



ECOSOC NEWS

Inga Rhonda King, President

New York, 11 – 15 February 2019

On Thursday, 14 February, ECOSOC held a plenary meeting of the Council. The Council decided to change the theme of its 2019 session to “Empowering people and ensuring inclusivity and equality”, bringing it into line with that of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Council also agreed to change the dates of its humanitarian affairs segment, to be held from 24 to 26 June 2019 in Geneva. During the meeting, ECOSOC also elected H. E. Ms. Mona Juul (Norway), and H.E. Ms. Kira Christianne Danganan Azucena (Philippines) as Vice-Presidents of the Council for ECOSOC 2019.

The plenary meeting was followed by a briefing by the Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development on the “World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019”. During her introductory remarks, the ECOSOC President emphasized the need to have faster economic growth and reductions in income inequality to achieve poverty eradication by 2030; as well as a more inclusive, flexible and responsive multilateral system. Assistant-Secretary-General, Elliot Harris, pointed to unevenness of global economic growth, and highlighted risks in the form of trade and geopolitical tensions, financial fragilities and climate risks. He underscored the need for cooperation and collective action in addressing these risks.



On Wednesday, 13 February, ECOSOC President H.E. Inga Rhonda King, together with members of the ECOSOC Bureau, met with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. The Bureau briefed the Secretary General on key aspects of the programme of work of ECOSOC and on the July High-level Political Forum and heard from him his priorities for the coming year connected to the reforms he has undertaken.

The ECOSOC President with members of the ECOSOC Bureau and the UN Secretary-General – 13 February



The ECOSOC President speaking via video message at the Conference on Climate Finance for High Forest Cover and Low Deforestation – 13 February

On Wednesday, 13 February, ECOSOC President H.E. Inga Rhonda King delivered a video message during the opening session of the Conference on Climate Finance for High Forest Cover and Low Deforestation Countries in Suriname. She called on participants to be bold in their deliberations and reach consensus to give a strong voice to high-forest cover, low-deforestation countries, and to mobilize action for the SDGs.



The ECOSOC Vice-President at the opening session of the Commission for Social Development - 11 February

On Monday, 11 February, ECOSOC Vice-President H.E. Valentin Rybakov delivered opening remarks on behalf of the ECOSOC President at the opening of the 57th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD). In his statement, the Vice-President welcomed the Commission's theme of "Addressing Challenges to Inequality through Fiscal, Wage and Social Protection Policies," aligned with the theme of the 2019 HLPF on "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality." He called on the members of the Commission to advise on the necessary actions required for the world to alter course and move towards shared wealth and prosperity, and

underscored that "The social dimension of sustainable development is a key pillar as it speaks directly to people's lives". The ECOSOC Vice-President added that: "A strong and effective Commission for Social Development is critical to strengthening the social dimensions of sustainable development and to the success of the High-level Political Forum".



The ECOSOC President speaks at the commemoration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science - 11 February

On Monday, 11 February, ECOSOC President H.E. Inga Rhonda King participated in the fourth commemoration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science organized by the Royal Academy of Science International Trust. In her opening remarks, the ECOSOC President stressed that promoting the participation of women and girls in science means changing mindsets, fighting gender stereotypes and biases that limit girls' passions, expectations and professional goals from early childhood. She underscored that unleashing women's innovation potential requires addressing the root causes of occupational segregation, in particular in

science and technology, by systematically tackling gender stereotypes and the unequal distribution of unpaid care work. The President also highlighted the preparations for the upcoming High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development under the auspices of ECOSOC in July.

