

**H.E. Ambassador Mona Juul
President of ECOSOC**

**Address to the UN Human Rights Council Intersessional Meeting for Dialogue
and Cooperation on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development**

3 December 2019

President of the UN Human Rights Council, Ambassador Seck,
Chair, Ambassador Tressler Zamorano,
Excellencies,
Colleagues,

I am honoured to send a message of support to this meeting, which is dedicated to strengthening cooperation, and dialogue, on human rights and the 2030 Agenda.

Colleagues,
Human rights and sustainable development are inseparable.

The fundamental principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – to leave no one behind – strikes at the very core of human rights; namely non-discrimination, equal rights and dignity. By respecting human rights, we will also take a major step in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Through tackling inequality, combating exclusion and poverty, and ensuring that the benefits of development are shared.

During the SDG Summit here in New York in September, we re-committed to: achieving the SDGs, to leaving no one behind, and resolved to make the coming decade one of action and delivery for sustainable development.

We have set ourselves an ambitious goal. Yet I believe this is the only way forward.

Colleagues,

Today, you are focusing on how to translate this pledge into effective policies and programmes at the country level.

As you share good practices and identify opportunities for acceleration throughout the day, I urge you to always keep in mind those who are set to benefit from your efforts:

Behind every piece of data and information.

Behind the targets and indicators are human beings. With aspirations, hopes, and human rights. Including economic, social and cultural rights.

Girls, who no longer need to interrupt their learning because the school does not have adequate sanitation facilities.

Families, freeing themselves from the grip of inequality and poverty.

And elders, and youth not needing to go to bed hungry.

In short - we are talking about all people being truly 'free and equal in dignity and rights'.

Colleagues,

We know also that currently we are lagging behind in achieving our goals.

We all need to work together to formulate a way forward.

One driven by innovative and practical steps to bring about the change we want.

But, we are running out of time and this is a race we cannot afford to lose.

ECOSOC stands ready to work with you:

to disseminate the recommendations from this meeting;

to help to guide discussions in New York, and across regions;

and hopefully to promote uptake and implementation at the national level.

The report of this meeting will be an important input into the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). And we pledge to make good use of it.

In conclusion, let me reiterate the great importance of building on, and strengthening, existing collaboration between ECOSOC and the Human Rights Council.

I had the opportunity to join you in Geneva in September to address the Council, and to brief on the work of the HLPF, as did my predecessor the year before. And so we very much hope this will become a well-established tradition.

Just as we hope to see similar exchanges in New York.

At the HLPF in July we were honoured to have High Commissioner Bachelet addressing the forum, and provide valuable input into our considerations.

We look forward to future engagements as well.

Colleagues,

I stand ready to work with you in strengthening cooperation, and dialogue, on human rights and the 2030 Agenda.

I have integrated human rights into all policies for my Presidency.

And I will do my part - jointly with you and all UN Member States – to map out a decade for action that will ensure success.

I wish you a very productive dialogue.

Thank you