



ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

Opening remarks

H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King

President of ECOSOC

Fourth ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up

New York, 15 April 2019

Your Excellency Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garces, President of the General Assembly,

Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres,

Honorable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to welcome you to the fourth ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up.

Four years ago, we committed to a global framework for financing sustainable development – the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

We have made progress in several areas at national, regional and global levels. Many governments have taken steps to align national development plans with the 2030 Agenda. And interest in sustainable financing is gaining traction in the private sector.

Despite this progress, however, we have not seen the broad transformation that we need to achieve the SDGs by 2030.



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While we work towards this, global risks increasingly materialize and threaten our common aspirations.

This includes both economic and non-economic risks.

Climate change, from the Caribbean and the Pacific to the Sahel, has reversed development gains. Recently, cyclone Idai (Edai) wrought destruction in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi causing billions of dollars in damage. Debt levels have risen and so has vulnerability, stifling investment in sustainable development, particularly in developing countries. Trade tensions are dampening economic growth and inequalities within countries continue to rise.

To address these risks, we need to act urgently and with heightened resolve. Let me highlight three areas of action:

First: global multilateral cooperation. No one actor will be able to address the emerging challenges and risks alone. So, let us renew our commitment to working together, leaving no one behind;

Second: we need to align financing frameworks with our sustainable development objectives. While many countries have taken steps to integrate the 2030 Agenda into national development strategies, many do not feature comprehensive financing plans; and

Third, we need to devise clear and concrete recommendations to accelerate the financing of sustainable development.



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In all our efforts, civil society engagement remains a key feature of ECOSOC – NGOs, academia and the private sector. I am delighted that we are able to welcome so many from the private sector, academia and NGOs and to benefit from your insights and experience in the coming days.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

2019 is a critical year as we will conclude the first four-year cycle since the agreement of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Agenda. We will hold the very first High-level Political Forum at the Summit level as well as the first High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, both in September. How we use this opportunity will shape how and when we achieve sustainable development for all.

This Forum represents an important milestone that sets the tone for the year ahead. And the outcome document of this Forum reflects our common ambition to make 2019 count.

I would like to congratulate the two co-facilitators for the negotiations on the outcome document. My distinguished colleagues, Ambassador Mari-angela Zappia of Italy and Ambassador Lazarous Ka-pambwe of Zambia, have worked tirelessly to garner consensus on the inter-governmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Forum.



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The outcome is a set of sharp and action-oriented conclusions and recommendations of the Forum. It is also a strong signal of our commitment to achieving the Addis Agenda.

This year, the outcome of the Forum will serve as an input into the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, to be held on September 26, as well as the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for their unwavering support throughout this process.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am looking forward to four days of concrete discussions on mobilizing the means to achieve our ambitious goals by 2030.

Many of you have travelled far and wide to attend this Forum. While our points of departure differ, we share the same destination – the future we want as enshrined in our common Agenda. Let us take the rest of the journey towards 2030 together.

I thank you!



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