



# ECOSOC NEWS

## Inga Rhonda King, President

New York, 4-22 March 2019

### Major developments

- ❖ The President of ECOSOC will convene a Special Meeting of the Council on Cyclone Idai that has devastated parts of Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. It will place on 2 April 2019 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Trusteeship Chamber.
- ❖ The programme of the 2019 High-Level Segment and High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is now available at this [link](#).
- ❖ The programme of the upcoming ECOSOC [Youth Forum](#) (8-9 April 2019) is also available.
- ❖ 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 of the Subsidiary Bodies

On 5 March 2019, the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the [Statistical Commission](#) started its work. The Vice-President Mona Juul delivered an opening statement on behalf of the ECOSOC President. In this statement, she called for development partners to scale up efforts in statistical capacity building in a sustainable way. She described how data and statistics can better inform policy discussions, ahead of the Voluntary National Reviews of 50 countries. This will be the basis for two SDG progress reports prepared for the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF).



*63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women – 11 March 2019*

On 11 March 2019, the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) opened. The ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King delivered an opening statement. She highlighted the Commission's work as a critical building block towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The ECOSOC President highlighted critical investment areas to free up women's and girls' time, support their mobility and women's access to economic opportunities". She closed her statement by emphasizing that the positive outcome of the CSW63 and deliberations of the Council would further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as to "leave no woman or girl behind".

On 11 March 2019, the [Committee for Development Policy \(CDP\)](#) started its 21<sup>st</sup> session. ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King addressed an opening statement welcoming the newly appointed members of the committee. She commended the recent work of CDP on "leaving no one behind" and ongoing work on the Least-Developed Countries. She welcomed their consideration of the Voluntary National Reviews as well as multilateralism in the current session. She emphasized that multilateralism was under threat along several dimensions: a building trade war, stalled global trade talks and the questioning of international institutions by prominent countries. This was followed by a joint meeting of ECOSOC Bureau and the CDP Bureau on 12 March.

## Participation of the President in Other Meetings



On March 2019, the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was held. The ECOSOC President participated in the Opening of the High-level Conference along with Mr. Mauricio Macri, President of Argentina and President of the Conference on South-South Cooperation, H.E.Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly, Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of UN Development Programme and Mr. Adonia Ayebara, President designate of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. In her statement, [delivered](#) at the opening of the meeting, the President highlighted four key points of action recommended by ECOSOC's Development Cooperation Forum, namely, to increase the visibility of South-South and triangular cooperation; to be bolder in sharing experiences and evidence on development cooperation; to be strategic by mainstreaming it into national development plans and to increase multistakeholder participation engagement in this effort.



*On 20 March 2019 at the BAPA+40 Conference, ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King delivered an opening statement at the DCF policy side event “Promoting the strategic role of South-South and triangular cooperation to achieve the 2030 Agenda”.*

On 5 March 2019, ECOSOC President engaged in a Dialogue with [OECD Development Assistance Committee](#) in Paris. The President underscored the urgency to focus development efforts on countries and people lagging most behind. In her remarks, she indicated that the Committee for Development Policy is currently preparing proposals to strengthen the graduation process which will provide OECD/DAC members additional opportunities to engage more and earlier in the process of supporting graduation from the LDC category.



*ECOSOC President delivering a keynote speech at the Special Meeting of the Members of the OECD Council and Partners on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. – 6 March 2019*

On 6 March 2019, the ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King delivered a keynote speech in the Special Meeting of the Members of the [OECD Council](#) and Partners on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The ECOSOC President called for a broad mobilization of public institutions, development actors and civil society. She stressed an integrated and coherent approach was needed to address today's challenges and realize the SDGs at all levels. At the national level, all parts of Governments and various institutions must work in tandem towards the SDGs and with the joint mobilization of the United Nations and OECD at the international level.

On 7 March 2019, ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King delivered a keynote opening address at [the OECD Gender Equality in Business Conference](#). She underscored “Gender equality is vital

both in its own right and for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs)”. The ECOSOC President called on businesses to align themselves with the principles of the 2030 Agenda. She highlighted the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), a partnership initiative of UN Women and UN Global Compact, that is providing guidance to the private sector

on key elements integral to promoting gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community. To date, more than 2100 companies have signed up for WEPs, which is voluntary and emphasize the business case for voluntary corporate action for gender equality. The ECOSOC President concluded by encouraging men at all levels to become champions for gender equality and women’s empowerment around the world.

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On 11 March 2019, a Roundtable on “*Climate and SDGs Interlinkages: How we can achieve the SDGs while curbing climate change*” was convened by the Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the UN Foundation. ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King stated, “If we focus on the synergies between the goals, we can identify the policies and measures that will have ripple effects across the goals”. She referenced a study of the World Resource Institute in 2016 that found climate actions were aligned with 154 of the 169 SDG targets, supporting SDGs and Paris Climate agreement can be implemented in an integrated and mutually reinforcing way. In her closing, she called for the strengthening of partnerships to ensure more cross-sectoral decision-making and innovative solutions to achieve SDGs while curbing climate change.

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The 2019 [United Nations Environment Assembly](#) was held from 14 to 15 March. The President joined in a Dialogue with Civil Society in Nairobi, Kenya on 14 March 2019. She emphasized that the advancement of implementation of the SDGs depends on concerted efforts by all stakeholders, including civil society. In her remarks, she underscored that ECOSOC serves as an integrated platform for stakeholder participation including the HLPF where Major Groups and Other Stakeholders participate. The ECOSOC President encouraged stakeholders to submit reports on their own work towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The September HLPF summit will celebrate the wealth of actions that have been taken by all actors to implement the 2030 Agenda.

On 15 March 2019, ECOSOC President participated in the Ministerial on Innovative Policies and Solutions



*The ECOSOC President during her speech at the UNEA-4 High- Level Luncheon: Innovative Policies and Solutions for Circular Economy. - 15 March 2019*

for a Circular Economy, where she delivered key messages to the UN Environment Assembly. In her remarks, she emphasized the shift away from a linear economy towards a circular economy. ECOSOC President noted, “The circular economy promises vast economic opportunities, such as creating additional revenue from existing products and processes, spurring innovation, and reducing operating costs”. She concluded innovative solutions support the transition away from unsustainable economic models. The ECOSOC



*ECOSOC President during her intervention at UNEA-4 Leadership Dialogue 1: Environmental Challenges Related to Poverty and Natural Resources Management.*

President also delivered remarks at the Leadership Dialogue 1: “Environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management” and Leadership Dialogue 2: “Life-cycle approaches to resource efficiency, energy, chemicals and waste management”, in the Fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly. In her remarks she expressed how sustainability-based decision-making leads to interlinkages among SDGs which results in an integration done by default.



## Bilateral Meetings of the President of ECOSOC



*The ECOSOC President meeting with OECD Secretary-General, Mr. Ángel Gurría - 5 March*

During her visit to the OECD, ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King participated in a number of bilateral meetings. These included Ms. Susanna Moorehead, Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, the OECD-Secretary General Mr. Ángel Gurría, Mr. Marcos Bonturi, Director of the OECD Public Governance Directorate, Mr. Dirk Pilat, Deputy Director of the OECD Science, Technology and Innovation Directorate, Mr. Rodolfo Lacy, Director of the OECD Environment Directorate.

These provided an opportunity for the President to express appreciation for OECD's support for multilateralism and the work of the United Nations. Issues discussed included the upcoming July High-level Political Forum and the September Summit,

governance challenges, science, technology and innovation (STI) and biodiversity. She encouraged their participation at the highest level at HLPF and the upcoming Multistakeholder Forum on STI.



*The President of the Economic and Social Council met with Mr. Siim Kiisler, the Minister of Environment of Estonia and the President of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.*

While at the Assembly (14-15 March), ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King held several bilateral meetings, including with Mr. Siim Kiisler, UNEA-4 President, Minister of Environment of Estonia; Ms. Joyce Msuya, Acting Executive Director UN Environment; and Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya. During these meetings, she underscored the important role UNEA has in promoting the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the importance of the upcoming High-level Political Forum in July and September, and UN development system reform.

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*The President of the Economic and Social Council met with Mr. Jens Frølich Holte, State Secretary, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

On the margins of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King also met with H.E. Dr. Bambang P.S. Brodjonegoro, Minister of National Development Planning and Head of the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) of the Republic of Indonesia, and H.E. Mr. Jens Frølich Holte, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. The President also met with Ms.

Cornelia Richter, Vice-President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and other members of the IFAD team. During these bilaterals, the President shared her vision for ECOSOC and the upcoming HLPF and her efforts to improve the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) with the Group of Friends. She encouraged their participation at ministerial level at the July HLPF.



*The President of the Economic and Social Council met with Ms. Cornelia Richter, Vice-President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and other members of the IFAD team.*