



The President
of the
Economic and Social Council



United Nations
Regional Commissions
ECA ECLAC ESCAP ESCWA UNECE



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

MINISTERIAL LUNCH

DELEGATES' DINING ROOM (4TH FLOOR), UNHQ, NEW YORK

1:15PM – 2:45PM

17 JULY 2019

**Translating the 2030 Agenda into national sustainable development realities:
regional perspectives.**

Objectives

The Ministerial Luncheon is convened on the occasion of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, in order to build on the sessions in the official programme, and to capitalize on the high-level presence of Member States and stakeholders from all regions. The Ministerial Luncheon seeks to emphasize the key importance of the regional dimensions of development and provide a space for exchange on trends, lessons learned and experiences from different regions, with Member States, the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions, civil society and other stakeholders. Proposed focus areas include¹:

- What are the key trends emerging from the regions towards meeting the SDGs? Which areas are showing signs of progress? Where are regions lagging behind?
- How can regional cooperation and integration help accelerate progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and address trans-boundary issues?
- What are some examples of best practices and policy actions emerging from the regions?
- What are some key messages from a regional perspective that should be highlighted in the SDGs Summit?

¹For additional information, see Background Note for the Ministerial Luncheon, available at <http://rcnyomeetings.org/hlpf2019/>



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Programme

Time	Agenda
1:15 - 1:20	Opening Remarks by the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King , Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations.
1:20 – 2:00	Interactive panel of eminent personalities (representing each of the five regions), followed by remarks from the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions. Moderated by H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Thompson , Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Dr. Gale Rigobert, Minister of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development of Saint Lucia. • H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean. • H.E. Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States at the United Nations. • Mr. David Donoghue, Distinguished Fellow of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), former Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations and co-facilitator of the intergovernmental negotiations on the 2030 Agenda. • Prof. Edward Maloka, Chief Executive Officer, African Peer Review Mechanism African Union Commission (APRM-AUC).
2:00 - 2:35	Interactive discussion of panelists with participants
2:35 - 2:40	Concluding remarks by the Coordinator of the Regional Commissions
2:40 – 2:45	Closing remarks by the President of ECOSOC



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Participation

Ministers or Heads of Delegation of UN Member States participating in the HLPF, Executive Secretaries of the UN Regional Commissions, civil society representatives from the regions and other stakeholders. The participation of this event is by invitation only.

Expected Outcome

Regional Commissions will elaborate a summary of the Ministerial Luncheon, including recommendations for action, opportunities for enhanced interregional cooperation and cross-fertilization of good practices, to contribute to the SDG Summit in September 2019 and to provide elements of reflection towards accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the reinforcement of the HLPF and the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review process.