



# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#HLPF #SDGs #GlobalGoals [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019)

## Opening remarks

**H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of the Economic and Social Council  
and Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the  
United Nations**

**9 July 2019**

Mr. Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Liu Zhenmin

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

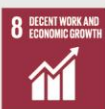
Welcome to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. I am honored that I am presiding over this special meeting this year.

It is special because it is the last in its first cycle. It will have delivered on its mandate on follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda by having reviewed all 17 SDGs, discussed four themes, from leaving no one behind to inequalities, and having heard 142 countries present their voluntary national reviews. It is special because it will send main messages from our discussions to the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly: the SDG Summit in September.

It is special as we are going to start discussions on how HLPF did in the past four years and what needs to continue and what could be changed. It is special as we are going to hear, after four years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, where we are collectively in SDG implementation, globally, regionally, nationally and locally.

This meeting is not an end in itself. It is here as a global platform to showcase our experiences, lessons learned and to forge partnerships. We all learn from each other so that we can go back enriched with new experiences in order to make lives better for our people. And that is our ultimate goal: for people, planet and prosperity.

It is also going to be the best HLPF ever. We have over 120 resource persons and lead discussants that will inform our interactive discussions.





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We have eight special events and over 130 side events as well as over 30 exhibitions to accompany our official meeting.

We will have over 100 high-level functionaries, many representatives of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, intergovernmental organizations and over 1,500 major groups and other stakeholders that will take an active part in our meeting.

We are going to discuss six SDGs: on equitable quality education, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all, inequalities, combating climate change, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and strengthening the means of implementation.

We are also going to hear progress and challenges and whether we are on track in achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs will present the special edition of the Secretary-General's Progress report in just a few moments.

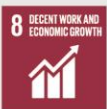
We are going to discuss special challenges of countries in special situations as well as middle-income countries through the lens of this year's theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality". Major groups and other stakeholders will present how they see inclusiveness and equality from their perspective.

We will also discuss issues raised in the first quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report as well as those raised during the Multistakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation and Financing for Development Forum.

And we will also learn about different policies and actions undertaken for the implementation of SDGs at the national level through 47 voluntary national reviews.

And in the last session we will hear from the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on the results of the survey what we think about the first four years of HLPF as well as main messages for the Summit.

We will also hear from many notable keynote speakers on the state of our world. President of the General-Assembly and the Secretary-General and Deputy-Secretary-General will share their thoughts with us on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, progress and challenges that we face.





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We will also hear from a number of young people as they are those who will inherit this world from us.

But this can be done only with the highest engagement from all of us. Because we are HLPF. Discussions, including looking at interlinkages among different goals, synergies and trade-offs, exchanging of experiences and lessons learned as well as arriving to good recommendations, can be achieved only if we actively participate in discussions and do not read statements prepared in advance.

I have said it already many times in run up to HLPF and I will repeat it here again, we have the unprecedented opportunity to talk to each other and learn from each other. This is a global moment where we are all together. We need to use it to its utmost. And we can do it only if we actively interact with each other. Let us all profit from it.

As you know, HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC this year does not have a ministerial declaration. There will be only one declaration, a political declaration adopted at the SDG Summit. I have appointed five rapporteurs to help me prepare the President's Summary that will reflect our deliberations and recommendations. I thank Argentina, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Romania and Tanzania for agreeing to help me in this endeavor. I also thank Colombia and Liechtenstein who have agreed to prepare main messages of the Forum to the SDG Summit.

The contribution of this July HLPF to the summit is critical. We all want the summit to be a milestone on the road to the SDGs. I congratulate once again the Permanent Representatives of the Bahamas and Sweden for ably leading us to an ambitious consensual declaration. I encourage all of you to make all possible efforts so that your Head of State or Government personally attends the summit. We also hope that all countries and actors will announce SDG Acceleration Actions at the summit. A registry is open on line at the website of the summit.

We must demonstrate our continuing commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you all for coming and let us really engage to the fullest to have the best HLPF ever.

Thank you.

