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**STATEMENT
of the representative of the Russian Federation
Boris Meshchanov
At the informal consultations on strengthening ECOSOC and review of the HLPF**

New York, February 11, 2026

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Coordinators of the negotiating process, colleagues,

Russia views the forthcoming process as an opportunity to strengthen the role and effectiveness of ECOSOC as the principal mechanism within the UN system responsible for the “development” pillar of the Organization’s activities, with the support of the subsidiary body of ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly — the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

1. To this end, first and foremost, we intend to advocate for the reaffirmation of the core provisions of resolutions 75/290A and 75/290B concerning the intergovernmental nature of ECOSOC’s activities as a fundamental principle enshrined in the UN Charter. Decision-making across the entire spectrum of the agenda should remain an exclusively intergovernmental prerogative.

This means that any interaction between the United Nations and non-governmental actors is of a strictly consultative nature. The legal framework governing such consultative relations is set out in ECOSOC resolution 1996/31. The principles established therein, including the requirement of political impartiality, apply to all forms

of interaction between the Organization and civil society, and their scope is not limited — as is sometimes claimed — solely to matters related to the granting of permanent consultative status with ECOSOC. We consider it useful, in the context of strengthening ECOSOC, to take into account the experience of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. At the same time, the expertise and views of impartial and constructively minded NGOs will continue to be considered by Member States.

We also propose to explore greater engagement of the academic community from the Global South and major emerging market economies in the work of the Council, including by establishing an obligation for the ECOSOC Presidency and the Secretariat to ensure broad geographical representation of such expertise at meetings of the Council and the HLPF. The same applies to cooperation with the private sector — we note, for example, that while dialogue with youth and the scientific community has been institutionalized through dedicated forums, the business community's participation in ECOSOC's work remains rather sporadic.

Finally, we are convinced that the authority and influence of the Council within the system of global economic governance, including with regard to the mobilization of financing for development, should be further specified and strengthened. We welcome the decision by Member States to include follow-up activities related to the Seville Commitment within the scope of the ECOSOC cycle and its Financing for Development Forum.

We also propose, on the basis of the provisions of the UN Charter and the 1947 agreements between the UN and the IMF and the World Bank, to intensify the practice of prior consultations and mutual participation of the United Nations (through ECOSOC) and the Bretton Woods institutions in each other's governing bodies. In particular, we draw attention to such provisions of the aforementioned documents as the UN's authority to propose its own agenda items to international financial institutions, to participate in their meetings (without voting rights), to issue recommendations to the IMF and the World Bank as UN specialized agencies (following prior consultations),

and to conduct information exchange in order to avoid duplication, including in the area of statistics.

2. In the context of the HLPF review, we propose that the ministerial declaration more thoroughly reflect the contributions of specialized agencies and programmes to the Sustainable Development Goals under review. We also consider it necessary to strengthen engagement with regional organizations and to institutionalize dialogue with them within the Forum, including by establishing a dedicated segment.

In conclusion, a few words on the consultation process. As our delegation has already noted during the Coordination Council, it is important to achieve compromise, especially when it comes to systemic processes related to the alignment of foundational principles and working methods — consensus is essential. We believe that the optimal way to achieve this is through line-by-line intergovernmental negotiations, which would allow delegations — provided there is the political will to seek compromise — to move as far as possible toward consensus, while avoiding a situation similar to that of the Pact for the Future, where coordinators, in their pursuit of an “ambitious reform-oriented document,” left certain delegations behind, subsequently necessitating the development of complex and nuanced modalities for its implementation.

Thank you for your attention. Our delegation will submit specific language within the timeframes indicated by the coordinators.