



# ECOSOC | NEWS

## Inga Rhonda King, President

New York, 29 October-16 November 2018

### “Multilateralism and Strengthening the Role of the United Nations” – Security Council Open Debate



*The ECOSOC President at the Security Council (9 November)*

On 9 November 2018, ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King addressed the open debate of the Security Council on “Multilateralism and Strengthening the Role of the United Nations” organized by the Chinese Presidency. The open debate discussed how to enhance multilateralism and the role of the United Nations, and how to enable the Security Council to effectively perform its functions as a collective security mechanism and better maintain international peace and security.

In her [remarks](#), the ECOSOC President expressed concern that multilateralism was so frequently being questioned today, noting that issues such as climate change, technological disruption, the threat of nuclear war, trade, refugees and migration were challenges needing a global solution. She stressed that, now more than ever, we needed “to keep the channels of dialogue open” and find common approaches and solutions to global challenges through the United Nations. She further noted that the High Level Political Forum in 2019 provided a perfect opportunity to catalyze action toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, reaffirm our commitment to global cooperation and create the conditions for peace and sustainable development. Ambassador King also highlighted the need to break down silos between the UN main organs as well as the importance of bringing more coherence across the three main pillars of the UN.

Remarks: <https://bit.ly/2zG8fcl>

Video: <https://bit.ly/2qFcktk>

### “Renewing the Commitment to Multilateralism: A High-level Dialogue of the Presidents of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, the Security Council, and the Human Rights Council”



*The ECOSOC President participating in the High-level dialogue (31 October)*

On 31 October 2018, the ECOSOC President participated in the High-level Dialogue of the presidents of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council on “Renewing the Commitment to Multilateralism”. The dialogue underscored the inherent value of bringing together development, peace and security, and human in support of collective objectives, stressing that the complex, global, cross-border issues

facing the world today cannot be addressed by countries on their own.

In her [remarks](#), Ambassador King described how the inclusive negotiations which led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 resulted in increased trust, greater cohesion, common sense of purpose and receptiveness to new ideas. In her view, the process leading to the 2030 Agenda should be taken as an example of how to renew trust in the multilateral process. She remained optimistic on the way forward for the United Nations based on her “unyielding faith in the human capacity to reimagine its world”.

Remarks: <https://bit.ly/2FnhXqg>

Video: <https://bit.ly/2PRvtq5>

## “Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Sahel Region” – Annual Session of the Peacebuilding Commission



*The ECOSOC President at the annual session of the PBC (12 November)*

On 12 November 2018, ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King delivered an opening statement at the annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on the theme: “Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Sahel Region”. This was the first time that an ECOSOC President addressed the annual session of the PBC – a sign of the increasing cooperation between the two UN bodies.

In her [remarks](#), the ECOSOC President noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized that adopting a comprehensive approach to address the social, economic and environmental root causes of conflict was the only way forward to build lasting peace and sustainable development. She underscored the importance of taking a preventive approach, with the full involvement of women, young people and other marginalized groups, if we wanted to succeed in realizing the pledge to “leave no one behind” including in conflict-affected countries.

Underscoring that ECOSOC and PBC were natural partners in preventing conflict and sustaining peace, she stressed that the close collaboration between all UN intergovernmental bodies was essential in enhancing the peace and development nexus.

Video: <https://bit.ly/2TfSkKS>

## “Linkages between Climate Change and Challenges to Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Sahel” – ECOSOC-PBC Joint Meeting



*The ECOSOC President at the ECOSOC-PBC Joint Meeting (13 November)*

On 13 November 2018, ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King participated in the joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission on “Linkages between Climate Change and Challenges to Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Sahel” organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). The meeting showcased examples of successful conflict-sensitive mitigation and adaptation measures to address climate change and sustain peace and reaffirmed international support for the recalibrated United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel as well as the

United Nations Support Plan for the Sahel aimed at fostering more coherent and coordinated action on the ground to accelerate progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2063 African Union Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in the Sahel region.

In her [remarks](#), the ECOSOC President noted the complex and multidimensional challenges facing the Sahel, including insecurity, armed conflict, human suffering and escalating humanitarian needs. The continuing deterioration of the situation in the region is due to poverty, lack of access to basic social services, rising inequalities, including gender inequality, lack of economic opportunities, growing unemployment, poor natural resource management and weak governance. Underscoring the region's vulnerability to climate change, she stressed that temperature increases are projected to be 1.5 times higher than the rest of the world. Largely dependent on rain-fed agriculture and regularly hit by droughts and floods, some 33 million people in the Sahel are currently food insecure, along with 4.7 million children suffering acute malnutrition. In her view, ECOSOC and the PBC have an important role to play in helping address the socio-economic and environmental drivers of conflict to achieve the SDGs in the Sahel by working collaboratively and strengthening integrated approaches to enhance the peace and development nexus.

Video: <https://bit.ly/2z8Jmqk>

## **ECOSOC Meeting on Pathways to resilience in climate-affected SIDS, A Forward-Looking Resilience Building Agenda: Promises, results and next steps**



*The ECOSOC President at the meeting on climate-affected SIDS (13 November)*

The Economic and Social Council convened a Meeting on “Pathways to resilience in climate-affected SIDS, A Forward-Looking Resilience Building Agenda: Promises, results and next steps” on 13 November 2018. The meeting focused on commitments made and results achieved arising from the CARICOM-UN high level pledging conference following the hurricanes of 2017. The Council explored new and innovative approaches to financing and building climate resilience. A Presidential Statement has been issued on the main

recommendations.

In her [remarks](#), the ECOSOC President said that “Building resilience in SIDS, must be a priority if we want to achieve a risk-informed and resilient implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The meeting underscored that SIDS are facing challenges in securing adequate financing for resilience. The meeting called for much greater attention to developing tailored ex-ante financing instruments for disaster risk reduction that will not add to fiscal stresses, in addition to ongoing efforts for disaster risk financing. The speed, predictability and accessibility of climate financing, especially for adaptation and resilience for SIDS and LDCs, should be further improved and scaled up. While new innovative sources, such as blue and green bonds, were welcomed as a supplement, calls were made for grant-based financing for climate change adaptation. The meeting also underscored the importance of a reliable and predictable replenishment process for the Green Climate Fund to ensure adequate levels of climate finance for developing countries.

Building resilience in SIDS needs to go beyond disaster risk reduction. Economic diversification, innovation, transition to knowledge economies, green and blue economies would be critical for resilience in all dimensions of sustainable development in SIDS.

The meeting underscored the need to ensure that SIDS' voices and concerns are heard and addressed at key events in 2019, including the 2019 HLPF Summit, the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, the High-level Policy Dialogue on financing for development, the high-level mid-term review of SAMOA Pathway and the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Video: <https://bit.ly/2Tec3dQ>

## ECOSOC President addresses the UNCTAD 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development



*The ECOSOC President delivering a video statement at UNCTAD (7 November)*

On 7 November 2018, the ECOSOC President delivered a video [message](#) at the opening of the UNCTAD 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development. She stressed that “Debt challenges are increasing across a wide range of countries” and that global debt stocks continue to rise. At the same time, she said that many low-income and least developed countries are again facing debt distress.

The ECOSOC President indicated that the composition of debt has changed and that developing countries have increasingly tapped international financial markets. This has created new financing, with new and very difficult challenges for countries that are facing debt distress. Ambassador King said that the “current global architecture is not well positioned to facilitate timely, orderly, effective, and fair restructuring”. She addressed these challenging issues in the context of achieving the 2030 Agenda and said that in the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, held earlier this year in New York, Member States pointed to a number of options to advance the agenda. Among them, Member States explored innovative instruments to lessen financial stress in times of crises.

Remarks: <https://bit.ly/2z0o0LA>

Video: <https://bit.ly/2PRuzdb>

## The ECOSOC President addresses the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary



*The ECOSOC President delivering a video message at the INCB (6 November)*

On 6 November 2018, the ECOSOC President addressed the Board via video [message](#) during an open dialogue with Member States on “The international drug control system: challenges and the way forward” at its 123<sup>rd</sup> session held in Vienna, Austria, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment. Ambassador King expressed her appreciation for the Board's work in promoting cooperation and coordinated action by States to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, preventing their illicit manufacture, diversion and abuse over the past 50 years.

The ECOSOC President said that the technical nature of INCB's work, including through evidence-based research, and monitoring of States' implementation of key drug control treaties has made it one of the most respected and impartial bodies in the world of drug control. “It is also a body that deserves to be better known not just among members of

the Economic and Social Council but also across the three pillars of the United Nations – peace, human rights and development – and among key constituencies of all Member States”. Ambassador King reiterated the commitment of the Council to contribute to ensure that the important work of the Board becomes better known.

Remarks: <https://bit.ly/2T1uhPy>

## MEDIA



*The ECOSOC President delivering the message on social media (11 November)*

On 11 November 2018, ECOSOC President Inga Rhonda King delivered a global [message](#) on social media stressing that she will bring together government and business leaders, scientists and civil society activists to deliver solutions and build climate resilience.

Ambassador King stated that “Climate change is real” and that the increase and intensity of climate-related disasters is worrying. She also indicated that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is under threat, and that last year, climate-related disasters caused 320 billion dollars of damage, wiping out decades of development gains in some places. She stressed that “We have the power to stop this trend!”

Video on social media: <https://bit.ly/2RYQ3SV>



[“The Caribbean must awaken to sea-level rise dangers — South Florida can help”](#), By Miami Herald Editorial Board, 11 November 2018



[“Building climate resilience and peace, go hand in hand for Africa’s Sahel – UN forum”](#), By UN News, 13 November 2018



[“Help build vulnerable island States’ resilience to extreme weather, urges senior UN official”](#), By UN News, 13 November 2018