



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 May 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a memo from my meeting on 16 May 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, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "MFEspinosa".

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

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

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

Thursday, 16 May 2019

The President of the seventy-third 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, 16 May 2019. The following matters were discussed:

Briefing to Member States on High-level Week

The President of the General Assembly (PGA) outlined for the President of ECOSOC the upcoming briefing on a Roadmap for High-level Week to Member States scheduled for 14 June. She underscored the key role to be played by the President of ECOSOC in outlining the plans for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July and the connection to the Summit in September. The PGA also apprised the President of ECOSOC of her first coordination meeting with the co-facilitators for the processes during high-level week (15 May) to discuss the strategy for maximizing the synergies and coherence across the high-level meetings, including their roles in the briefing to Member States.

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under ECOSOC

The President of ECOSOC provided the PGA with updates on the HLPF in July. Some 400 applications have been received for side events which continues to signal the strong attachment and importance of partners to the HLPF. Countries delivering their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) will submit key messages from their report on 17 May.

Following on previous discussions to convene a Group of Friends of VNRs, and the approach for the follow-up and review of the HLPF, both Presidents decided that in support of their continued approach to aligning the work of the GA and ECOSOC, they would convene one Group of Friends to address both matters on a phased basis. The Group of Friends of VNRs and the follow-up and review of the HLPF would be convened jointly by the Presidents of the General Assembly and ECOSOC with the support of a Member State to lead the group.

The PGA apprised the President of ECOSOC on the recommendations on the format, scope and organization for the SDG Summit received from H.E. Rubén Escalante Hasbún, Permanent Representative of El Salvador. She observed that the release of the Global Sustainable Development Report will be key in shaping the scope and format of the Summit.

2019 ECOSOC Operational Activities segment

The two Presidents exchanged views on the preparation of ECOSOC operational activities segment (21-23 May). They saw it as an important moment to take stock of progress made in the implementation of the GA resolutions on the QCPR and the repositioning of the UN development system. There are important developments, reviews and proposals in the SG's report on which it would be important for Member States to give their feedback. They noted the different and complementary roles of the GA and ECOSOC in operational activities. The President of ECOSOC informed the PGA that Member States are in consultations regarding an outcome of the segment.

ECOSOC Presidential Lecture

The President of ECOSOC recalled the upcoming Presidential Lecture scheduled for 20 May on "Reason, Science Humanism and Progress in Creating the Future We Want" with Dr. Steven Pinker.

Alignment Process

Both President discussed the alignment process and underscored the importance of their continuous engagement with Member States towards a meaningful outcome.