



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

14 October 2020

Dear Mr. Bobylev,

I have the pleasure to invite you to serve in your personal capacity as a member of the Independent Group of Scientists tasked with the drafting of the second quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report.

In July 2016, United Nations Member States decided that the Global Sustainable Development Report will be produced every four years, to inform the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development when it meets under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly to review progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report serves to strengthen the science-policy interface and provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policymakers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development.

The first report entitled *The Future is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development* was published in September 2019 and set out a series of entry-points that would allow governments and others to accelerate the shift towards sustainable development over the coming decade. Since then, the COVID-19 pandemic has created immense human suffering and disruption, threatening decades of development progress and further undermining sustainable development progress.

The next report will be developed in this context and will be published in 2023, to inform the high-level global review of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in September of that year. The group will conduct its work from October 2020 through the publication of the report.

Following an extensive and open selection process, I have selected fifteen eminent scientists to be invited to serve on the independent group.

Mr. Sergey N Bobylev
Head of the Environmental Economic Division and Professor
Lomonosov Moscow State University
Moscow

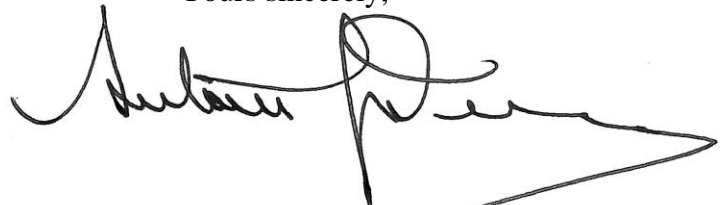
The independent group will be supported by a task team, co-chaired by one representative each from the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Bank Group, with the logistical support of the United Nations Secretariat. The task team will coordinate inputs from existing networks, representing the United Nations, the private sector, civil society and academia.

The Annex to the Ministerial Declaration of the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the terms of reference for the Group and the list of its members are attached for your information.

For further details, please contact Ms. Stephanie Rambler, Sustainable Development Officer at the Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the United Nations Secretariat, via e-mail at rambler@un.org.

I look forward to your acceptance of this appointment and to engaging with the Group at the appropriate moment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a long, thin horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

António Guterres