



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

HLPF Side event

**Accelerating progress on the SDGs through the implementation of the Global Action Programme
(GAP) on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States**

15 July 2019, 6.30-8pm, CR-7

His Excellency President of the Republic of Palau,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Tommy Remengesau Jr, President of the Republic of Palau, for his presence in this event.

I would like to commend the Republic of Palau, New Zealand, FAO, DESA and OHRLLS for joining forces in organizing this event.

I would like to thank Dr. José Graziano da Silva, the Director-General of FAO, for responding favorably to the suggestion of an event on food security and nutrition in SIDS when I proposed it at a meeting in Rome last November. Your tenure at FAO is concluding at the end of this month, you have relentlessly advocated and worked for a zero hunger and sustainable world and consistently supported our Small Island Developing States (SIDS) agenda.

These two elements come together in our event today. And it is relevant for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole. Addressing the food security and nutrition in a context of climate change will be key to achieving the SDGs in SIDS.

SIDS face unique and complex challenges in ensuring better access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, and in promoting the production and consumption of healthy foods. The fragility of our environment, high vulnerability to climate change and high reliance on imported foods that can contribute to unhealthy diets, resulting in extremely high levels of overweight and obesity.

These are obstacles on our path to sustainable development, but they are not insurmountable. We know what needs to be done. We are already acting in our countries. But we need to do more. Governments need to step up and take ownership of this agenda, signaling to partners our unwavering commitment to a sustainable and zero hunger world.

We need to truly transform our food systems, so they are more inclusive, sustainable and resilient to climate change. Agriculture is a resource-intensive sector and traditionally comes with a significant environmental footprint. It should not and cannot continue this way. We need to decouple agricultural production from environmental degradation, eliminating the trade-off between food production and sustainable use of our natural resources, so that the food available is safe, nutritious and conducive to healthy diets and lifestyles.

The Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS provides a framework to guide us forward. I hope that we can use this programme and today's event to re-energize our commitment to food security and nutrition and sustainable development in SIDS, transforming our collective will in new partnerships, funds and integrated responses to tackle the challenges before us.

Thank you.