



ECOSOC NEWS

Inga Rhonda King, President

New York, 16 April - 19 April 2019

Major developments

- ❖ The programme of the 2019 High-Level Segment and High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is available at this [link](#).
- ❖ Happening this week: The 18th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) is taking place from 22 April – 3 May 2019, more information is available [here](#).

Participation of the President in Meetings



From 15 to 18 April 2019, more than 30 Government Ministers and high-level officials, as well as other senior officials and hundreds of representatives from the private sector, civil society and the international system from around the world gathered at the [2019 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum](#) in New York. The growing sense of urgency about the need to scale up development progress and the high level of attendance and activity at this year's Forum underlined the centrality of development finance to SDG achievement.

The meeting was chaired by ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King, who described in her [opening remarks](#) how global risks, such as climate change, trade tensions and rising debt levels and vulnerabilities, are undermining global commitments and development prospects. The Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and senior executives from the International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group and World Trade Organization also delivered statements in the opening. Keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, and Professor Raghuram Rajan, Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. From their respective areas of expertise, both keynote speakers emphasized the importance of international cooperation to addressing increasingly complex global challenges and to ensuring prosperity.

Throughout four days of interactive discussions, dozens of side events and a special meeting between the Bretton Woods Institutions and the UN, participants focused on current economic and non-economic trends and their impact on financing for development and the implementation of the Addis Agenda.

The week concluded with the adoption by Member States of the [intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations](#) of the 2019 Forum, which was co-facilitated by the Permanent Representatives of Italy and Zambia.

Broadly, there was agreement among participants that the current challenges associated with global economic context and climate-related disasters highlight the need for global action to achieve the global goals. Although difficulties exist, this juncture also provides opportunities for revamping multilateral arrangements in support of sustainable development and finance. Alongside this, national strategies and policies to mobilize financial

resources are critical. Numerous countries are at the forefront of designing and implementing their integrated national financing frameworks, and there is growing demand for further analysis, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.

The [SDG Investment Fair \(15-17 April\)](#) also ran during the Forum, bringing together more than 400 representatives from governments and the investment community, as well as from development finance institutions, academia and civil society to discuss urgent actions on closing the SDG investment gap. In the context of the Fair, the Secretary-General also announced that he will convene the “Global Investors for Sustainable Development,” a CEO-driven alliance that will focus on creating long-term investments for sustainable development by addressing policy and institutional obstacles.

A summary of the 2019 Financing for Development Forum will be made available shortly. For more information about both events, please visit: <https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffdforum/>.

Bilateral Meetings of the President of ECOSOC

On 16 April 2019, ahead of the ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of the Economic and Social Council met with representatives of the Global Dairy Platform (GDP). The Global Dairy Platform is an organization whose aim is to align and support the dairy industry in promoting sustainable nutrition, and it includes many of the world’s largest dairy companies. They discussed the key role of dairy in the realization of SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture which underpins the achievement of so many other Goals.

On 17 April 2019, the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King met with the President of the Trade and Development Board, Ambassador Salim Baddoura (Lebanon). They held discussions on key outcomes from recent UNCTAD meetings, including the IGEs on Financing for Development and e-Commerce and the importance of UNCTAD of ensuring better synergy between Geneva and New York.

On 17 April 2019, the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King met with H.E Mr. Qu Dongyu, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China. During the meeting they discussed several topics, including areas of collaboration between the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); promotion of global food security; conservation of biodiversity, drought and digital farming; training and capacity building for farmers; environmental sustainability and poverty eradication.



On 16 April, ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King met with representatives of the Global Dairy Platform.



ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King met with the President of the Trade and Development Board, Ambassador Salim Baddoura (Lebanon).



ECOSOC President H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King with H.E Mr. Qu Dongyu, candidate of FAO's Director-General and Vice Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China.