



ECOSOC NEWS

Inga Rhonda King, President

New York, 23 March - 15 April 2019

Major developments

- ❖ The programme of the 2019 High-Level Segment and High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is now available at this [link](#).
- ❖ The applications for Side Events and Exhibitions to be held at the margins of the 2019 High-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of ECOSOC will be open until Friday, 19 April 2019. The criteria/guidelines and application forms for Side Events and Exhibitions are available [here](#).

Participation of the President in Meetings

The [2019 Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\) Forum on Financing for Development follow-up](#) takes place from 15 to 18 April 2019. The President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, delivered an [opening statement](#) calling on Member States to act urgently to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. She highlighted three areas of action: The importance of global multilateral cooperation; the need to align financing frameworks with our sustainable development objectives; and the importance of devising clear and concrete recommendations to accelerate the financing of sustainable development. Ambassador King stated that: “This Forum represents a critical milestone that sets the tone for the year ahead”.



ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King at the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up

The [2019 Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\) Youth Forum](#) took place on 8 – 9 April 2019 on the theme “Empowered, Included and Equal” at UN Headquarters in New York. In the current climate where young people are demanding that their voices be heard, the Forum offered a platform for young leaders to engage in a dialogue with UN Member States to advance the 2030 Agenda. This year, the Forum experienced its largest participation to date with over 1000 attendees. In total, there were 134 Member States (54 ECOSOC States and 80 observer States), and over 900 youth representatives in attendance at the Youth Forum. The President of ECOSOC [stated](#) that “We need to urgently address the defining challenges of our time: access to quality education, unemployment, inequality, social exclusion and climate change” and “We cannot achieve this at the UN alone. We are all in this together”.



ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King and GA President María Fernanda Espinosa, address the Youth Forum.



Opening keynote speaker Yolanda Joab, Founder and Executive Director of Island PRIDE delivers the opening keynote address

Ambassador King urged all young people to keep advocating for the SDGs. “It is with your enthusiasm and willingness that we will reach the SDGs,” she said. The President of ECOSOC also encouraged young people to relentlessly

put pressure on their governments to raise ambition for climate action. “The momentum has to change. Without you, we will not be able to move forward”.



Closing keynote speaker Rakoen Maertens (right, behind the lectern), NGO Delegate to the United Nations for the World Esperanto Youth Organisation delivers closing keynote address.

In follow-up to the Youth Forum, the ECOSOC President issued a [Presidential Statement](#) presenting some of the main issues and recommendations raised by young people at the event. In the Statement, it was highlighted, among other things, that “Young people are demanding that leaders listen to their concerns and deliver on the promises envisioned in the 2030 Agenda”.



Young people participating in the SDG Media Zone of the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2019.

In addition, a [SDG Media Zone](#) (#SDGLive) served as a dynamic platform for youth voices, attracted young advocates and influencers.



H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC and Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, SG's Envoy on Youth discovering the various projects at the SDG Media Zone.

For the first time, the SDG Media Zone featured an exhibit of projects and campaigns led by the UN system. In addition, a total of 24 side events were organized.

On **11 April 2019**, the [ECOSOC Partnership Forum](#) took place at the UN Headquarters. This year’s theme was “**Partnerships driving inclusive implementation of the SDGs**”. In her opening statement, the ECOSOC President expressed that the world is facing increasing challenges such as climate change, growing inequalities and growing refugee flows yet at the same time new technologies bring immense potential to improve how societies function at large.

She noted that the 2019 Partnership Forum would pinpoint positive developments in the Sustainable Development Goals. In her closing statement, ECOSOC President noted three key messages from the Forum. First, the President stated, “examples and good practices should be replicated, together with efforts to build enabling national environments that foster the creation of partnerships”. Secondly, governments are aiming to build inclusive partnerships platforms with a whole-of-society approach; key learnings should be shared to enhance capacity building. Lastly, partnerships that are associated with the United Nations should follow high standards.



On 11 April ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King during the ECOSOC Partnership Forum.



On 11 April ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King delivered opening remarks during the ILO centenary High-Level Event

On 10 April 2019, a High-level event of the 73rd General Assembly on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the International Labour Organization (ILO) was held. The ECOSOC President delivered [remarks](#) congratulating ILO on the important milestone and commended its leadership in promoting social justice and prosperity for all. Ambassador King also highlighted that decent work for all plays a key role in achieving sustainable development and the dignity of people. She encouraged participants to consider the implications of technological advancements and changing labour markets.

On 28 March 2019, H.E. Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC, participated in an event chaired by H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the General Assembly, on “[Climate and Sustainable Development for All](#): High-Level Meeting on the Protection of the Global Climate for Present and Future Generations of Humankind in the Context of the Economic, Social and Environmental Dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.



On 28 March ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King moderated the panel “Synergies between Climate and Sustainable Development Agendas”.

In the panel on “Synergies Between Climate and Sustainable Development Agendas” and in a luncheon, Ambassador King [reiterated](#) the importance of taking bold and innovative climate action to accelerate change and highlighted the interlinkages with the SDGs.



On 1 April, 2019, H.E. Ms Ambassador Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC delivered opening remarks at the Commission on Population and Development fifty-second session.

On 1 April 2019, the [52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development \(CPD\)](#) began its week-long meeting. The ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King delivered an [opening statement](#), in which she welcomed the review and appraisal of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action.



L-R: Chair of the 52nd session of CPD; Deputy Secretary-General, UN; UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador (Ms. Ashley Judd); President of ECOSOC; Executive Director, UNFPA; Under-Secretary-General for DGACM.

Ambassador King called on experts to work together to advise ECOSOC and the General Assembly on necessary actions to achieve the population-related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Ahead of the 2019 High Level Political Forum, Ambassador King urges the countries presenting Voluntary National Reviews to include interlinkages between population issues and sustainable development.

On 2 April 2019, ECOSOC held a “[Special meeting on the response to Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe](#)”. The ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King described the devastation of Cyclone Idai and the critical situation with more than 700 people dead, the destruction of 100,000 homes and the thousands of inoperable schools and health facilities. Ambassador King stressed that extreme weather events hamper the achievement of the promise of the SDGs and in some cases reverse development gains.



On 2 April, H.E. Inga Rhonda King, ECOSOC President delivered the opening remarks at a Special Meeting on Cyclone Idai



L-R: The Permanent Representatives of Mozambique, Malawi, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Zimbabwe to the UN

The ECOSOC President [urged](#) for support to the three countries and UN humanitarian agencies in providing life-saving humanitarian efforts. She called on the international community to invest more in disaster risk reduction including in preparedness, early warning and early action. In that context, Ambassador King asked for the international community to scale up action to reduce disaster risks in preparation for the next extreme weather event. Ambassador King also stressed the need for more collaboration, coherence and complementarity between humanitarian, development and climate action.

In follow-up to the event, the President of ECOSOC issued a [Presidential Statement](#), in which she highlighted that: “As we get ready to take stock of our efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda at the SDG Summit next September, it is clear that we must accelerate a risk-informed and resilient implementation of the 2030 Agenda”.

On 4 April 2019, the World Health Organization hosted the World Health Day “**Universal Health Coverage: everyone, everywhere**” Reception. ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King commended the World Health Organization for its work to build a better, healthier future for all around the world. She reiterated the importance of SDG 3 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.



ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King delivers remarks at the WHO “Universal Health Coverage: everyone, everywhere” Reception on 4 April 2019.

In her remarks the President of ECOSOC stressed that health challenges can no longer be addressed by the health sector alone. The responsibility of global health is crosscutting across the SDGs. The ECOSOC President stated, “to address the multisectoral nature of health determinants requires the political will to engage the whole of society”.

Bilateral Meetings of the President of ECOSOC

On 28 March 2019, the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King met with the President of the General Assembly, H.E. María Fernanda Espinosa for her monthly meeting to discuss common areas of interest. She also met on 8 April with the UN SG’s Envoy on Youth, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake ahead of the ECOSOC Youth Forum to discuss the programme and other related activities. On 26 March 2019, Ambassador King met with H.E. Ms. Ohood Al Roumi, Minister of State for Happiness and Wellbeing and the Director General of the Prime Minister’s Office at the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and the Future in the UAE Government.



ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King with General Assembly President Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa



ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King and the SG’s Envoy on Youth, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake



ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King met with H.E. Ohood Al Roumi Minister of State for Happiness and Wellbeing of UAE.