



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 October 2018

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a memo from my meeting on 11 October 2018 with the President of the Economic and Social Council, Her Excellency Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations in New York, as part of my commitment to strengthen collaboration and coordination between the principal organs of the United Nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. ESPINOSA".

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York

Meeting between the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council on Thursday 11 October 2018

The President of the 73rd session of the General Assembly (GA), H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garces met with the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), H. E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations on Thursday 11 October 2018 as part of their efforts to strengthen relations and coherence in the work of the GA and ECOSOC.

Approval of the Work Programme of ECOSOC

The President of ECOSOC informed the President of the General Assembly that the work programme of ECOSOC for its 2019 session is expected to be adopted at the next formal meeting of the Council.

Joint Briefing of the GA and ECOSOC

In light of the mutually reinforcing agendas between the two organs of the UN and to further demonstrate the synergies and collaboration in their work, the two Presidents agreed to host a joint briefing. Both Presidents agreed that the joint meeting would focus on the vision for coordination of the GA and ECOSOC and could be convened in January 2019.

Alignment of the agendas of the GA, ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies with the 2030 Agenda

The President of the General Assembly commended Ambassador King for her role as co-facilitator of the alignment process during the previous session. She also indicated her intent to appoint co-facilitators for the process to ensure that the agendas of these bodies reflect the structure and spirit of the 2030 Agenda. The President of ECOSOC indicated her intent to share the elements of the process for the President of the General Assembly's information and use. The President of the General Assembly requested the President of ECOSOC to provide recommendations for co-facilitators for her consideration. Both Presidents agreed that the co-facilitators for this process would need to undertake extensive consultations with Member States to build consensus. The President of ECOSOC indicated she will provide her recommendations shortly.

A recommendation was also made for the President of the General Assembly to address the matter of the alignment process in the General Committee. The PGA highlighted that the agenda of the next meeting of the General Committee will be dedicated to discuss:

- The assessment of the recently concluded High-Level Week, and
- The alignment process.

The President of the General Assembly used the opportunity to also advise the President of ECOSOC that the first in the series of “Morning Minga” (Morning Dialogues) will be dedicated to the revitalization and alignment process and will be convened on 2 November 2018.

ECOSOC Retreat for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The President of ECOSOC extended an invitation to the President of the General Assembly to participate in the retreat to discuss the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, scheduled for 2-3 November 2018. The PGA was invited to address the opening segment of the retreat. The 2019 HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly will mark the end of the first four-year cycle of the forum and this provides the platform to explore options for improving the process for the new cycle.

Coordination of High-Level Event on Decent Work and the ECOSOC Youth Forum

The President of the General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC discussed the back-to-back scheduling of the planned High-Level Event on Decent Work in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the ECOSOC Youth Forum to reinforce the coherence and cooperation of the two bodies, as well as the effective outcomes of the processes. Further consultations will be undertaken to ensure there is no conflict in schedule for the two events. Ambassador King invited the PGA to utilize the platform at the ECOSOC Youth Forum’s opening session to speak to the ‘Youth, Peace and Security’ focus priority.

The President of the General Assembly utilized the opportunity to outline the seven strategic priorities for her tenure, particularly focusing on “Youth, Peace and Security”. The focus being taken by the PGA is to address sustaining peace and taking a preventative approach – peace and security for youth from a development perspective. The President of ECOSOC highlighted the coherence with the priorities being pursued for the Youth Forum and requested further information on the PGA’s strategy on “Youth, Peace and Security”.

Climate Change

The President of the General Assembly informed the President of ECOSOC of the implementation of the mandate of GA resolution 72/219 to convene a high-level meeting on the “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind” at a date to be confirmed. The event has received considerable interest from several countries and it is anticipated that the deliberations from this event will inform the High-Level Political Forum

on Sustainable Development to be convened under the auspices of the ECOSOC in July and the GA in September 2019.

Ambassador King invited the President of the General of two upcoming climate-related meetings:

- ‘Pathways to resilience in climate-affected SIDS: Promises, actions and results’ that was to be convened as a follow-up to the Special meeting on the Aftermath of recent hurricanes: Achieving a risk informed and resilient 2030 Agenda and is being proposed for mid-November 2018. The meeting will also review the outcome of the UN-CARICOM High-level Pledging Conference “Building a More Climate-Resilience Community” held last November.
- The joint meeting of ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on “Linkages between Climate Change and Challenges to Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, with a particular focus on the Sahel” to be convened on November 13. These two meetings will have special significance in light of the Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released 8 October 2018 which underscored the need for urgent action on all fronts.

High-Level Event on Women in Power

The President of the General Assembly advised the President of ECOSOC that her office will convene a high-level event entitled “Women in Power” on 11 March 2019 dedicated to the promotion of women in leadership. The timing of the event will take advantage of the presence of leaders in New York during the ministerial segment of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).