

Opening remarks

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

Opening of the High-level segment of ECOSOC and the Ministerial segment of HLPF

Tuesday, 16 July 2019

General Assembly Hall

Your Excellency, President of the General Assembly

Your Excellency, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Our distinguished Keynote Speakers

Excellencies,

Dear children,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to open the High-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and the ministerial segment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda four years ago, this Forum has kept alive the energy and the enthusiasm of the SDGs.

The five first days of this forum reminded us that the HLPF thematic reviews have kept countries and all actors mobilized around the seventeen SDGs. The Forum has kept us focused on the principles of the 2030 Agenda such as leaving no one behind.

It has heard 142 countries present a voluntary national review of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda .

It has looked back and tracked progress towards the SDGs, based on data and science.

It has looked ahead, at ways to realize the 2030 Agenda. We heard just now from children. We owe it to them to realize the future they want.

We know that many countries are hard at work to implement the 2030 Agenda. But we also know we need to do more, to do it faster and to be more transformative. Let us use those three days to understand how we can do better, advise each other and forge new partnerships. The Group of Friends of VNRs I established aims to support these efforts.

Our conclusions will reverberate in the September SDG Summit. I am grateful to Colombia and Liechtenstein who will help me capture out key messages for this summit.

I commend the Permanent Representatives of the Bahamas and Sweden for leading us to an agreement on an action oriented consensual political declaration to be adopted at the Summit.

I will work with Argentina, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Romania and Tanzania to prepare a rich and accurate President's summary.

We will also keep track of your ideas on how to make this forum even more vibrant and action-oriented, as we prepare to review its format during the coming General Assembly.

I hope that our discussions will encourage our Heads of State and Government to come back in September ready to announce ambitious acceleration actions.

Thank you.