



**Remarks of the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ms Inga Rhonda King, at the briefing of the  
President of the General Assembly  
Friday, 14 June, 3 pm**

Madam President of the General Assembly,  
Mr. President-elect of the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly,  
Madam Deputy Secretary-General,  
Mr. Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first thank the President of the General Assembly for her kind invitation to join her briefing on the high-level week of the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. I will hold a briefing on 26 June from 3 PM to 4:30 PM on the July high-level political forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the High-level segment of ECOSOC and the Integration Segment, so, today, I will limit my remarks to the link between the July HLPF and the SDG Summit.

As you know, the President of ECOSOC chairs the high-level political forum when it meets under the auspices of ECOSOC. This year, the HLPF will complete its first four-year cycle under the auspices of the Council. In those four years, it will have reviewed all 17 SDGs. It will have discussed themes ranging from “leaving no one behind” or “eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” to “transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” or this year- “empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. It will have examined progress towards the 2030 Agenda in countries in special situations and middle-

income countries. It will have reflected on ways to improve the science policy interface and to carry forward the outcomes of ECOSOC forums on financing for development and on Science, Technology and Innovation. Additionally, 142 countries will have presented their voluntary national reviews.

The Forum will also have served as a vibrant platform for major groups and other stakeholders. Those have, for example, organized their own session during the HLPF. They have participated throughout, as lead discussants or active participants.

Overall, all four HLPFs held between 2016 and 2019 will have paved the ground for the HLPF Summit in September and for the General Assembly high-level week, more generally.

At the same time, the coming HLPF in July will make a special contribution to these events, notably because it is mandated to inform the outcome of the Summit.

The July HLPF will advance the discussions in at least five ways.

First, its examination on the six SDGs under review (education, jobs and growth, inequality, climate change, peaceful societies and inclusive institutions and SDG 17) will inform the overall review of progress towards the 2030 Agenda at the Summit. The special edition of the Secretary-General's Progress Report and the Global Sustainable Development Report, which will be introduced at the HLPF, show that we need to transform our actions and truly accelerate the pace if we want to reach the SDGs by 2030. The discussions of the July HLPF will build on the recommendations of these two reports. I hope that we will be able to get a good sense of the type of actions that have achieved the greatest results at the country level. We should also understand better the measures that resonate the most with countries and other actors.

Secondly, this year's Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) will allow us to gain further evidence of how countries have been implementing the 2030 Agenda at home. The past HLPFs have showed that there is great dynamism around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We have learned how countries have been incorporating the SDGs in their plans and policies, mobilizing their institutions or consulting civil society and the private sector. But as time passes, the VNRs should start to show the impact of measures taken and the advances that are being made. This is what I expect from this year's VNRs.

To make the discussions of the VNRs most substantive and useful, I have established a Group of " Friends of VNRs, follow-up and review of the HLPF" together with the President of the General Assembly. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico is chairing this group. He has already convened the first meeting. I am sure that the 2019 VNR countries will profit from the advice of their "friend countries" so as to best use the HLPF to advance their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Group of friends aims to increase peer learning and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned. I would like to encourage you to join this group as friends.

Thirdly, the discussions of the HLPF on its theme, "empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality", will allow to gain greater insight in how to reach the furthest behind and leave no one behind as we progress towards the SDGs. We will also have sessions on countries in special situation – LDCs, LLDCs as well as the SIDS- who will have their dedicated meeting during the General Assembly high-level week.

Fourth, this year we will also have two sessions that will contribute directly the SDG Summit and the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. One is on lessons learned from four years of VNRs on SDG implementation. The other is about the lessons from HLPF's first cycle. Two

rapporteurs will continuously follow the discussions during the eight days, and distil the main messages of the HLPF for the Summit during that last session.

Fifth, the HLPF will have a session on financing the 2030 Agenda. It will also be linked to the Summit and to the General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development in September. It will build on the outcome of ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and tighten the connection with the SDGs.

Finally, I hope that July HLPF will encourage all of us to come up to the September Summit ready to announce ambitious SDG acceleration actions, as the President of the General Assembly outlined.

The various contributions of the July HLPF to the summit will be captured in my presidential summary. I have asked five rapporteurs to assist me in preparing an extensive and high-quality summary that will reflect the forum's discussions and recommendations. This will allow to ensure greater ownership of the summary by Member States. This is especially important because, as you know, the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC will not adopt a ministerial declaration this year. I intend to submit the summary so that it is issued as an official document of the United Nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I took over my presidency of ECOSOC, I had as a top priority to ensure that we have the best HLPF ever. I am sure that we can succeed, building on the experience we have accumulated. The leadership of the President of the General Assembly has taken us a long way in ensuring a successful summit in September. I am convinced that our two 2019 HLPFs will live up to the mandate of the forum as the central platform for following up and reviewing the

2030 Agenda and the SDGs. We have it in our hands to use those opportunities and the whole high-level week to put the world on track to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.