



ECOSOC NEWS

Inga Rhonda King, President

New York, 7-18 January 2019

Participation in Official Events



The ECOSOC President speaks at the meeting with the ECOSOC Bureau and the officials from the World Bank and IMF - 17 January

On 17 January, the ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King traveled to Washington DC for the **annual visit of the ECOSOC Bureau to the World Bank Group and the IMF**. As part of the preparations for the 2019 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FfD) follow-up, the meeting discussed the topics “Public debt, vulnerability and the SDGs”, “Fintech and financial inclusion” and “The future of work and job creation”.

In addition to the FfD Forum, the Bureau’s visit to DC also provided an opportunity to engage the Bretton Woods Institutions in the preparation of the GA High-level dialogue on Financing for Development (HLD) in September 2019. For this reason, the Bureau was joined on the trip by the Co-facilitators of the FfD Forum outcome and the HLD.



The ECOSOC President at the retreat - 11 January

On 11 January 2019, the **ECOSOC Presidential retreat on “Renewing the role and authority of ECOSOC in the SDG Era”** was held in Tarrytown, New York. It was attended by over 70 participants, including Permanent Representatives and representatives of subsidiary bodies and the UN system. UN Under-Secretary-General Liu Zenmin delivered opening remarks.

There was active participation throughout the retreat. Participants focused on substantive guidance on the preparations for the 2019 ECOSOC Substantive Session and the high-level political forum (HLPF) and considered ways to further enhance ECOSOC’s contribution to the milestone events taking place in 2019, including

the SDG Summit, the high-level meeting on financing sustainable development and the Secretary General’s Climate Summit. Discussions also focused on how to interpret and implement General Assembly resolution 72/305 on ECOSOC Strengthening. The UN Special Envoy to the 2019 UN Climate Summit, H.E. Luis Alfonso De Alba, delivered a keynote speech.



The meeting of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions took place at the UN Headquarters in New York on 18 January

On 18 January, the ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King participated in a **meeting with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions** via video link. Ambassador King underscored the importance of leveraging the work of the Regional Commissions, which are part of the ECOSOC System, and the regional dimensions in support of the HLPF and ECOSOC, including its Forums and Segments, as well as the milestone high level events in 2019.



The ECOSOC President speaking at the multi-stakeholder consultation - 14 January

On 14 January at the UN Headquarters in New York, the ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King convened an informal, **multi-stakeholder consultation on “Making finance work for a sustainable world in 2019 and beyond”**. The purpose of the meeting was to invite key stakeholders such as civil society, the private sector, local authorities and others to discuss and brainstorm ideas on ensuring an effective 2019 follow-up and review of the financing for development commitments and means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda.

The ECOSOC President briefed participants on preliminary arrangements for the 2019 ECOSOC Financing for Development (FfD) Forum (15-18

April) and the SDG Investment Fair (15-17 April). The meeting also served as an opportunity to introduce and invite comments from the co-facilitators for preparing draft conclusions and recommendations of the 2019 FfD Forum – H.E. Mariangela Zappia (Italy) and H.E. Lazarous Kapambwe (Zambia).



On 10 January 2019, the **ECOSOC Bureau met with the Chairs of Subsidiary Bodies during their annual joint meeting**. Ten chairs and vice-chairs of subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC participated, including the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Commission on Social Development, Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Population and Development, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Statistical Commission, the UN Forum on Forests, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Committee of Experts on Public Administration. Participants shared how their

respective bodies intended to address and offer contributions to the 2019 themes of ECOSOC and the HLPF. The annual dialogue also addressed possible contributions to the Peacebuilding Commission and ways to strengthen the substantive inter-linkages and coherence within the ECOSOC system, in fulfilling the vision of General Assembly resolution 72/305.

Bilateral Meeting of the President of ECOSOC



On 15 January, ECOSOC President Ambassador Inga Rhonda King met with Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, World Bank. They discussed the visit of the ECOSOC Bureau to Washington D.C. to meet with World Bank and IMF senior officials, and also the preparations for the Financing for Development Forum.

The ECOSOC President meeting with Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice-President for the 2030 Development Agenda, World Bank - 15 January

This Week

On Wednesday, 23 January (10 a.m.-Trusteeship Council Chamber) in New York, the President of ECOSOC will convene an informal briefing on “Getting to know the ECOSOC system in the SDG era”. During the briefing, the ECOSOC President will share her vision for the Economic and Social Council the High Level Political Forum, and the expectations from ECOSOC Members. All member states are invited.