



ECOSOC NEWS

Inga Rhonda King, President

New York, 21-25 January 2019

Getting to know the ECOSOC system in the SDG era



ECOSOC President speaks at the informal briefing on “Getting to know the ECOSOC system in the SDG era”- 23 January, UNHQ, New York

On Wednesday, 23 January, ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King convened an informal briefing on “*Getting to know the ECOSOC system in the SDG era*”. The President welcomed ECOSOC’s new members and shared her vision for the Economic and Social Council the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development. She underscored the importance of 2019 for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlighted the expectations from ECOSOC Members.

In her [remarks](#), the ECOSOC President reiterated her commitment to delivering on the most successful HLPF to date and to reviving the role and authority of the Economic and Social Council, building on the guidance provided by the

General Assembly in its resolution 72/305. Former ECOSOC President, Ambassador Lazarus Kapambwe (Zambia) provided reflections from the past on how ECOSOC adapted to change. This informal briefing was followed by a UNITAR orientation on ECOSOC for new members.

Launch of the Group of Friends for Education and Lifelong Learning



ECOSOC President at the Launch of the Group of Friends for Education and Lifelong Learning- 24 January, UNHQ, New York

On Thursday 24 January, ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King attended the launch of the *Group of Friends for Education and Lifelong Learning* in New York, on the occasion of the first International Day of Education. The Group of Friends, co-chaired by Argentina, Czech Republic, Japan and Kenya, aims to champion education at the United Nations particularly with regard to the review of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on quality education. It also aims to provide a common platform for Member States and other stakeholders to advance the implementation of the education related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as discuss valuable solutions and best practices.

In her intervention, the ECOSOC President noted the strong interlinkages between SDG 4 and other goals that will be reviewed at the High-Level Political Forum in July, such as SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities; SDG 13 on climate action, and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. She stressed the importance for the Group of Friends to bear those linkages in mind in its work. She also encouraged the Group of Friends to look at the reports of the 2019 national voluntary reviews (VNRs) and interact with the presenting countries on challenges and successes related to education.

Ideas for Impact, Mobilizing Investment for SDGs



ECOSOC President at the panel discussion on Ideas for Impact: Mobilizing Investment for Sustainable Development Goals- 25 January, UNHQ, New York

On Friday, 25 January, ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King delivered remarks at the opening of the panel discussion on *Ideas for Impact: Mobilizing Investment for Sustainable Development Goals* organized by the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the IDeA Foundation.

In her remarks, the ECOSOC President emphasized the centrality of strong, better and smarter partnerships to achieving the holistic and integrated 2030 Agenda. The ECOSOC President underscored the importance of investment alignment with SDG achievement. She highlighted the work of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development goals (STI Forum). The ECOSOC President encouraged participants to mobilize their constituencies to make specific commitments to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals that could be announced in the lead up to the 2019 HLPF in July and September.