



**ECOSOC**

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Inga Rhonda King  
President of the Economic and Social Council  
on the occasion of the SOFI 2019 launch in New York  
15 July 2019, 10:00 AM  
Conference Room 1**

Deputy Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to join you at the launch of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World. This report is very timely, as this year is a critical year for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

With the end of the first cycle of the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF), we will complete the review of all the SDGs. And we will review our overall progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the SDG Summit in September.

As the recent Special Edition of the SDGs Progress report highlights, while there is continuing momentum for the implementation of the SDGs, progress has been uneven among and within countries. The situation regarding hunger is particularly worrying.

With the 2030 Agenda, we have committed to leave no one behind and to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first. An integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda can be a driving force to help us achieve this.

At this HLPF, SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 8 on inclusive growth and decent work, SDG10 on reducing inequalities, SDG13 on climate action, and SDG16 on peaceful societies and robust institutions as well as SDG 17 on means of implementation have been reviewed. And this week, we will have 47 voluntary national reviews.

*The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019*, being launched today, is extremely important for the HLPF 2019. The report is an important yardstick to measure the world's progress towards achieving SDG 2 on Zero Hunger by 2030. And SDG 2 has important interlinkages with the SDGs under review at this HLPF.

I am glad to see throughout this report these interlinkages being highlighted. The report underscores that tackling hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition will require bold multisectoral action, involving the health, food, education, social protection, planning and economic policy sectors.

The global food production is already large enough to ensure that no person goes hungry. We need to act in a way that is smarter and more sustainable.

Governments, business partners, the private sector and civil society have an important role to play in achieving Zero Hunger by 2030.

As you know, the theme of the HLPF this year is "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality". This is an important theme for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The SDG 8 on inclusive growth and decent work and SDG 10 on reducing inequalities as well as the theme of the HLPF feature prominently in *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019*. SDG 1 on eradicating extreme poverty is also at the heart of the report.

The report is also warning us about the fragile current state and the future prospects of the world economy and how these can worsen food security and nutrition trends going forward.

Interestingly, the report argues that the impact of economic slowdowns and downturns on food security and nutrition cannot be separated from the root causes of hunger and malnutrition: poverty, inequality and marginalization.

In other words, this report is deeply looking into the links between SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 8 and SDG 10. Moreover, in presenting the negative consequences on health from malnutrition, it also touches upon SDG 3 on healthy lives.

This is the type of report we welcome to inform discussions at the HLPF, since it provides evidence-based understanding of SDG linkages and justification for integrated approaches to achieve the objectives.

The report argues: “Economic events will ultimately affect food security and nutrition, depending on extreme poverty levels and the extent to which the poor face exclusion due to different inequalities.”

Achieving the Zero Hunger by 2030 will then, no doubt, require "empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”.

Thank you very much.