



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

**TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES**

**H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King**  
**President of the Economic and Social Council**

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**ECOSOC Special Meeting on “Response to Cyclone Idai in Mozambique,  
Malawi and Zimbabwe”**

**New York, 2 April 2019**

### **Closing Statement**

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 the situation on the three countries affected by Cyclone Idai, and the efforts made to save lives.

We have heard of the immediate humanitarian needs, including to respond to cholera and acute watery diarrhea, as well as malaria; provide shelter, food, water and sanitation; to reunite families, protect children; and make sure people have seeds to plant in the coming two weeks. These are urgent needs and I encourage continued financial support to reduce suffering.

We also heard of the need to the recovery and reconstruction to start immediately in order to allow the communities affected to rebuild their lives.

We must also recall the links made the climate change and the increase in weather related disasters and work together to reverse this trend.



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## TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

The United Nations system must commit to work together to better support countries in preparedness and response, but also by providing investments and development assistance and adopt a long-term vision for resilience.

Furthermore, concessional finance, including climate finance and other forms of development cooperation will be needed to rebuild. We must ease the debt distress of the affected countries to increase their fiscal space to respond effectively.

As we get ready to complete the first cycle of the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development under the auspices of ECOSOC in July, and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the Summit level in September, our efforts must focus on accelerating the implementation of a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda.

We must also build on the momentum for climate action following the adoption of the Katowice Climate Package at COP 24. The review of SDG 13 in July HLPF, the HLPF Summit and the Climate Summit will help build ambition for climate action around the world.

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.

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.



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