



# ECOSOC NEWS

## Inga Rhonda King, President

New York, 19 February-1 March 2019

### Major developments

- ❖ The programme of the 2019 High-Level Segment and High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) will be posted on the [website](#) shortly.
- ❖ The [Youth Forum](#) (8-9 April 2019) is the next ECOSOC major event. It will focus on the six SDGs under review at the HLPF, on quality education (SDG 4), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), inequality (SDG 10), climate action (SDG 13), peaceful societies and robust institutions (SDG 16) and means of implementation and global partnership (SDG 17). Last year more than 800 participants were present. The Forum will provide an opportunity to engage young people and hear their voices for the accelerated implementation of the Agenda 2030. It is envisioned that a youth representative will share the outcome of the Youth Forum at the General Assembly High-level event on “The Future of Work” on 10 April.

### Participation of the President in Events



*The ECOSOC President opens the Second Global VNR workshop in Bonn, Germany – 19 February 2019*

and briefed VNR presenting countries about her vision and expectations for a successful HLPF in July. Participants, including 47 government officials from countries conducting a voluntary national review at the 2019 HLPF, representatives of the UN Regional Commissions, as well as observers from UNDP, UNSSC, the European Commission and the Government of Germany, exchanged best practices and lessons learned in four areas including ownership of the VNR and a whole-of-government approach, data and statistics, stakeholder engagement and resource mobilization for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Workshop participants were hosted for a working lunch at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and a reception by the City of Bonn and the UN System Staff College.

On 19-20 February 2019, ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King participated in the Second Global VNR Workshop for countries presenting a Voluntary National Review at the 2019 High-level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC. The workshop was made possible through support from the Government of Germany and was organized by OISC, DESA and hosted by the UN System Staff College at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany.

The ECOSOC President opened the two-day peer learning event which focused on taking stock of the VNR preparations thus far



*The ECOSOC President meeting with Secretariat staff of the Regional Commissions at the VNR workshop – 19-20 February 2019*



*The ECOSOC President at the Women International Forum – 28 February 2019*

On 28 February 2019, the ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King participated in the Women International Forum. Ambassador King underscored that gender equality is both vital for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



*The ECOSOC President meets with students at the Women International Forum – 28 February 2019*

She stressed that gender equality and women’s empowerment are a priority, and that women must have access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Member States at the highest level pledged that no one would be left behind, and they committed to “endeavor to reach the furthest behind first”. Women must have full access to secure decent jobs. Ambassador King called on ending violence against women and to intensify all necessary efforts to overcome gender stereotypes and the negative social norms.



*The Committee of the Whole of ECLAC took place at the UN Headquarters in New York*

On 27 February 2019, the ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King attended the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Ambassador King called on the Latin America and the Caribbean countries that have not yet presented their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), to register by 2020. She said that the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) has greatly benefited from the debates and reflection conducted at ECLAC Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. It has provided a wealth of evidence and policy ideas. Ambassador King also updated representatives of the Whole of ECLAC on the upcoming Operational Activities Segment in May 2019, and the UN Development System reform.

## Bilateral Meetings of the President of ECOSOC

On 23-25 February 2019, the ECOSOC President Ambassador Inga Rhonda King visited the People’s Republic of China. She met with Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Zhang Jun; the Director General Wang Xialong of the Department of International Economic Affairs; the Director-General Li Junhua of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences, and Deputy Director-General Liu Guangyong, of Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office.

They exchanged views on the cooperation between China and ECOSOC, Multilateralism, implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, High-level Political Forum, climate change and ECOSOC President priorities.



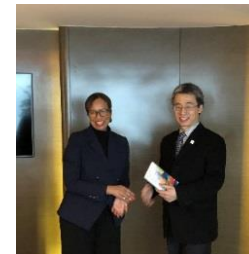
*The ECOSOC President meeting with Mr. Zhang Jun - 25 February 2019*



*The ECOSOC President meeting with Mr. Wang Xialong - 25 February 2019*



*The ECOSOC President meeting with Mr. Li Junhua - 25 February 2019*



*The ECOSOC President meeting with Mr. Liu Guangyong - 23 February 2019*



*The ECOSOC President meeting with representatives of the Jiangdu International School - 24 February 2019*

On 24 February 2019, ECOSOC President Ambassador Inga Rhonda King visited the Jiangdu International School, during which she held discussions with the school board of directors, Zhang Hui, Director of Foreign Affairs; and Zhou Minglong, Director of the Education Bureau. Ambassador King was a past English teacher at the school. In her remarks, the ECOSOC President highlighted that the High-Level Political Forum in July will review implementation of six Sustainable Development Goals including quality education (SDG4).



*The ECOSOC President meeting with Ms. Alicia Bárcena - 26 February 2019*

On 26 February 2019, ECOSOC President Ambassador Inga Rhonda King met with Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). They spoke about the 2019 High Level Political Forum, the ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment, the Integration Segment, and the ECOSOC Special Meeting on “Pathways to resilience in climate-affected SIDS”, which took place on November 2018.



*The ECOSOC President meeting with H.E. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba - 27 February 2019*

On 27 February 2019, ECOSOC President Ambassador Inga Rhonda King met with H.E. Mr. Luis Alfonso de Alba, United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the 2019 Climate Summit. They discussed the preparation for the September 2019 Climate Summit and ways to cooperate in the lead up.



*The ECOSOC President meeting with Ms. Penny Abeywardena - 1 March 2019*

On March 01, 2019, ECOSOC President Ambassador Inga Rhonda King met with Ms. Penny Abeywardena, New York City Commissioner for International Affairs. They discussed the 2019 High Level Political Forum, the Voluntary Local Review (VLR), the New York city’s commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the OneNYC initiative.