



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4 April 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a memo from my meeting on 28 March 2019 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, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Missions and
Observers to the United Nations
New York

Meeting of the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

Thursday 28 March 2019

The President of the 73rd session of the General Assembly (GA), H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés 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 28 March 2019. The following matters were discussed:

High-Level Meeting on Climate and Sustainable Development

Both Presidents reflected on the outcome of Day 1 of the High-level Meeting on Climate and Sustainable Development. The President of the General Assembly (PGA) thanked Ambassador King for moderating the panel on the Synergies between Climate and the SDGs and the linkages with the High-Level Political Forum in July. The President of ECOSOC commended the PGA on the format of the event and noted that it provided a solid foundation and concrete building blocks for the HLPF in July and the Climate Action Summit. She also noted that the contributions of the discussions during the leaders' roundtable luncheon on Youth and Intergenerational Mobilization and the Future of Work will inform the deliberations at the upcoming ECOSOC Youth Forum.

The President of ECOSOC informed the PGA of the Special meeting on the Response to Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe scheduled for 2 April and the intention to seek to mobilize accelerated support to the affected countries.

Youth Forum

Both Presidents discussed the preparations for the ECOSOC Youth Forum and specifically the PGA's Interactive Dialogue which will highlight Youth Peace and Security. The President of ECOSOC advised the PGA that already over 800 young people have confirmed for the meeting.

The President of ECOSOC indicated to the PGA that there will be several other events on the margins of the Youth Forum in which she is extending an invitation. On 9 April, the President of ECOSOC will convene a Ministerial Breakfast with high-level representatives from conflict-affected countries and will address engaging youth in peace building.

High-Level Meeting on The Future of Work

The PGA conveyed her appreciation to the ECOSOC team for identifying youth participants for the upcoming High-level Meeting on the Future of Work. She also noted that in her final letter to Member States on the event, she will convey her intention to invite Ambassador King to deliver remarks.

High-Level Political Forum

Following on the discussions from the High-level Meeting on Climate and Sustainable Development, both Presidents suggested that Members States presenting their Voluntary National Review (VNR) in the HLPF in July should reflect on the coalitions for the Climate Summit.

The President of ECOSOC shared that she will convene a first meeting of the Group of Friends of VNRs in April. The Group of Friends will provide value added to the HLPF process by reviewing the various reports on the VNRs, preparing the HLPF interactions on the VNRs and supporting peer learning. This will bring fresh perspectives for the second cycle of VNRs.

The PGA also noted that during the informal consultations on the recommendation for the organizational activities during HLPF under the General Assembly convened on 15 March, there was a call from delegations for a cohesive narrative for High-Level Week. The President advised that she has discussed with Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed that they will collaborate to work with Ambassador King and co-facilitators on the processes of high-level week to gather ideas on a narrative for an informal briefing with Member States.

The PGA also noted that during the consultation, several delegations highlighted that the 74th session will be too late to determine the follow-up and review of the HLPF. Both Presidents discussed possible countries to lead on informal discussions to determine an approach which would eventually evolve into a Group of Friends on the review of the HLPF.

Joint Briefing of the Presidents

Both Presidents acknowledged the importance of convening another joint briefing and explored possible themes. It was considered to have the briefing in May.

NYU Multilateralism Series

The PGA recalled that a second in the NYU series on Multilateralism on the theme “Renewing the Commitment to Multilateralism” will be held in May. The PGA reminded the President of ECOSOC of the International Day of Multilateralism and the High-Level Meeting scheduled for 24 April. The PGA welcomed recommendations from Ambassador King on speakers for the event.

The President of ECOSOC extended an invitation to the PGA to the ECOSOC Presidential Lecture scheduled for 20 May.