



ECOSOC NEWS

Inga Rhonda King, President

New York, 10 - 14 June 2019

Upcoming Meetings

- ❖ In two weeks, the [Humanitarian Affairs Segment \(HAS\)](#) (24-25 June 2019) will take place in Geneva. Hundreds of government representatives, the United Nations system, development actors, the private sector and other humanitarian partners will be present. The theme for the HAS is “Promoting action to save lives, reach those in need and reduce humanitarian risk, vulnerability and need: looking towards the seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General”.
- ❖ In less than three weeks, the [HLPF](#) (9-18 July 2019) will take place under the auspices of ECOSOC. Hundred of Ministers and thousands of stakeholders will participate. The event will address the theme “*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*”. Forty-seven countries, both developed and developing, will present their [Voluntary National Reviews \(VNRs\)](#).
- ❖ In less than three weeks, the [Integration Segment](#) (8 July 2019) will be held for one day immediately before the HLPF. The theme of the Segment will be “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” in line with the theme of ECOSOC and HLPF. It will gather hundred of Member States, UN system and key stakeholders to discuss the three dimensions of sustainable development.

COUNTDOWN to the ECOSOC High-level Segment and the High-level Political Forum: Key Messages



Young people and multi-stakeholder partners step up actions to implement the 2030 Agenda

Recognizing the key role of young people and of partnerships in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) organized both its Youth Forum and Partnerships Forum in April 2019.

This year’s forums served as important platforms to channel the contributions of young people and of senior representatives of multi-stakeholder partners to world leaders and decision-makers, expected to participate in the upcoming High-level Political Forum (9-18 July), as well as the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit (23 September), the SDG Summit (24- 25 September), the

High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (26 September), and the Midterm Review of the Samoa Pathway (27 September).

In addition to the formal high-level meetings, many interesting discussions will also take place during special events surrounding the July and September high-level meetings, among them the SDG Business Forum, Partnership Exchange, SDGs in Action Film Festival, Chief Sustainability Officers event, Major Groups and Other Stakeholders meeting, an event with universities and higher education institutions, and a Local and Regional Governments Forum, which will convene mayors from the world's major cities to focus on ways to localize the 2030 Agenda.

The impact of youth in achieving the SDGs



“To my fellow youth, keep believing, keep rising, but as you do, don’t forget to uplift others with you so that together we can all be empowered, included and equal”

Ms. Yolanda Joab, Keynote Speaker and Founder and Executive Director of PRIDE

Today, there are 1.2 billion young people, between the ages of 15 and 24, making up 16 per cent of the global population. Most of them live in developing countries. Millions of them do not have access to quality education, decent work or other opportunities to realize their full potential.

The ECOSOC Youth Forum (8-9 April 2019) focused on ways to empower, include and ensure equal opportunities for young people. It provided a platform for young leaders globally to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with UN Member States and to share ideas for advancing the 2030 Agenda.

Progress on the SDGs remain slow, including on climate action. Young people demanded that leaders listen to their concerns and deliver on the

promises envisioned in the 2030 Agenda.

Young people called for an increase of their representation in decision-making bodies at all levels. They would like Member States to make decision-making more responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative by opening new spaces for participatory democracy, increasing youth participation in politics.

They would like access to education to be prioritized, as millions of young people remain excluded from this fundamental right. Investing in capacity-building and training is a must to prepare young people for the labour market of today and tomorrow. At the same time, young people would like to be provided with technological tools, data and mentorship, as well as physical spaces, to develop their ideas and innovations.

They called for decent jobs for young people, including green jobs, through multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships. Young people should acquire skills for work and life through formal, informal and non-formal education.

Partnering to deliver the Global Goals



“Because we have collectively created these global challenges—because climate change, for instance, is a responsibility for us all—how are we going to partner? Governments aren’t the only stakeholder.”

Ms. Alaa Murabit, SDG Advocate

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are essential to pursue common goals for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

At the ECOSOC Partnerships Forum (11 April 2019), on the theme “Partnerships driving the inclusive implementation of the SDGs,” leaders from the business sector, philanthropy, civil society and academia engaged in a dialogue with Member States on how inclusive national partnership platforms can effectively drive the implementation of the SDGs and address existing gaps.

Innovative examples of partnerships for the SDGs were presented and ways to raise the ambition for UN-associated partnerships to make them more effective, accountable and results-based was also addressed.

The importance of adopting policies that promote an enabling environment and having an inclusive approach to partnerships by involving diverse actors, including youth, was noted. The importance of monitoring and review of partnerships to ensure relevance and impact was considered essential. In that context, it was noted that aligning the partnership with SMART deliverables—Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resource-based, and Timebound—could enhance results.

It was recommended that the UN’s partnership guidelines be revised and that a system-wide framework on partnerships be created. This could include a system-wide database of partnering companies, as well as common procedures and principles for due diligence.

Ongoing UN development system reform is an opportunity to make UN associated partnerships more effective and make the UN fit for partnering.

Recap of the Week



“We have to equip the Special Political Mission (SPM) with the right tools and expertise.”

H.E. Mr. Marc-André Blanchard, Chair of the AHAG

The Chair of the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group (AHAG) on Haiti and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Marc-André Blanchard, briefed ECOSOC at an **informal briefing on Haiti on 13 June 2019**.

This briefing was organized following up on the recent visit of the AHAG to Haiti on 22-24 May 2019. Ambassador Blanchard underscored that as the United Nations was preparing its post-peacekeeping engagement in Haiti with the setting up of a Special Political Mission (SPM), it had a good opportunity to ensure that UN’s support work in the areas of rule of law, good governance and human rights, be complemented with a strong focus on helping the country achieve sustainable development.



“This is time for the international community to remain collectively engaged on Haiti and make the due investments to ensure a smooth transition and help the country move successfully towards peace consolidation, recovery, resilience building and sustainable development.”

H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC

The Chair of the Group underlined the fragility and unpredictable nature of the situation in Haiti. Mass protests and criminal group activities have increased, which combined with a deterioration in the socio-economic situation is a cause for concern for the international community. About 2.6 million people, or a quarter of the population are at risk of acute food insecurity and need humanitarian assistance. Fuel shortages have also been affecting the quality of daily life and economic activities in the country, which adds to the current state of uncertainty. Against this backdrop, a stronger focus on development would help to make for a smoother transition from MINIJUST to the Special Political Mission.

ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King stressed that closer cooperation between ECOSOC and the Security Council on Haiti and other countries facing multidimensional crises would go a long way to fulfill the Secretary-General’s vision

of conflict prevention. During the discussion, several Group members took the floor (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay) reiterating their support for the statement made by Ambassador Blanchard.

On 14 June, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly organized a **briefing of the high-level week of the 74th session of the General Assembly**. The ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King focused her statement on the High-level Political Forum of July 2019, which is organized under the auspices of ECOSOC.



“I hope that the July HLPF will encourage all of us to come up to the September Summit ready to announce ambitious SDG acceleration actions.”

H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC

Ambassador King stressed that this year the HLPF will complete its first four-year cycle under the auspices of the Council. In those four years, it will have reviewed all 17 SDGs. The 2019 HLPF will examine the six SDGs under review (education, jobs and growth, inequality, climate change, peaceful societies and inclusive institutions and SDG 17), will complete the review of all the SDGs and contribute to the overall review of progress towards the 2030 Agenda at the Summit. She also highlighted that the discussions of the HLPF on its theme, “empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, will allow to gain greater insight in how to reach the furthest behind and leave no one behind as we progress towards the SDGs.

Ambassador King said that this “year’s Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) will allow us to gain further evidence of how countries have been implementing the 2030 Agenda at home”. She added that “our two 2019 HLPFs will live up to the mandate of the forum as the central platform for following up and reviewing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. We have it in our hands to use those opportunities and the whole high-level week to put the world on track to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.”



UN Staff and Member States holding the ballots for the election of the 18 members of ECOSOC

On 14 June, the General Assembly elected 18 members of ECOSOC.

Eighteen States were elected to the Economic and Social Council to serve three-year terms, beginning 1 January 2020. Those were Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, China, Colombia, Congo, Finland, Gabon, Latvia, Nicaragua, Montenegro, Norway, Panama, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland and Thailand.

The new members were elected according to the following pattern: Four from African States; four from Asia-Pacific States; three from Eastern European States; three from Latin American and Caribbean States; and four from Western European and other States.

Additionally, the Assembly held a by-election in which it selected Spain to complete the remaining term recently relinquished by Turkey, commencing 1 January 2020 and expiring on 31 December 2020

Bilateral Meetings of the President of ECOSOC



H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC and the three rapporteurs appointed by the President of the Human Right Council, Ms. Yvette Stevens, Mr. Pablo de Greiff and Mr. Nils Muižnieks

On 13 June, ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King met with the three rapporteurs appointed by the President of the Human Right Council (HRC), Ms. Yvette Stevens, Mr. Pablo de Greiff and Mr. Nils Muižnieks. The meeting centered around the role of the HRC in prevention, sustaining peace and the SDGs. The Group was requested by the HRC to consult and gather the views of relevant stakeholders in Geneva and New York, with a view to presenting proposals on how the Council could effectively contribute in the future to the prevention of human rights violations, in the form of a report for consideration by the Council at its forty-third session.