



**GETTING TO KNOW THE ECOSOC SYSTEM
IN THE SDG ERA**

Briefing by H.E. Inga Rhonda King

President of the Economic and Social Council

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Closing remarks

Excellencies,

I am grateful to all of you for your participation in this briefing. I am inspired by your commitment to ECOSOC. We have a common vision – which is to restore ECOSOC to its legitimate importance as a UN Charter body. For that, we need a strengthened ECOSOC to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs while also looking at how future trends will impact its implementation.

I am convinced that ECOSOC's relevance and contribution to solving global problems remains clear and we have been given a powerful set of mandates to facilitate that end.

By working together, we can turn ECOSOC into a platform where governments and other stakeholders can come together to look at long term trends related to the SDGs.

We can also turn ECOSOC into a platform that contributes to HLPF thematic review and guides the work of subsidiary bodies much more effectively.

We can make strategic use of the broader ECOSOC system to increase system-wide coherence and coordination to help deliver the 2030 Agenda where it counts at the local and national levels. We need to make a real-world impact and so we must focus our agenda on those core challenges that countries have identified through their national voluntary reviews.

The General Assembly has asked us, member states of ECOSOC but also its Observers to restore the deliberative function of the Council. This will mean your active participation in the work of the Council. You will need to work intensively with your capitals to mine your good practices and expertise to share with other countries at ECOSOC.

I, together with my fellow Vice-Presidents, count on all of ECOSOC members to ensure that the Council and the HLPF can live up to your expectations and those of the people we serve.

Let us not forget that Member States at the highest level pledged with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda that no one would be left behind, and

they committed to “endeavor to reach the furthest behind first”. We should be guided by this principle in our work.

My Nigerian friend, Victoria Ibiwoye, is looking to ECOSOC, again I quote

“To serve as the umbrella to build allies [and alliances] to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. Through its regular gatherings, individuals and organisations can share expertise, exchange innovative ideas and collaborate for the common goal of saving our planet and its people.”

End of quote.

Colleagues,

I look forward to you working alongside me and fellow Bureau Members to ensure that we deliver... to ensure that we keep alive, the hope of young people, like my Nigerian friend, Victoria, who still believes in the possibilities of multilateralism, and even more so the possibilities of the U.N. ECOSOC.

Thank you.