



**ECOSOC Special Meeting (24 October 2017)  
Aftermath of recent hurricanes:  
Achieving a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda**

**Closing Remarks  
delivered by  
H. E. Ambassador Inga Rhonda King,  
Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council  
on behalf of  
H.E. Ambassador Marie Chatardová,  
President of the Economic and Social Council**

I would like to thank all our distinguished speakers, our moderator and the panelists for their contribution to this meeting. I also appreciate the very strong support and participation of member states from all regions. It is a demonstration of solidarity and your continuing belief in multilateralism and global solutions to the problems that we face.

This meeting provided us an opportunity to take stock of existing initiatives and efforts that are aimed at helping the affected countries and territories rebuild with resilience. We must make sure that we are building on these efforts, enhancing their complementarity and avoiding duplication.

We also heard new and innovative proposals and initiatives. I call on Member States and the international financial institutions to reflect on these and to advance them for the benefit of affected States.

The 2017 hurricane season in the Caribbean underscored the importance of investing in resilient, high-quality infrastructure. Without it, lives and livelihoods, critical infrastructure and essential services will be repeatedly weakened by recurring disasters, both small and large scale. By enforcing existing or establishing better building codes and adopting a risk-informed approach to land use planning, resilience can be cemented into the reconstruction process. It can also be an opportunity to accelerate poverty reduction and reduce the inequalities that make the poorest more vulnerable to disasters.

I would like to also highlight that geospatial information and services can be vital in preventing and reducing the human, socioeconomic and environmental risks and impacts of disasters. In this regard, I would like to highlight the work of the United Nations Committee

of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), an ECOSOC subsidiary body.

Various Forums within ECOSOC can be used to continue the dialogue on different aspects of the recommendations we have heard here today. The ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum is such a platform that could be used for future discussions of risk-informed investments and financing for disaster risk reduction.

As Member States, we have made commitments to developing and implementing holistic disaster risk management at all levels in line with the Sendai Framework. It is now time for action to turn these commitments into reality for all.

I am particularly encouraged by the commitment of international partners to support affected countries in their efforts to become more resilient. The United Nations system must commit to work together to better support countries in taking a risk-informed approach to post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. Investments and development assistance must be risk informed and adopt a long-term vision for resilience to avoid creating new risks through reconstruction. We must find innovative ways to increase vulnerable small states' access to finance.

I intend to issue a Presidential Statement tomorrow, which will capture the key messages and recommendations that emerged from our discussions this morning. In addition, a more detailed summary will also be prepared and shared with you. And the Council will follow-up in 2018 to ensure strong progress on the ground.

I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Economic and Social Council to continue to promote coordination in the work of the United Nations development system in coping with various global challenges and assist affected countries in their efforts to achieve a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.