



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

**TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES**

**Statement by H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC**

**International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

**October 17, 2018**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to join you on this International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

On behalf of the Economic and Social Council, I wish to express my gratitude to the organizers of and participants in this important event, which focuses on matters – including participation, inclusion, empowerment and eradication of poverty – that are at the heart of our mission at ECOSOC. I am pleased that the outcome of today’s Special Meeting will be used as an input to the 2019 High Level Political Forum, to be held under the auspices of the ECOSOC, as well as that to be held under the auspices of the General Assembly.

ECOSOC has long recognized the critical importance of broad participation in its processes. Indeed, the first time that non-governmental organizations took a role in formal UN deliberations was through the ECOSOC in 1946 and, since that time, ECOSOC has served as a gateway for NGO participation in UN intergovernmental efforts touching a range of sustainable development issues.

The phrase “nothing about us without us,” created by persons with disabilities, has been afterwards often used by different groups that have also, too often, been left out of decision processes that affect them.

This sentiment is well understood at the UN, which is ever seeking to innovate its approaches to facilitate broad participation in its work. One recent success was the process for the development of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is often considered the largest consultation process in the history of the United Nations. For this reason, the 2030 Agenda proclaims itself “of the people, by the people and for the people.”



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

[facebook.com/UNECOSOC](https://facebook.com/UNECOSOC)

[twitter.com/UNECOSOC](https://twitter.com/UNECOSOC)

[youtube.com/UNECOSOC](https://youtube.com/UNECOSOC)



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

## TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

But more must be done to ensure the participation of those living in poverty in United Nations and other processes that affect their lives.

As we celebrate today the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, we recognize the more than 700 million people living in extreme poverty. Extreme working poverty also remains widespread. In 2017, more than 300 million workers in emerging and developing countries had a per capita household income or consumption below \$1.90 per day.

Ending poverty in all of its forms and dimensions, everywhere, is at the center of the 2030 Development Agenda, set out in the very first of the Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, the commitment of the international community to eliminating poverty is high, as reconfirmed by the General Assembly proclaiming the “Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027).”

We firmly believe that to find effective approaches to ending poverty, those experiencing it must have a seat at the table and be given to tools to empower themselves and participate fully.

With this in mind, the theme of the 2019 HLPF “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality,” could not be more appropriate, and ECOSOC will focus on “empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies.”

I wish to encourage all stakeholders to participate in both HLPF and ECOSOC processes.

One of the ways that the UN currently promotes such participation and inclusivity is through the system of ECOSOC accreditation of NGOs. This enables more than 5,000 NGOs to attend and contribute at UN meetings. Seeking to eliminate the inequalities that can hinder full participation, the accreditation system particularly prioritizes applications from NGOs from developing countries.

We are also exploring other avenues of increasing participation of those living in poverty and would particularly welcome today your suggestions in this regard.

I am optimistic that by working together, we will continue to strengthen the meaningful participation of those living in poverty and, in doing so, we will bring to life the promise of the 2030 Agenda to “leave no one behind.” Thank you.



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

[facebook.com/UNECOSOC](https://facebook.com/UNECOSOC)

[twitter.com/UNECOSOC](https://twitter.com/UNECOSOC)

[youtube.com/UNECOSOC](https://youtube.com/UNECOSOC)