



ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

Statement by H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC

Statement on the occasion of the World Food Day Celebration

16 October 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests,

I am pleased to welcome you to the celebration of the World Food Day, whose theme this year is “*Our Actions are our Future: A Zero Hunger world by 2030 is possible*”. It underscores the importance of taking action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

Three years ago, world leaders gathered in New York to adopt an Agenda to achieve sustainable development by 2030. Ending hunger and malnutrition is critical to the success of this agenda. As the President of ECOSOC, I am fully committed to the achievement of SDG 2.

The recent upward trend of hunger is alarming. Factors such as conflict, growing inequalities and climate change contribute to the complexity of the problem. On climate change, I would like to draw attention to the latest IPCC report, which warned the global community about the catastrophic consequences of inaction.

On the other hand, obesity is also on the rise. The number of people affected by this form of malnutrition grew from 563.7 million in 2012 to 672.3 million in 2016.

This is a particularly relevant issue in Small Island Developing states, as obesity affects 75% of the population of the Pacific Islands and 33% of the population in the Caribbean.



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

facebook.com/UNECOSOC

twitter.com/UNECOSOC

youtube.com/UNECOSOC



ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

In 2017, ECOSOC focused on climate change and nutrition, through a panel discussion. The panel recommended policies that promote health and sustainable diets that would not just reduce the overall carbon footprint of food production, but would also prevent diet-related non-communicable diseases and help save lives.

Distinguished guests,

As we witness it today, hunger can often be a man-made phenomenon.

While this presents many challenges, it also shows that the answer is in our hands. 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.

I welcome the panelists and I am sure that they will share their experiences on with the innovative projects they are leading. We are in this together and that we should continue to find ways to mobilize civil society, including Non-Governmental Organizations, Academia, Scientists and the private sector to push for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including SDG 2.

In 2019, the theme of the HLPF will be “empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. The SDGs under review will include SDG 4 on quality education; SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth; SDG 10 on reducing inequalities; and SDG 13 on climate change; and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

The interlinkages among the SDGs, including SDG2, and the trade-offs involved make the implementation of the Agenda challenging. Therefore, we need coherent global responses to complex challenges.



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

facebook.com/UNECOSOC

twitter.com/UNECOSOC

youtube.com/UNECOSOC



ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

Let us join forces to realize a world where no one goes hungry and that every person has access to nutritious food and a sustainable lifestyle.

Thank you.



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

facebook.com/UNECOSOC

twitter.com/UNECOSOC

youtube.com/UNECOSOC