

THE FUTURE WE WANT, THE UNITED NATIONS WE NEED: REAFFIRMING OUR COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO MULTILATERALISM – CONFRONTING COVID-19 THROUGH EFFECTIVE MULTILATERAL ACTION

High-level events of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly

17 September – 2 October 2020

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHAT:

On its 75th anniversary, and amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations will for the first time convene world leaders in a virtual format to seek action and solutions for a world in crisis. Several major events, in addition to the General Debate, are expected to highlight action and solutions that will ignite the transformations needed to secure healthy, peaceful and prosperous lives for all.

WHY:

The pillars of our world, already unsteady, have been shaken to the core by the coronavirus. Everything the United Nations stands for and works for – peace, progress and human rights – is in jeopardy. As we strive to respond and recover, international cooperation has never been more important.

WHO:

Heads of State and Government, ministers, international organizations, representatives of the private sector and civil society.

WHEN:

17 September – 2 October 2020

WHERE:

All events will take place mostly virtually, broadcast live and on-demand on [UN Web TV](https://www.un.org/webtv). A limited number of New York-based representatives of Member States may be physically present at United Nations Headquarters.

General Debate

22 - 26 September and 29 September | 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. EDT

webtv.un.org

The General Debate, held at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly, provides an opportunity for world leaders to deliver a statement on global issues. This year, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Member and Observer States can submit a pre-recorded video statement by their respective Head of State or Head of Government, which will be played in the General Assembly Hall, after being introduced by the respective national representative who can be physically present

in the Assembly Hall. The theme for this 75th General Debate is “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism – confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral action.”

Website: <https://gadebate.un.org>

High-level events

Against the backdrop of the multidimensional crisis triggered by COVID-19, this year’s high-level events are underpinned by the [75th anniversary of the United Nations](#) and the enduring principles of the UN Charter, and guided by the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), adopted by all world leaders in 2015. Along with the Paris agreement on climate change, the 17 interconnected Goals provide a vital framework for a long-term global response to COVID-19 that leads to greener, more inclusive economies, and stronger, more resilient societies.

SDG Moment

18 September | 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EDT

webtv.un.org

The UN Secretary-General is for the first time convening the annual SDG Moment, as mandated by the outcome document of the 2019 SDG Summit, to set out a vision for a Decade of Action and recovering better from COVID-19; provide a snapshot on SDG progress today; highlight plans and actions to tackle major implementation gaps; and demonstrate the power and impact of action and innovation by SDG stakeholders.

Website: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sdg-moment

Hashtag: #GlobalGoals

Contact: donlon@un.org

High-level Meeting on UN75

21 September | 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. EDT

webtv.un.org

Under the theme, “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism,” this General Assembly meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations aims to present the outcomes of the UN75 initiative – the world’s largest conversation, launched in January 2020 to gather public opinion and crowdsource solutions to global challenges – and discuss how to take forward the findings for building a better world for all.

Websites: www.un.org/un75 / www.un75.online

Hashtags: #UN75 #ShapingOurFuture

Contact: lisa.laskaridis@un.org

High-level Roundtable on Climate Action

24 September | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EDT

webtv.un.org

This roundtable event convened by the UN Secretary-General will showcase high-impact solutions by governments and real economy leaders, in line with the Secretary-General's six climate-positive actions to recover better together. The event will show the vast social and economic benefits of a sustainable recovery and of action to limit global warming to 1.5°C by achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and ensure that people and planet are fully protected from climate change impacts. This Roundtable will also jump-start an ambition arc that will take us to the Fifth Anniversary of the Paris Agreement on 12 December, when governments are expected to present ambitious and quality climate plans (the Nationally Determined Contributions – NDCs – and Long-Term Strategies), all the way to COP26 in November 2021

Website: www.un.org/climatechange

Hashtag: #ClimateAction

Contacts: shepard@un.org; matthew.coghlan@un.org

High-level Event on Financing for Development

29 September | 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EDT

webtv.un.org

This high-level event convened by the UN Secretary-General and the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica aims to articulate a coordinated and comprehensive multilateral response to the urgent financing for development crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Heads of State and Government are expected to adopt an ambitious menu of policy options for countries to recover in the short term, mobilize the financial resources to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, review the global financial architecture to deliver the global standards and align with the SDGs, and strengthen the resilience and sustainability of countries over the medium to long term.

Website: www.un.org/en/coronavirus/financing-development

Hashtag: #Fin4Dev

Contact: shepard@un.org

Accelerating the end of the COVID-19 pandemic: Taking new solutions to scale to save lives, protect health systems and restart the global economy

30 September | 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. EDT

webtv.un.org

The high-level side event hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Kingdom, South Africa, and the UN Secretary-General, aims to build stronger political consensus for a coordinated global response to COVID-19 and champion the importance and urgency of equitable access to new tools, especially effective vaccines. It also seeks to catalyze a step-change in support for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), the most promising solution for global equitable access to the tools needed to accelerate the end of the pandemic

Website: www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator

Hashtag: #COVID19

Contacts: spragginsan@who.int, abadvergarad@who.int

UN Summit on Biodiversity
30 September | 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. EDT
webtv.un.org

The UN Summit on Biodiversity convened by the President of the UN General Assembly aims to provide political direction and momentum for the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The event will also demonstrate ambition and commitment to accelerate action on biodiversity for sustainable development, highlight the connections between biodiversity, societies and economies, and showcase biodiversity's multiple and essential contributions to sustainable development.

Website: www.un.org/pga/74/united-nations-summit-on-biodiversity

Hashtag: #ForNature

Contact: shepard@un.org, palanivelu@un.org

High-level Meeting on Beijing+25
1 October | 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. EDT
webtv.un.org

Under the theme, “Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,” this high-level meeting of the General Assembly aims to demonstrate the political will and leadership that will bring about the transformative change needed to address root causes, structural barriers, discriminatory practices and social norms that underpin discrimination and inequality. The event will also showcase concrete actions, plans and commitments to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030, including in support of the role of civil society organizations and youth.

Website: www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25

Hashtag: #GenerationEquality

Contact: birchs@un.org

High-level Meeting to Commemorate and Promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

2 October | 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. EDT

webtv.un.org

This high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons aims to advocate for resuming dialogue and negotiations for nuclear arms control and disarmament and to consider how States can return to a common path to nuclear disarmament. The meeting also seeks to articulate solutions for the elimination of nuclear weapons and highlight the need for renewed engagement for building sustainable peace and security for all.

Website: www.un.org/en/events/nuclearweaponelimination

Contact: suzanne.oosterwijk@un.org

Country-specific High-level Meetings on Peace & Security

17 September – 5 October

Note: these events are closed, i.e. not viewable on UN WebTV

Yemen: 17 September | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. EDT

This meeting aims to mobilize international support for a nationwide ceasefire in Yemen as well as economic and humanitarian measures.

Lebanon: DATE TBD | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EDT

The meeting is expected to reaffirm united international political support to Lebanon's stability and state institutions and call for the swift formation of an effective and credible government able to meet the legitimate aspirations and needs expressed by the Lebanese people.

Central African Republic: 1 October | time TBD

Ahead of the general elections scheduled in the Central African Republic, this meeting offers an opportunity to convey to national stakeholders the international community's expectations, while also rallying the support of regional and international partners, including for the essential development and humanitarian interventions required to sustain peace in the country.

Libya: 5 October | 8:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. EDT

The event will focus on the follow-up to the Berlin Conference held in January 2020, take stock of commitments made, identify gaps and encourage participants to make progress towards implementing outstanding commitments.

Contact: diaz8@un.org

Other spaces to watch:

SDG Media Zone

17-29 September
www.un.org/sdgmediazone

The all-virtual SDG Media Zone will feature UN and other expert voices providing timely, reliable information on key issues at UNGA75. The programme of interviews and discussions, conducted in collaboration with media partners around the world, will highlight solutions, science and solidarity, offering hopeful avenues for the audience to connect with global issues related to recovering from COVID-19 and rebuilding sustainably. The content will inspire audiences to take steps toward a more sustainable world and engage in priority campaigns such as [UN75](#), [Verified](#), and [ActNow](#).

Website: www.un.org/sdgmediazone
Hashtag: #SDGLive
Contacts: palanivelu@un.org, samaanm@un.org

Global Broadcast: “Nations United”
19 September | 9:00 a.m. EDT
[YouTube.com/unitednations](https://www.youtube.com/unitednations)

On the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals – in the midst of a pandemic radically transforming our economies and societies – this 30-minute film tells the story of the world as it is, as it was, and as it could be. Directed by renowned film maker Richard Curtis and produced by the documentary film company 72 Films, “Nations United” will present the facts, data, and opportunities we have as a human family to reimagine and reshape the future. The film will be broadcast on numerous television channels, radio stations and streaming services around the world, premiering on the UN YouTube channel on 19 September.

Website: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/nations-united
Hashtag: #GlobalGoals
Contact: nathalie.delorme@un.org

SDG Action Zone
22-24 September | 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT
[SDGActionZone.org](https://sdgactionzone.org)

The all-virtual SDG Action Zone will provide a space for open, transparent, and inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement and global audience participation during the UN General Assembly’s high-level week. Conversations, talks and debates with leading thinkers, activists and creators from across regions, sectors and generations will highlight critical areas to accelerate action on the Sustainable Development Goals in a programme focused on inspiring the transformative change so needed for people and our planet.

Website: <https://sdgactionzone.org>
Hashtag: #SDGActionZone

Contact: hello@sdgactioncampaign.org

UN Social Media

Follow **@UN** on Twitter and **@unitednations** on Facebook and Instagram for special #UNGA activities. See un.org/social for UN accounts in languages.

More information and contacts:

Live streaming: webtv.un.org

Photo coverage: <https://www.unmultimedia.org/photo>

Broadcast video clips: un.org/UNifeed | unifeed@un.org

Live broadcast quality feed: bit.ly/UNTVnews untv@un.org; woodie@un.org; redi@un.org

Video footage: bit.ly/AVlib | AVlibrary@un.org

Daily news coverage: news.un.org

Press releases and meetings summaries: un.org/press

Documents + reports for the press: bit.ly/UN_MDC

Audio hub: news.un.org/en/audio-hub

Daily media alert: www.un.org/en/media/accreditation/alert.shtml

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/75/meetings

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