



# ECOSOC | NEWS

## Inga Rhonda King, President

New York, 19-23 November 2018

### SDG 16 is a building block for the 2030 Agenda, says ECOSOC President



*The ECOSOC President at the IDLO Partnership Forum (20 November)*

H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) delivered an opening address at the [Partnership Forum](#), “Taking stock of sustainable development and the rule of law in turbulent times,” organized by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) on 20 November in Rome. The ECOSOC President stressed that the rule of law and sustainable development are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, and that SDG 16 on “Peace, justice and strong institutions” is a building block for the 2030 Agenda. “It must be met above all with political will and relentless follow-through by all countries as this is a universal agenda for all”.

### ECOSOC President calls on accelerating rural poverty reduction at the FAO Symposium



*The ECOSOC President at the FAO International Symposium (21 November)*

On 21 November, the ECOSOC President was invited by FAO to deliver a keynote [statement](#) at the opening of the “International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers” on the theme, “Unlocking the potential of agricultural innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. The ECOSOC President stated that “Ending poverty requires raising rural incomes and increasing productivity sustainably as to transform rural livelihoods”. In that context, Ambassador King called on governments, stakeholders, the private sector and the scientific community to work all together to leverage the untapped potential of food systems and to boost productivity in incomes on small-scale farms.

### Meetings with UN system, Government of Italy and the Vatican



*FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva with ECOSOC President Rhonda King*

During her visit to Rome, the ECOSOC President met with the Heads of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and also with the Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP). Topics discussed at these meetings included potential areas for collaboration with ECOSOC, particularly in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the upcoming 2019 ECOSOC substantive session and HLP; policy integration in the context of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the



*WFP Deputy Executive Director Amir Abdulla with ECOSOC President Rhonda King*



*IFAD President Gilbert Houngbo with ECOSOC President Rhonda King*

President highlighted the challenges facing Small Islands Developing States in the context of climate change while also urging focused attention on ending hunger, promoting global food security, conserving biodiversity, achieving environmental sustainability and eradicating poverty.



*Director General for Development Cooperation of Italy Giorgio Marrapodi with ECOSOC President Rhonda King*



*Under-Secretary for the Holy See's relations with States Msgr. Antoine Camilleri with ECOSOC President Rhonda King*

At the end of her official visit, the President of ECOSOC met with Monsignor Antoine Camilleri, Under-Secretary for the Holy See's Relations with States, and discussed climate change and the Global Compact on Migration. Ambassador King also had a meeting with Mr. Giorgio Marrapodi, Director General for Development Cooperation of Italy to discuss how Italy can better support the activity of ECOSOC.

The President also met with the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) and advocated for their engagement on advancing the SDG on food and all other SDGs.