facilitators,

We would like to thank you for your efforts in producing the zero-draft which is before us today. Let me begin by emphasizing that we believe this text is a solid basis for our negotiation. My delegation is ready to engage and we look forward to a constructive process.

The zero draft strikes a balance between enhancing the work of the ECOSOC and the HLPF in select aspects, while refraining from embarking on an in-depth review or even restructuring of the various segments and meetings. This approach responds, in our view, to the preference expressed in previous consultations by some to limit this process to a "light" review.

We welcome in particular that key elements which contribute to a successful work of the ECOSOC and HLPF have been highlighted in the text, such as the improvement of synergies between the two bodies, the importance of gender mainstreaming, the active participation of stakeholders, the voluntary national reviews and local implementation as well as the enhancement of evidence-based approaches.

We also welcome that select new proposals have been included in the draft, such as the issue of internal displacement, more dialogue with international financial institutions and multilateral development banks or deeper engagement with the reports of the executive boards of the funds and programs. These proposals have the potential to enhance the policy coordination role of the ECOSOC in a targeted and concrete manner.

Dear co-facilitators,

We agree with your proposal not to change the overall structure of the ECOSOC and HLPF, and leave meetings and segments broadly unchanged.
Nevertheless, we are convinced that there is merit to consider some proposals that have the potential to fine-tune some of the meetings in a targeted and limited way to achieve concrete and beneficial improvements in the work of the Council.

In this regard, we have already proposed in previous consultations to strengthen the Operational Activities Segment by including a standing item on the RC-System, enhance the governance and oversight for and the acceleration of system-wide performance and results as well as discussions of reports by the executive boards. Secondly, we believe the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum should be informed more systematically by work done in the UN System in the area of digital cooperation.

We have specific language proposals in this regard which we will introduce during the first reading.

Dear Co-Facilitators,

To conclude, we would like to express once again our support for this zero-draft and look forward to continue working constructively with you and all delegations in this process.

I thank you.