



ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

**Opening of the sixty-third session of
the Commission on the Status of Women
11 March 2019, General Assembly Hall, 10:00 AM**

**Opening Statement
President of the Economic and Social Council
H.E. Inga Rhonda King (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to participate in the opening of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and to be among so many champions of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, from governments and civil society alike.

The work of CSW is of paramount importance as Member States continuously strive to strengthen the global normative framework for gender equality and the empowerment of women. As a functional commission of ECOSOC, the Commission's work is a critical building block within the ECOSOC system towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and accelerated efforts to achieve the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda confirms the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls to sustainable development and poverty eradication, and for progress across all the Goals and targets.

Excellencies,

In July this year, ECOSOC and the high-level political forum (HLPF) for sustainable development will consider one theme, “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. I commend CSW for the alignment of its priority theme with the theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF in 2019.

This is a critical year for the 2030 Agenda. We will have two HLPFs. During the July HLPF, we will be reviewing a critical set of SDGs, addressing quality education (SDG 4); economic growth and decent work (SDG 8); inequalities (SDG 10); climate action (SDG 13); peaceful societies and robust institutions (SDG 16) and means of implementation (SDG 17). 50 countries will be presenting their Voluntary National Reviews.

This year, we will also have an HLPF Summit, under the auspices of the General Assembly, in September. The HLPF Summit will review overall progress on the 2030 Agenda and all 17 SDGs. It will provide political guidance on implementation and mobilize further action to accelerate progress.

We need a strong and positive outcome of CSW, as an essential stepping stone and critical to a successful ECOSOC and HLPF in July as well as the HLPF Summit in September.

Excellencies,

The Council places great emphasis on the need for an integrated and action-oriented approach to the SDGs. The work of its functional commissions is indispensable in this regard. CSW’s priority theme uniquely enables attention to the social, economic and environmental dimensions of the theme under consideration by the Council – from a gender perspective.

Target 5.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals explicitly acknowledges the importance of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies for recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work. Throughout the world, this work is disproportionately carried out by women and girls. It sustains families, societies and economies, but remains poorly supported. As

a result, women and girls face constraints in the realization of their rights to education, employment, participation, leisure and rest.

Investment in the three areas is critical to free up women's and girls' time, support their mobility and women's access to economic opportunities. Greater policy coherence in the three areas can produce powerful synergies, making individual policies work better and addressing the rights and needs of women and girls in a holistic way.

I look forward to a positive outcome of CSW63 that will contribute to the deliberations of the Council and those of the HLPF in furtherance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to leave no woman or girl behind.

The Council will continue to support the work of the Commission and contribute to progress for women and girls around the world.

As the President of the Economic and Social Council, I offer you my full support and wishes for successful deliberations.

Thank you.