



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 February 2017

Excellency,

In line with the theme of the 71st session, to deliver a universal push for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, I wish to inform you of a series of *High-Level SDG Action Events* that will be convened over the coming months at UN Headquarters, New York.

On 23 March, I will convene a High-Level Event entitled “*Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Agenda*” in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This event will provide an opportunity to highlight synergies between Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda and to gather representatives of Governments, International Organizations, the Private Sector and other stakeholders who are advancing solutions to implementation of the SDG and Climate Change agreements.

On 18 April, a *High-Level SDG Financing Lab* will be convened aimed at examining development strategies, regulatory measures, policy frameworks and financial instruments that can be used by Member States to finance SDG implementation. Particular focus will be placed on growing support among Member States and public and private financial sector actors for the alignment of the global financial system with the SDGs and Climate Change.

On 17 May, building on the ECOSOC Science, Technology and Innovation Forum, I will convene a *High-Level Event on Innovation and Connectivity*. Leading innovators from the major corporations of the world will interact with Member States on how emerging technologies can transform efforts aimed at the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

On 22 June, a *High-Level Event on Education* will be convened in partnership with key SDG 4 stakeholders to drive a new push for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. The event will also elaborate on how to advance the incorporation of the SDGs into the curricula of every school in the world.

The themes and timing of these events has been determined with a view to supporting preparations for other SDG-related forums, including the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. My office is also collaborating with partners on a range of other initiatives relating to each of the 17 SDGs.

Each of the above events will place a special focus on leaving no one behind and advancing gender equality. Together with *The Ocean Conference* on 5-9 June, the mandated *High Level Meeting on UN Habitat* that will be held later this session, and last month's *High Level Dialogue on Sustaining Peace*, these events will encourage the active engagement of all people and all stakeholders committed to steady progress on the SDGs.

I count on your continued support in making these *High-Level SDG Action Events* as impactful as possible and encourage participation at the highest possible levels. Additional information on each will be provided over the coming weeks.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Thomson

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