



**ECOSOC**

United Nations Economic and Social Council

**TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES**

**Commemoration of the UN Charter Day**

**Friday, 26 June 2020**

**Remarks by ECOSOC President, H. E. Ambassador Mona Juul**

**Excellencies,**

**The fifty signatories of the UN Charter had a bold vision for our world.**

**By joining the United Nations, we have all pledged “to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom”.**

**I feel privileged to be presiding over one of the principal organs of the UN – the Economic and Social Council – which stands at the centre of this aspiration.**

**The UN Charter vested a powerful mandate in ECOSOC:**

**To foster international cooperation on economic, social, and cultural issues. And to promote universal respect and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. Without distinction to race, sex, language, or religion.**

**Today, the world is shifting beneath our feet. The COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call for us to strengthen international collaboration.**

**We can only succeed through a coordinated multilateral response, strong political leadership, and global solidarity with those most vulnerable.**

**This is what the Sustainable Development Goals – the global blueprint to end poverty, protect our planet and ensure prosperity – are all about.**

**We must not, and cannot, relent on our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, even amid this painful pandemic.**

**In its 75 years, ECOSOC has proven its ability to effectively respond to global emergencies.**

**It has created UNAIDS in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and the Ad hoc Advisory Groups on African Countries Emerging from Conflict, a precursor to the Peacebuilding Commission.**

**And ECOSOC has been instrumental in putting women at the heart of development efforts.**

**The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was one of the first functional commissions created within ECOSOC.**

**The Council has also contributed to establishing global norms and standards, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was the product of the UN Commission on Human Rights, established by ECOSOC.**

**Guided by the first words of the UN Charter “We the peoples of the United Nations”, ECOSOC has unique convening power, bringing together valuable constituencies such as youth and the private sector to contribute to our work and discussions.**

**And ECOSOC has been the gateway for civil society organisations to engage with the UN.**

**Today, more than 5000 NGOs are enriching our work.**

**Excellencies,**

**It is my pledge to continue engaging with all of you to ensure that ECOSOC remains as relevant today, and in the future, as it was when first envisioned in the Charter 75 years ago.**

**Even in troubling times, there remains great hope in the power of working together.**

**That is the founding spirit of the United Nations, and the promise of the UN Charter. And in this anniversary year, as we face grave and global challenges, it is the spirit we must summon today.**

**Thank you.**