



**Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Chairs of
the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies
31 January 2020, 10 am – 12 pm
ECOSOC Chamber**

**Opening remarks by
H.E. Ms. Mona Juul
President of the Economic and Social Council**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Chairs,

Distinguished Bureau Members,

Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Chairs of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies.

I am especially pleased to welcome the broader ECOSOC Membership and other participants to this meeting for the first time.

This is a critical year for us. It is the first year of the Decade of Action to deliver on the SDGs. It is also the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the UN.

Against this backdrop, the General Assembly has decided that the theme for ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) for 2020 is:

“Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

This year’s HLPF will be the first after the SDG Summit held in September 2019, which marked the end of the first four-year cycle of the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

It will give Member States an opportunity to follow up on the Summit’s Political Declaration, focusing on areas to accelerate action and delivery.

The six entry points identified by the first Global Sustainable Development Report show us how we can achieve the transformative change that the 2030 Agenda requires.

The substantive guidance provided by ECOSOC system entities will help member states to prepare both for the work across the ECOSOC cycle, and the HLPF.

We also count on the commissions' and expert bodies' valuable contributions to the thematic reviews of the forum.

Distinguished Chairs,

Our dialogue today will provide the opportunity to see how you have been responding to resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of ECOSOC. As well as your contributions to ECOSOC, including the Integration Segment, and the HLPF.

As you are aware, the implementation of the resolution on strengthening ECOSOC will be reviewed by the General Assembly over the next few months, along with the resolutions on the format and organization of the HLPF.

We look forward to learning from Chairs about their best practices in responding to the recommendations of the resolution.

In addition, we seek your expertise in identifying the implementation gaps of the 2030 Agenda and ways to accelerate progress.

Indeed, as we prepare for the Decade of Action, it would be important that you begin to plan how your various bodies- both individually and together- can contribute to accelerated SDG progress.

For example, we must consider how the ECOSOC system can address the big challenges of the next decade. Issues that impact us on a global scale such as rising inequality and the climate crisis.

Dear Colleagues,

I am counting on your active participation in this dialogue. Together, we can identify specific ways in which we can fulfill our mandates, and improve our system-wide coherence. All with the overarching goal of contributing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.