



ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

Statement by H. E. Mona Juul, President of ECOSOC

High-level Meeting on Poverty Eradication

*30 June 2020
10 am to 1 pm*

Trends, Options and Strategies in Poverty Eradication Across the World

Excellencies, colleagues,

It is an honour to address this High-level Meeting on Poverty Eradication and the formal inauguration of the Alliance for Poverty Eradication.

All over the world, people are suffering as the pandemic continues to upend lives and livelihoods. The human costs and the economic consequences are staggering.

With unemployment soaring, investments and remittances falling, and debt mounting, those with the least are – as always – hit the hardest.

We may see an increase in global poverty for the first time in thirty years. The pandemic could almost double the number of people suffering acute hunger.

The achievement of the 2030 Agenda, its overarching commitment to eradicate poverty, and leave no one behind, is under considerable threat.

I therefore welcome this timely meeting and initiative to step up and rethink our efforts on poverty eradication.

Anchored by the spirit of solidarity, Governments, businesses, multilateral organisations, and civil society have come together to combat this pandemic.

Now, we must attach the same level of urgency to the fight against poverty, as we deepen our efforts in the Decade of Action and Delivery for the Sustainable Development Goals.

I pledge the full engagement of the Economic and Social Council. This Charter body of the UN has poverty eradication at its core.

ECOSOC has unique convening power, bringing together valuable constituencies such as youth and the private sector. The world must fight poverty by engaging women, men and youth in solidarity and respect.

We must put women at the heart of all development efforts, and poverty eradication is no exception.

Excellencies,

The Alliance we are launching today can create a new momentum.

Embodied in the very nature of the Sustainable Development Goals is a call for solidarity and collective action to shift the world onto a resilient development path, and realise the human rights of all.

Our recovery from the pandemic- and the economic downturn- will be quicker if we recommit to a spirit of cooperation guided by the Agenda 2030, and its recognition of poverty eradication as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

Our world already has the knowledge, capacity and innovation.

Our call now is for enhanced political will and commitment.

Thank you.