

**Draft inputs into the opening statement of H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, President of ECOSOC
and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and Grenadines**

**At the Ambassadorial Retreat on the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review on the
implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Decade 2014–2024 HNA Palisades
Premier Conference Center, Palisades, New York 7-8 May 2019**

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under Secretary-General, and High Representative

Your Excellency Mr. Julio Cesar Arriola Ramirez, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the
UN, Chair of the LLDC Group

Your Excellency Ms. Doma Tshering, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bhutan to
the United Nations in New York and Co-Facilitator for the Mid Term Review of the Vienna
Programme of Action

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to be amongst you for this important gathering. Thank you for the
invitation.

The 2030 Agenda is intended to deliver truly inclusive and sustainable development and to
leave no one behind.

Since it was adopted, the 2030 Agenda clearly recognizes the Vienna Programme of Action for
the LLDCs and supports its implementation. The effective implementation of the Vienna
Programme of Action is therefore critical for the attainment of the SDGs and in leaving no one
behind in the LLDCs.

Looking ahead for the remainder of the year, this includes the High-Level Political Forum in July.
The HLPF has established itself as the platform to review the implementation of the 2030
Agenda. This year, the HLPF will review SDG 4, on quality education; SDG 8, on decent work and
economic growth; SDG 10, on reducing inequalities; SDG 13, on climate change; SDG 16, on
peace, justice and strong institutions; and, as every year, SDG 17, on means of implementation
and partnerships for the Goals.

The VNRs present an important opportunity to learn from the LLDCs' experiences, in particular
on how to address the challenges related with being landlocked. It is encouraging that 10 LLDCs
are presenting their VNRs this year, one of them even for the second time.

This year's HLPF is uniquely important because it will contribute to the high-level SDG Summit in September and its declaration. I would like to encourage all the LLDCs to actively engage in this process and take up the opportunity to raise the LLDC issues. This is the only way that their issues can be embedded into the outcome document of the Summit.

ECOSOC is the principal body for coordination, policy review, dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as for implementation of the internationally agreed development goals. It is also a very important forum for advancing the LLDCs' development agenda.

ECOSOC can help to explore synergies and coherence to accelerate the implementation of SDGs and the Vienna Programme of Action.

The ECOSOC cycle and the various 2030 Agenda follow-up processes organized under the auspices of ECOSOC present various opportunities to pay due attention to the priorities of the LLDCs and the Vienna Programme of Action.

ECOSOC is committed to continuing to address the special challenges of the LLDCs and will work to ensure that particular attention is paid to their challenges in the follow-up processes under the auspices of the Council.

Thank you for your attention.