



**CSW63 Multi-Stakeholder Forum
Closing session (5:30 – 6:00 p.m.)
1 February 2019, Conference Room 1**

**Closing remarks by
H.E. Ambassador Inga Rhonda King
President of the Economic and Social Council**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to join you in the closing session of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum in preparation for the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in my capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council.

It is my hope that this interactive multi-stakeholder dialogue with the participation of Member States, the UN system, civil society, and academia will contribute to a positive outcome of the upcoming session of the Commission. This is critical to a successful ECOSOC and the High-Level Political Forum in July.

This year is critical for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The High-level Political Forum will be convened twice— in July under the auspices of ECOSOC and in September at the summit level under the auspices of the General Assembly. Having the most successful HLPF this July is crucial for our success at the HLPF Summit in September.

The July HLPF will follow up on progress towards the six goals under review, namely SDG 4 (education), SDG 8 (Growth and employment), SDG 10 (inequality), SDG 13 (climate change), SDG 16 (peaceful societies and robust institutions) and SDG 17 (Means of Implementation). The HLPF Summit, at the Heads of State and Government level in September, will review overall progress on the 2030 Agenda and all 17 SDGs, and provide political guidance on implementation, and mobilize further action to accelerate implementation.

Excellencies,

I welcome the early focus of Member States on the priority theme of CSW which is indicative of commitment for a substantive session with forward-looking results. I commend CSW for continuing to align its priority theme with the theme of the Council and the HLPF, including the Goals under review.

The Economic and Social Council places great emphasis on the need for an integrated and action-oriented approach to the Sustainable Development Goals. The work of its functional commissions is indispensable in this regard. CSW's priority theme gives good opportunity for attention to the social, economic and environmental dimensions of the issue under consideration – from a gender perspective.

Target 5.4 of SDG 5 explicitly acknowledges the importance of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies for recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work.

Throughout the world, this work is disproportionately carried out by women and girls. It sustains families, societies and economies, but remains poorly supported. As a result, women and girls face constraints in the realization of their rights to education, employment, participation, leisure and rest.

Investment in public services, infrastructure and social protection are, therefore, critical to free up their time and support their mobility, access to economic opportunities and ability to live dignified and fulfilling lives. Greater policy coherence in these three areas can produce powerful synergies, making individual policies work better and addressing the rights and needs of women and girls in a holistic way.

Today, you shared good practices, lessons learned, successful approaches and strategies. You identified areas that require enhanced commitments. These will inform the deliberations at CSW63 towards an action-oriented outcome.

I hope that the dialogue started at this multi-stakeholder forum today will contribute to alliances and partnerships for action that will continue beyond the forum and well into CSW63.

I look forward to CSW's contribution to the deliberations of the Council and those of the HLPF in furtherance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to ensure that no woman or girl is left behind.
