World Food Day 2018

The President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King delivered remarks on the occasion of World Food Day on 16 October 2018. She said that ending hunger and malnutrition is critical to the success of the 2030 Agenda, and, as President of ECOSOC, she is fully committed to the achievement of SDG 2. She called on Governments, business partners, the private sector and civil society to play an important role in achieving Zero Hunger.

Ambassador King stressed that hunger is a man-made phenomenon and that we are responsible for it. She reiterated that the “global food production is already large enough to ensure that no person goes hungry” and we need to be smarter and more sustainable in our actions. She also said that “conflict, growing inequalities and climate change” are negative factors that contribute to the problem of hunger.

Webcast: https://bit.ly/2Ak3MxP

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

On 17 October, the President of ECOSOC attended a ceremony commemorating the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. She recognized that more than 700 million people live in extreme poverty, and that extreme working poverty remains widespread. “Ending poverty in all of its forms and dimensions, everywhere, is at the center of the 2030 Development Agenda, set out in the very first of the Sustainable Development Goals,” the President of ECOSOC said.

Ambassador King also stressed that the commitment of the international community to eliminating poverty is high, as reaffirmed by the General Assembly in proclaiming the Third
United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027). “We firmly believe that to find effective approaches to ending poverty, those experiencing it must have a seat at the table and be given tools to empower themselves and participate fully,” she stated. In that context, Ambassador King called on all stakeholders to participate in the High-level Political Forum and ECOSOC processes in 2019. She also stated, “I am optimistic that by working together, we will continue to strengthen the meaningful participation of those living in poverty and, in doing so, will bring to life the promise of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind”.


Africa Dialogue Series 2018 – A Stronger AU-UN Partnership for Peace, Security and Development in Africa

On 17 October 2018, the President of ECOSOC addressed the Africa Dialogue Series, in the session on the “Role of the AU-UN Partnership in a Globalized World”. In her statement, the President highlighted the peace and development nexus, indicating that creating the conditions for sustainable peace and long-term development in Africa required addressing the many socio-economic, environment and political drivers of conflict.

Highlighting the good relation between the United Nations and African Union, Ambassador King stressed that “in today’s globalized world, now more than ever we need strong partnerships to advance the well-being of all people, starting with those who are furthest behind”. She recognized the importance of integrated approaches across the three pillars of the United Nations to achieve progress in conflict affected countries. She further underscored that the High-Level Political Forum next year will review the Sustainable Development Goals on jobs, inequality, justice, climate change, education and partnerships. This will be a good opportunity for African Member States, including those presenting their National Voluntary Reviews, to share relevant lessons learned and ideas on how to move the 2030 Agenda forward.

News coverage: Africa is ‘on the rise’, says UN chief Guterres, urging collaboration for better future
Webcast: https://bit.ly/2OwNWse
On 19 October 2018, the President of ECOSOC met with the Chairs of the ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies to brief them on the Outcome of General Assembly (GA) resolution 72/305 on Review of the implementation of GA resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of ECOSOC, as well as on the 2019 High-level Political Forum and the contributions as ECOSOC subsidiary bodies to the Forum.

The meeting was attended by the Chairs of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), Commission on Population and Development (CPD), Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Vice-Chairs of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) and Commission for Social Development (CSocD), and representatives of the Secretariats of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Statistical Commission.

The participants were also informed that there would be a more interactive and robust discussion with the entire ECOSOC Bureau in December or January when the joint bureau meet for their annual dialogue. At that forthcoming meeting, the subsidiary bodies will have the opportunity to share how their respective bodies intend to address and offer contributions to the 2019 themes of ECOSOC and the HLPF. There will also be discussions on how to strengthen the substantive inter-linkages and coherence within the ECOSOC system.