



**Opening Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Inga Rhonda King, President of the  
Economic and Social Council**

**Partnerships for Transformation:**

**Philanthropy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

**A Special Event at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable  
Development (HLPF)**

**under the auspices of ECOSOC**

**Tuesday, 16 July 2019, 10:00 AM, ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ**

Your Excellency, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

Mr. Alexander Trepelkov, Officer-in-Charge, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA

Mr. Robert Skinner, Executive Director, UN Office for Partnerships

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Representatives of philanthropic organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to join you in this special event, which highlights the important contribution and potential of the philanthropic sector towards accelerating the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

I would like to congratulate the organizing partners, including UN DESA and the United Nations Office for Partnerships, as well as the SDG Philanthropy Platform, the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisers, the European Foundation Center, Synergos and the United Nations Foundation, for convening such an impressive and diverse group of leaders to discuss ways of expanding partnerships for the 2030 Agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you may know, the High-Level Political Forum is the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the global level.

The commitment of UN Member States to this universal agenda is clear. This year, 47 countries are reporting to the Forum on their progress and challenges in implementing the SDGs.

Stakeholders from all sectors, levels and geographical regions have also been actively contributing to the HLPF, including last week, when the Forum, under the overall theme of “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, took stock of implementing SDGs 4 (education), 8 (inclusive economic growth and decent work), 10 (reducing inequalities), 13 (climate change), 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies) and 17 (strengthening the means of implementation).

The philanthropic sector is an important stakeholder in supporting new and innovative actions that reach the furthest behind and protect the planet.

I am therefore very pleased to have, for the first time in connection with the HLPF, a special event to learn from the representatives of philanthropies about your contributions to the 2030 Agenda. I look forward to hearing about your experiences and lessons learned in realizing the SDGs, and your recommendations on how we could collectively accelerate their implementation.

This event is also a good opportunity to promote interactions between philanthropic organizations and Member States, and to nurture new collaborations between all stakeholders dedicated to making the SDGs a reality for all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Philanthropic organizations have been contributing to the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – through different approaches and in different settings. You have been investing in new technologies, supporting

communities and taking risks on modeling solutions that can be scaled up by governments and development partners. You have been galvanizing the political capital of global leaders towards common goods.

2019 is a critical year for the SDGs. Firstly, the current HLPF session under the auspices of ECOSOC, is closing the first cycle of SDG thematic reviews. Secondly, for the first time, Heads of State and Government will be meeting at the SDG Summit in September to take stock of the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The SDG Summit will also be an opportunity for all stakeholders to commit to new actions that can accelerate change.

I hope that this event will support and inspire your organizations to continue investing in the 2030 Agenda implementation and to register new acceleration actions in support of SDG implementation.

I wish you all a successful and productive event.

Thank you.