



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3 October 2016

Excellency,

In line with paragraph 52 of resolution 70/305, I wish to share with you the below letter and enclosed Handover Report from H.E. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly.

This Handover Report is a significant contribution to the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and supports a smooth transition between General Assembly sessions.

I thank President Lykketoft for this comprehensive report and for supporting continuity between the 70th and 71st sessions.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson'.

Peter Thomson

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

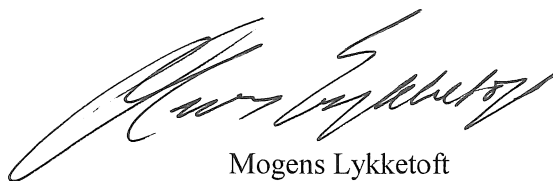
13 September 2016

Excellency,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a Handover Report from the 70th session of the UN General Assembly.

This report has been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/321 (op 49) and other relevant mandates contained in resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. It seeks to support a smooth transition from this session to the next as well as to further strengthen the institutional memory of the General Assembly, and of the Office of its President.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mogens Lykketoft

H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson
President of the 71st session of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York

HANDOVER REPORT

From the President of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, H. E. Mogens Lykketoft, to his successor, President of the 71st session of the General Assembly, H. E. Peter Thomson

12 September 2016

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A.

A. Introduction

This handover report is prepared in accordance with the relevant mandates contained in General Assembly resolution 69/321 of 11 September 2015 and previous resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. It serves to support a smooth transition from the 70th to the 71st session of the General Assembly. It also serves to further strengthen the institutional memory of both the General Assembly and the Office of its President (OPGA).

This report outlines major outcomes realized during the 70th session, on-going processes and lessons learned. It also includes a number of annexes containing information on support to the OPGA during the 70th session as well as mandates that may require action from the President during the 71st session.

Selection of highlights from the 70th session of the General Assembly

- Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the largest summit held in the history of the United Nations (UN); and related hereto, subsequent decisions concerning the follow-up and review of the Agenda at the global level
- High-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
- Support for the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem
- Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020
- Review of the Peacebuilding architecture and strengthening of synergy and coherence in preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and women in peace and security through the High Level Thematic Debate on UN, Peace and Security
- Adoption of a Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS
- Fifth Review of Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism
- Steering the process for the organization and conduct of the High-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants
- Intergovernmental agreement on and transmittal to the 71st session the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants to be adopted on 19 September 2016
- Intergovernmental agreement reached on the outcome of the High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance to be approved on 21 September 2016
- Advancement of the selection and appointment process of the next UN Secretary-General
- Enhanced transparency and accountability in the work of the OPGA
- Continuation of Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on the Security Council Reform
- Intergovernmental agreement reached on the New Urban Agenda to be adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III), to be held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016
- The first, ever, General Assembly High Level Thematic Debate on Human Rights
- Timely adoption of the UN regular budget for 2016-2017
- Improved communications and outreach by the OPGA using social media

B. Major outcomes realized during the 70th session

The 70th session has been exceptionally demanding for Member States, the UN system and the President of the General Assembly and his office.

In total 118 formal meetings took place. PGA70 personally presided over more than half of these meetings, either for the entire meeting or parts thereof. At times when the President had to devote his attention to other duties, he relied on the able support of his Vice-Presidents to chair the meetings.

In line with the GA mandates, PGA70 oversaw more than 20 mandated processes for which 36 co-facilitators or chairs were appointed (see Annex 1) - nearly twice the number from the previous session. This in part contributed to the holding of 311 informal meetings, hearings, thematic debates and informal-informal meetings during the 70th session. This represents an increase of nearly 30% in comparison with the previous session and of 50% when compared with the 67th session. In total, PGA70 delivered more than 300 statements.

On two occasions and upon extensive informal consultations with the membership, PGA70 took the initiative to table two short, mostly procedural resolutions on UN peace operations and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, respectively. He also convened 8 High-Level meetings either mandated by General Assembly resolutions or requested by Member States.

High Level Thematic Debates convened by PGA70

In presenting his vision for the 70th session, PGA70 focused on the need for a thorough collective reflection on ways to further enhance the relevance and effectiveness of the UN as it turned 70. He called for a new commitment to action around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as action across all three pillars of the work of the organization. To this effect, he convened three high-level thematic debates, which each, in their own right, have contributed to that new commitment and action and seen together have given important impetus to the implementation of the SDGs in terms of both development and finance, security and stability as well as the rule of law and human rights.

The first PGA70 **High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals** (21 April 2016) was attended by close to 100 Heads of State and government, deputies and ministers, as well as representatives from financial sector, the broader private sector and civil society at large. Held in tandem with the signing of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, this Debate provided an extraordinary opportunity to highlight the critical need for coherent and mutually reinforcing implementation of both agreements.

The event focused particularly on ways to catalyse action at all levels from political, finance, academia and civil society leaders with a view to driving early implementation of the SDGs through government responses, finance, technology and innovation, data as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships. Multiple sessions were held in plenary, interactive dialogues, a high-level luncheon, a high-level reception and policy rooms. Together, these sessions

resulted in key actions and proposals presented and contained in an informal summary transmitted to the Membership and made available through the President's website to all stakeholders. A key finding was the need to see climate action through partnerships and alliances as an important enabler for reaching the SDGs thereby highlighting the need for coherent implementation and urgency in mainstreaming climate action into national plans and actions at all levels and by all actors.

The Debate was covered by more than 20 leading mainstream media organisations, including The New York Times, Fox News and Huffington Post. It was also reported on by more than 10 websites within the United Nations system, including UN News Centre, UN Radio, UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC and UNFPA, as well as dozens of other institutional websites, including European Commission, ENGIE, Bank of England, and so on.

In terms of **social media**, the event succeeded in attracting attention to and creating a buzz about SDG implementation within the context of the signing of the Paris Climate Agreement at the UN the next day. The creation of a Digital Media Zone within the UN conference building (from 19-22 April) together with a well-executed partnership with PVBLC Foundation, invited social media organisations and UN and World Bank communication colleagues, helped create a high volume of traffic and impressions on social media such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. For example, the hashtag #SDGs peaked at around 130 million impressions on the day of the event, compared to 20 million the day before and after. <http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/sdgs/>

The second PGA70 **High-level Thematic Debate ‘In a world at Risks: A New Commitment for Peace’** (10-11 May 2016) offered a platform to the members of the General Assembly – many at the level of Foreign Ministers – to conduct a strategic reflection on contemporary threats and challenges to international peace and security – including the threat of terrorism and violent extremism – as well as the policies and means that are required for an effective collective security architecture.

Intense outreach to and consultations with practitioners, civil society, stakeholders and experts was conducted in preparation for this event in order to inform the discussions. There was wide recognition that the most recent reviews on peace operations, peacebuilding, women, peace and security contain practical recommendations on organizational and structural changes including within the UN Secretariat as well as administrative and financial issues that require implementation either in the short or longer term to help achieve this. The next Secretary-General will have a special responsibility to follow up with Member States and seek their long-term, sustained commitment and support for targeted policies and actions in this area. <http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/hltd-peace-and-security/>

The final PGA70 **High-level Thematic Debate on ‘UN@70 - Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda’** (12-13 July 2016) was organised in the context of the 50th anniversary of the International Human Rights Covenants and the 30th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development. It offered an important opportunity to take an overarching view of the human rights situation in the world today and reinforce the foundations for human

rights. It highlighted how action to realize human rights can contribute to progress on peace and security and sustainable development and vice-versa.

With a specific focus on discrimination, governance and the rule of law, and civil society space, it helped identify actions to unleash rapid improvements in the realization of human rights globally. <http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/human-rights/>

These three landmark events¹ complemented by a series of other initiatives and informal meetings on a wide spectrum of issues relating to SDGs implementation, the maintenance of peace and security, human rights and humanitarian aid, contributed to shaping a common understanding and fostering consensus on the priorities and challenges ahead as well as expectations vis-à-vis the next Secretary-General of the United Nations.

They helped create an environment conducive to well informed and substantive interactions with candidates for the position of Secretary-General, notably in the framework of the informal meetings organised in accordance with the Resolution 69/321.

High level formal meetings convened during the 70th session:

- United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda
- High-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
- High-level meeting on HIV and AIDS
- High-level plenary meeting on the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development

Special sessions of the General Assembly

- Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem

High level informal meetings convened during the 70th session:

- High-level thematic debate on the topic “Maintenance of international peace and security” (mandated)
- High-Level informal dialogue on commodity markets (mandated)
- High Level Forum on Culture of Peace (mandated)
- High-Level Thematic Conversation on Religions for Peace (following requests by member states)
- High Level Thematic Conversation on Children and Youth affected by Violent Extremism (following requests from member states)

Other informal meetings and briefings convened by the President:

- 12 informal dialogues with candidates for the Secretary-General of the UN
- Informal panel discussion on the Ten-year anniversary of the responsibility to protect
- Informal meeting on ways to advance a comprehensive Response to Global Humanitarian and Refugee Crisis

¹ The outcome documents of the three signature High-level thematic debates are attached to the hand-over report.

- Informal meeting on the Humanitarian Response in Africa – the urgency to act
- Briefing on participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations
- Three informal briefings on Syria
- Briefing on Global Health Crises
- Briefing on reports and allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse
- Civil society hearings, including in preparation of the High-level meetings on WSIS, LDCs and HIV/Aids and the Special Session on Drugs
- Panel discussion to follow up on the status of and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities in relation to the follow-up to the outcome of the High-level Meeting on Disability and Development, and to the principles of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Interactive dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect

Other meetings

Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011 – 2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, 27 – 29 May 2016

Commemorative and other events

In addition, PGA70 convened several meetings to commemorate International Days or to mark important anniversaries including the 70th Anniversary celebration for the General Assembly, in line with the mandates given by relevant resolutions.

Moreover, during his tenure, PGA70 used every opportunity to support, by his active participation, meetings organised by Members States or other stakeholders. The extensive list of all what was achieved is to be found on the PGAs well-designed website which forms perhaps the most comprehensive record of all that was achieved and done. <http://www.un.org/pga/70/>

Finally, PGA70 held the first ever Global Townhall Debate with Secretary-General candidates in the General Assembly Hall. The event was televised live across the globe reaching 450 million people on TV and online.

In all his endeavours, PGA70 placed special attention on soliciting the voice of civil society and stakeholders and ensured their adequate participation in all the events and thematic debates convened upon his own initiative as well as in the mandated events.

C. Ongoing processes that will stay on the agenda during the 71st session

Migrants and refugees

In preparation for the **high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants**, in line with General Assembly decision 70/539, PGA70 appointed two co-facilitators to lead a process with Member States on drafting the

modalities (resolution 70/290 of 30 June 2016) and the outcome document, which was transmitted to the 71st session by resolution 70/302 of 9 September 2016 with a view to its adoption as the “The New York Declaration” at the opening segment of the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016.

Pursuant to Assembly resolution 70/263, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly for its approval, the text of the draft agreement concerning the **Relationship between the UN and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)** contained in document A/70/976. The General Assembly adopted resolution 70/296 on 25 July 2016 approving the relationship agreement between the UN and the IOM and requested the Secretary-General to invite the Director General of the IOM to sign the Agreement with him at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.

High-level segment of the General Assembly to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary on the Right to Development

The high-level segment to commemorate the **30th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development** will take place on Thursday 22 September 2016 at the Trusteeship Council Chamber as mandated by resolution 70/155. It will consist of a high-level opening segment to be chaired by the President of the 71st session of the General Assembly, with the participation of high-level keynote speakers, to be followed by a general debate.

A proportional distribution of the 65 speaking slots among regional groups has been decided to satisfy broad and equitable participation. The number of speakers allocated to each regional group will be as follows: Africa 18, Asia-Pacific 18, Eastern Europe 8, Latin America and the Caribbean 11, and Western Europe and Others 10. The speakers were communicated to the OPGA by the Chairs of the Regional Groups. A follow up is needed by the incoming President of the 71st General Assembly. The General Assembly Affairs Branch will organize the final list of speakers in accordance with customary Protocol. A summary by the President of the General Assembly will be shared with Member States and other relevant stakeholders.

High-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance, convened by the President of the General Assembly

In line with General Assembly resolution 70/183, the report of the Secretary General (A/70/790) and the modalities agreed by Member States in General Assembly resolution 70/297, the President of the 71st session of the General Assembly will convene a **one-day high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance** on 21 September 2016 with the participation of Member States, non-governmental organizations, representatives of civil society, the private sector and academic institutions.

The high-level meeting will consist of plenary segments, including an opening and closing segment and two interactive thematic panel discussions. The President is expected to deliver an opening statement and closing remarks presenting summaries of the panel discussions. PGA70 appointed a facilitator who led the process of preparations including agreement of the outcome document expected to be approved at the opening of the high-

level meeting and adopted by the General Assembly in a formal meeting of the plenary with date to be announced.

High-level plenary meeting convened by the President of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

According to General Assembly resolution 70/34, the President of the 71st session of the General Assembly will convene a one day high-level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The resolution requests the presence of the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General. The format of the previous years will be followed, with statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, followed by Member States and representatives of civil society. A letter informing Member States of the programme should be distributed at the beginning of the 71st Session.

Oceans

By resolution 70/226 of 22 December 2015 the General Assembly had originally decided to convene the **High-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14** in Fiji from 5 to 9 June 2017. By resolution 70/303 of 9 September 2016, in view of the exceptional circumstance, the venue of the Conference has been changed to United Nations Headquarters and the modalities of the Conference as well as the preparatory process were adopted by the General Assembly.

The Conference shall comprise of eight plenary meetings and seven Partnership dialogues, to be held from 5 to 9 June 2017, and in addition shall hold a special event commemorating World Oceans Day on 8 June 2017. The outcome of the Conference is a concise, focused, inter-governmentally agreed declaration in the form of a “Call for Action” to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

PGA70 appointed two co-facilitators to facilitate negotiations on modalities of the Conference. Pursuant to resolution 70/303 of 9 September 2016, PGA71 is requested to appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developing and one from a developed country, to oversee the preparatory process and to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on the “Call for Action” by May 2017. He is also requested to convene a two-day preparatory meeting in February 2017 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III)

In line with resolution 70/210, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) will be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016.

After consulting informally with PGA70, the bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference appointed co-facilitators to lead the intergovernmental negotiations of a new global strategy on sustainable urbanization envisioned to be agreed no later than at the third session of the Preparatory Committee of Habitat III held in Surabaya, Indonesia in July 2016. The Preparatory Committee at its third session that informal intergovernmental consultations on the draft outcome document of the Conference, should continue at United Nations Headquarters in New York under the guidance of the co-facilitators, Dámaso Luna

Corona (Mexico) and PR of the Philippines, with a view to finalizing the draft outcome document before the Conference, and requested the co-facilitators to inform the Conference of the outcome of the negotiations held at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The intergovernmental negotiations successfully concluded on 10 September 2016, and the draft outcome document called the New Urban Agenda is to be adopted at the HABITAT III Conference in Quito, to be held from 17-20 October 2016.

The draft outcome document expected to be adopted during Habitat III mandates a report of the Secretary-General with recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat will be presented during the 71st session to inform a two-day High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly that PGA71 is expected to convene to discuss the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the positioning of UN-Habitat in this regard. The GA would need to endorse any mandate emanating from Habitat III, which would, as necessary, require a review of any programme budgetary implications.

Strategically Aligning the General Assembly Agenda with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ongoing revitalization process of the work of the General Assembly as per resolution 69/321 of 11 September 2015, it became clear that there was a need to address synergies, coherence and complementarity of the General Assembly agenda, including all its Main Committees and the ECOSOC. A similar call was included in resolution 70/305 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly adopted on 13 September 2016.

To reduce overlap where it is found to exist, PGA70 appointed a co-facilitator (Permanent Representative of Colombia) with an additional four members of the General Committee (Morocco, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and Slovenia), chairs of the most relevant General Assembly Main Committees (1, 2, 3 and 4). A briefing by the facilitator took place in July where a report of the work done by the group to strategically align the agenda of future sessions of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and a mapping assessment of the SDGs and targets based on agenda items of the 69th and 70th session of General Assembly and the ECOSOC system, were also presented. Having received the final report of the work of the group, PGA70 has transmitted it to the PGA71 for his consideration and further action.

Peacebuilding

The mandated 10-year review of the **UN Peacebuilding Architecture** concluded with a substantial resolution setting the stage for the further consolidation of this key field of UN and Member States intervention, reconfirming the important roles of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund. Intergovernmental negotiations were facilitated by PGA appointed co-facilitators. The resolution, adopted simultaneously by the General Assembly and the Security Council, decides i.a. to include a new item in the provisional agenda of its 71st session entitled “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace” and to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly during its 72nd Session on efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the UN’s work in sustaining peace. Implementation of the

resolution including the early preparations of the high-level meeting will be on-going during the 71st Session.

Peace Operations

Member states noted with appreciation the Secretary-General's initiative to establish a **High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations** and decided to give further consideration to the recommendations emanating from this initiative in accordance with established procedures. Further consideration in relevant bodies – notably 4th and 5th Committees and the C34 – may be expected also during the 71st Session. In addition, the next Secretary-General is expected to follow up on some of the recommendations, including those related to the UN Secretariat.

Violent Extremism

Member states welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General, took note of his **Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism** and decided to give further consideration to the Plan of Action beginning in the review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review, which concluded on 1 July 2016, as well as in other relevant forums. During the 71st Session, further consideration of this initiative may be expected in relevant bodies and forums.

Counter-Terrorism strategy

The biennial review of the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was led by PGA appointed co-facilitators. The recurrent resolution adopted at the reviews conclusion (70/291 of 1 July 2016) was updated to be more relevant to the current terrorism challenges. It improved on the consistency of the issue on related language of the Security Council and the General Assembly. It strengthens language in 20 paragraphs and addresses many new items in 44 new paragraphs. The resolution requests the Secretary-General to review, by May 2017, in consultation with the General Assembly, the capability of the UN system to implement the Global Strategy. The process was led by PGA appointed co-facilitators. The recurrent resolution adopted at the review's conclusion (70/291 of 1 July 2016) requested a report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of the Strategy, containing suggestions for its future implementation by the UN system..

Indigenous Peoples

During his term, PGA70 appointed four advisers (two from Members States (PRs of Finland and Ghana) and two from Indigenous Peoples (Ms. Claire Winfield Ngamhi Chartes (Pacific region) Mr. James Anaya (North America region)) to help conduct consultations on the possible measures to enable the **participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in the relevant meetings of United Nations bodies affecting them** (resolution 70/232 of 23 December 2015). The Advisers consulted broadly with Member States, Indigenous Peoples, and three relevant mechanisms and provided a comprehensive compilation of the views expressed by them. On July 8th, PGA70 circulated the final compilation, including concrete recommendations on the way forward. The compilation was also issued as document A/70/990. This text must now be finalized and adopted by the Assembly during its 71st session. It will require further consultation and negotiations. PGA70 recommends that the same team of advisers is reappointed to ensure continuity and benefit from the expertise already accumulated in this very complex and sensitive process.

The selection and appointment process of the next Secretary-General

During the 70th session, this involved a combination of joint action with the Security Council, on the one hand, and organizing and presiding over informal dialogues or meetings with candidates within the General Assembly, on the other hand. Throughout, close coordination with the monthly presidencies of the Security Council was required, and would need to be continued in order to conclude the process through the appointment decision of the General Assembly.

The emergence of new candidate(s) would necessitate organising new informal dialogues in the General Assembly in line with the format and modalities now established which were widely recognized as constructive and helpful, including ensuring a voice for civil society and are now referenced in the General Assembly revitalization resolution. The same goes for maintaining the website with candidates which is the only, official, website with an overview over the Secretary-General -candidates, their CVs and vision statements.

Likewise, going into the process of straw-polling, close coordination with the Presidency of the Security Council is necessary to transmit important information to the General Assembly, as well as information about the process which will in the end return to the General Assembly for final appointment.

Also, follow up to discussions regarding a General Assembly appointment resolution should be expected in the 71st session.

Security Council Reform

Comprehensive reform of the Security Council is one of the major mandates that lies with the President of the General Assembly, to which Member States, rightfully, attach great importance. The Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) process is complicated to manage, given the diverse expectations from Member States in terms of how to move the process forward. Maintaining an inclusive process and engaging all sides to discuss the substance of the IGN was important during the 70th session. IGN were led by a PGA appointed facilitator.

Much work was also dedicated to strike the right balance when drafting the annual roll-over decision at the end of the session.

Climate change (no formal process)

The Adoption of the Paris Agreement under the Framework Convention on Climate Change marked a historical moment in multilateralism and constituted a strong moment during the 70th session of the General Assembly even though not negotiated or adopted in the Assembly. The President endeavoured to take the needed actions to accompany the process before, during and after the adoption of the Agreement, mainly through convening briefings to Member States, participating at the Conference of Paris and organizing the High Level Thematic Debate on SDGs side by side with the Signing Ceremony of the Agreement. The President also worked to make sure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and other relevant UN outcomes is done in a synergetic and comprehensive way – a matter which could also require the support of PGA71.

D. Practical lessons learned

In terms of practical lessons learned, the following may assist the President of the 71st session, at the time of the assumption of your term of office.

I. Organization and management of the Office

Staffing

Building a high performing OPGA is detailed and time consuming work. It is difficult to achieve within just the period between the election of an incoming President of the General Assembly (PGA) to his/her formal assumption of office (June-September). It requires a detailed map of the overall strategy and objectives of the incoming PGA and then selecting and on-boarding a team that is well placed to achieve them as well as able to respond to the plethora of issues that come before the Assembly and its President. A mix of experience among team members that includes those who understand Member State priorities and processes and those who have relevant experience working with the UN Secretariat and UN system as well as other stakeholders is highly desirable. It is equally desirable that the team includes experts in all three pillars of the UN as well as qualified communication experts. Care should be taken to ensure that as many members of OPGA as possible can be retained during the transition from one PGA to the next. This will ensure continuity with the Member States and the UN system and other stakeholders and minimise the transaction costs for the incoming PGA in establishing a new office for only one year. It is also important to consider carefully the balance between senior staff members at ambassadorial level and senior advisors/advisors. Since the profile of the regular budget posts for the OPGA is skewed in a top-heavy direction, incoming PGAs would benefit from focusing much of their recruitment of mid-level professions with the capacity to manage the OPGA's high workload. In this context, the President is particularly grateful to the Governments (outlined in Annex 2) that seconded Advisors to assist him in carrying the burden of daily work and delivering on his commitments in the 70th session.

Transparency

One of PGA70's major commitments related to an improvement of the transparency of the OPGA. To that end PGA70 took a number of steps. This included publishing information on the number and composition of staff of the office, details of his international travels (including the source of funding) and details of all the trust fund contributions received by OPGA during the session including the name of the donor and the amount received.

PGA70 announced principles of conduct that he and his office would follow during the session. Information sharing with Member States is another important aspect of transparency that he sought to adhere to. This included releasing notes of the content of monthly meetings with the President of the Security Council, and endeavouring to meet monthly with Chairs of the Committees and the Regional Groups on the General Assembly agenda. PGA70 also released and periodically updated a full list of the mandates of the session he was charged with implementing and the co-facilitators he had appointed to manage each of these mandates on his behalf. All of these initiatives are detailed on his website: <http://www.un.org/pga/70/president/commitment-to-transparency> and are practices that can be easily replicated by future Presidents.

Finance

As regard the budget of the office, OPGA has to be aware that unspent balances arise at the end of the annual budget year at the end of a biennium, a mere four months after the General Assembly session has begins. This situation occurs every second year. In these "budget years" it has thus to be made sure that the share of the OPGA's budget that corresponds to the actual biennium is spent until December or that special arrangements are made to transfer the balance into the next biennial budget circle of the UN regular budget.

On this occasion, the President would also like to thank the Governments that supported the Office of the PGA and the President's activities through the Trust Fund as well as through in-kind contributions. A list of those governments that made financial contributions to the OPGA Trust Fund is included in Annex 3.

II. Mandated Meetings

Mandated Meetings of the General Assembly add significant workload to the OPGA – in particular meetings identified by Member States as "high-level". Each meeting will require a small project team of up to four Advisers within OPGA. The Office is required to manage stakeholder participation, design the formal program for the meeting and allocate roles, coordinate meeting logistics not related to the work of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) and prepare and support the role of the President in such meetings. Whether the mandated meetings are formal or informal meetings of the plenary will also impact the preparatory process including with respect to scheduling and modalities. Early planning with DGACM, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, Member States, and the wider UN system to map the dates of mandated High-Level Meetings is essential.

III. Other meetings and events

Member States have continued to express concern with the historic proliferation of ad hoc meetings and informal debates initiated and convened by the sitting President – most of them at the request of Member States themselves. When taking up office the President communicated clearly to all Member States his intention to convene only three events, one for each of the pillars of the UN's work. The President consulted Member States on the key orientations of those events and updated them regularly on preparations and highly recommends this approach which has received positive feedback from the Membership. Such an approach also allows for a greater pooling of resources and attention to be gathered in support of each event, as well as facilitates the participation of Member States representatives from capital who have limited resources and capacity to make the trip to New York multiple times during a session.

IV. Informal processes & appointment of facilitators

Appointments of facilitators for processes require some advance planning, with the ever-increasing number of processes to be supported. The practice of appointing co-facilitators

with one from the North and one from the South, as well as considering gender balance has proved beneficial and is recommended to be continued. On occasion, facilitators may request sole chairmanship of the process which should be considered on an as needed basis. Additional considerations to be made are the capacity of the missions to support the extra workload of facilitators, as limitations may result in additional workload for the OPGA.

The President would like to express his gratitude to co-facilitators and chairs that supported him during the 70th session (see Annex 1).

V. Interaction with EOSG and the Secretariat

PGA70 benefited from excellent collaboration with the Secretary-General, his office and principals of the UN Secretariat departments. A useful vehicle for interaction has been monthly lunches hosted by the Secretary-General or the PGA on a rotational basis and with the participation of relevant principals, which allows for discussion of high priority issues of concern to the Assembly. To secure ownership within the whole OPGA, PGA70 has brought along various staff of the cabinet to these meetings on rotational basis.

It is important to highlight the close working relationship the President and all of his team experienced with DGACM, as a key interlocutor on matters related to meeting organization and servicing. With the increasing demands on the Assembly the workload has become challenging to handle, and at peak times, led to crisis management situations. For this reason, PGA70 strongly encourages close coordination and advance planning of events, in consultation with DGACM, to the extent possible. This includes determining dates for events organized by the Presidency itself, such as the High-level thematic debates, the need for rooms for informal consultations and interpretations services.

Overall, it is recommended to engage proactively when relevant with the substantive offices and departments of the Secretariat in order to ensure that all relevant perspectives are taken into account. The same applies to UN agencies, funds and programmes as well as other entities, including foundations, which can all contribute substantively and constructively to the work of the OPGA.

VI. Relationship with Member States and other organs

Close engagement with Member States and organs of the Assembly, in particular the Chairs of the main Committees and the General Committee is essential to performing the tasks of the Presidency. PGA70 conducted and recommend the continuation of regular meetings with the Presidents of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as well as chairs of the regional groups. Such engagements provide critical opportunities to share issues before the Assembly with the immediate stakeholders, as well as opportunities for seeking advice and views of the membership and organs on matters of importance to the work of the Assembly.

VII. Outreach to civil society and media relations

Civil society engagement in events and processes are important elements of managing the Assembly's work and here the OPGA relied heavily on the assistance of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) and the NGO unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who in collaboration managed many of the interactions. In many regards, however, the effectiveness and legitimacy of UN-NGLS depended on the strength of its relationship with OPGA, especially considering the increasingly complicated and diverse views of Member States towards the role of civil society in proceedings of the General Assembly. In addition to UN-NGLS' continuous service to the OPGA, PGA70 would like to highlight the invaluable assistance OPGA enjoyed from UN-NGLS with regard to executing the Secretary-General selection process and informal dialogues with questions from the global public. However, it has been invaluable to have a dedicated focal point in OPGA tasked with managing stakeholder relations, as such engagement has only expanded with the increase in intergovernmental processes and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in particular. Dialogues with and participation by civil society were part of every major process to varying degrees. Given the increased demand for such engagement in all processes, consideration should be given as to how this effort is managed within OPGA.

Delivering results on the Agenda 2030 requires increasingly innovative relations between the UN and partners from the private sector, finance community, civil society, foundation, philanthropy, academia, etc. It requires coalition building – or **partnership building** – whereby partners contribute core competencies towards shared solutions. The President relied on his Office to leverage his position in the wake of the newly adopted Agenda 2030 to identify, with various partners, the critical elements which would enable partnerships to help achieve SDGs. OPGA also helped build relations in the finance sector to advance public-private climate finance in informal workshops. By broadening OPGA engagement – welcoming non-Member State and non-CSO actors to various events, small meetings and by maintaining a welcoming tenor – this office fostered relations with UN entities, external stakeholder, and umbrella organizations that can help the following President to deliver on commitments.

Media relations and use of social media are critical to the transparency and accountability of the work of the Presidency. Proactive media relations around critical issues such as allegations against PGA68 protected the reputation of the Office by showing a willingness to tackle difficult issues head on and a willingness to answer questions, however awkward or difficult to answer. Utilizing all available avenues, including the dedicated web page for the Presidency, twitter and related tools, has served the Presidency well and can only be recommended to continue. Twitter proved to be a useful tool to instantly update followers (which included Member States, stakeholders, the media and general public) on the President's activities and engagements and this session followers of the PGA's twitter account doubled from 16,000 to 32,000.

E. Official Travel

Over the course of the year, the President was invited to undertake a number of official travels, either by invitation from Member States, to address meetings organized as a follow up or in preparation for the UN meetings and conferences or where his attendance was explicitly required (see Annex 4).

Conclusion

Far-reaching decisions have been taken during the 70th session, however, what is even more important than reaching agreement, is the actual implementation of and follow-up to these decisions. It is the sincere hope of H.E. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, that this handover report will prove useful in supporting H.E. Peter Thomson, President of the 71st session, to promote such implementation.

Annex 1: Facilitators and Chairs of the 70th session

Subject (Mandate)	Facilitator(s)
Intergovernmental negotiation process, resulting in an intergovernmentally agreed outcome document, for adoption at the two-day HLM of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (Resolution 68/302)	<u>Co-Facilitators:</u> H.E. Jānis Mažeiks (Latvia) Her Excellency Lana Zaki Nusseibeh (United Arab Emirates)
Comprehensive review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in 2015 – inter-governmental consultations in order to consider the recommendations submitted by the advisor group of experts (appointed by SG) and to general agreed recommendations for consideration and final decision by GA (and SC) (Resolution 65/7)	<u>Co-Facilitators:</u> H.E. Ismael Abraao Gaspar Martins (Angola) Her Excellency Gillian Bird (Australia)
Ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (Resolution 69/321)	<u>Co-Chairs:</u> H.E. Mr. Vladimir Drobnyak (Croatia) H.E. Mr. Wilfried I. Emvula (Namibia)
Intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform (Decision 69/560)	<u>Chair:</u> H.E. Ms. Sylvie Lucas (Luxembourg)
Consultations on all issues related to the preparations for the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS in 2016 (Decision 68/555; resolution 70/228)	<u>Co-Facilitators:</u> H.E. Juerg Lauber (Switzerland) Her Excellency Mwaba P.Kasese-Bota (Zambia)
Preparations for the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (to be held in Antalya, Turkey, in June	<u>Co-Facilitators:</u> Her Excellency Benedicte Frankinet (Belgium) H.E. Jean-Francis Regis Zinsou (Benin)

2016) (Resolution 69/231)	
Steering Committee on partnerships for the SIDS to support the follow-up of existing SIDS partnership, and promote and advocate for the launch of new ones. (Resolution 70/202)	<u>Co-Chairs:</u> H.E. Ahmed Sareer (Maldives) H.E. Sebastiano Cardi (Italy)
Seventeenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (Resolution 70/235)	<u>Co-Chairs:</u> H.E. Nicholas Emiliou (Cyprus) H.E. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra (Peru)
Transparent and inclusive consultations with MS to finalize the organizational arrangements, including a possible outcome, for the High-level meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants , to be held 19 September 2016 (Decision 70/539)	<u>Co-Facilitators:</u> H.E. David Donoghue (Ireland) Her Excellency Dina Kawar (Jordan)
Inclusive representative and transparent consultations with MS, indigenous peoples representatives and institutions from all regions of the world on the possible measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples representatives and institutions in meetings of the relevant UN bodies on issues affecting them (Resolution 70/232)	<u>Advisers from MS:</u> H.E. Kai Sauer (Finland) Her Excellency Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee (Ghana) <u>Advisers from indigenous peoples:</u> Ms. Claire Winfield Ngamhi Chartes (Pacific region) Mr. James Anaya (North America region)
To lead an open, inclusive and transparent process of informal consultations with MS on the follow-up and review framework envisioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Resolution 70/1)	<u>Co-Facilitators:</u> Her Excellency Lois M. Young (Belize) H.E. Ib Petersen (Denmark)
To facilitate consultations on modalities for the high-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (to be held in Fiji from 5 to 9 June 2017)	<u>Co-Facilitators:</u> H.E. Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul (Mauritius) H.E. Magnus Lennartsson (Sweden)

(Resolution 70/226)	
To find agreement on a proposal, in consultation with Member States, aimed at strategically aligning the agenda of future sessions of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (Resolution 69/321)	<u>Facilitator:</u> Her Excellency Maria Emma Mejia Velez (Colombia) <u>Supporters:</u> H.E. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea) H.E. Omar Hilale (Morocco) H.E. Karel van Oosterom (the Netherlands) H.E. Andrej Logar (Slovenia)
To lead open, transparent and inclusive consultations with Member States to finalize the organizational arrangements, including a possible outcome, for the high-level meeting of the plenary on antimicrobial resistance (Resolution 70/183)	<u>Facilitator:</u> H. E. Juan Jose Gomez Camacho (Mexico)
To serve as facilitators for consultations with Member States on the outcome of the biennial Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (Resolutions 60/288; 68/276 & 70/254)	<u>Co-Facilitators:</u> H. E. Martin Garcia Moritan (Argentina) H.E. Einar Gunnarsson (Iceland)
<i>Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction</i> (A/RES/69/292)	<u>Facilitator:</u> H.E. Eden Charles (Trinidad and Tobago)
Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole (Law of the Sea)	H. E. Carolyn Schwagler (New Zealand) H.E. Juliette Rosita Rile (Barbados)

Annex 2: Governments and others that seconded staff to the OPGA during the 70th session

Algeria
Angola
Australia
Brazil
China
Denmark
Germany
Indonesia
Mexico
Norway
Turkey
Slovakia
South Africa
United Arab Emirates
European Union

Annex 3: Governments that made contribution to the Trust Fund of the PGA during the 70th session

Turkey
China
Ireland
Germany
Denmark
Kazakhstan
Qatar

Annex 4: Official Travel

Prior to assuming office

- Ethiopia, in July 2015, to attend the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;
- Germany and Denmark, in August 2015 for bilateral visits on invitation by the governments,
- India, in August and September 2015 for a bilateral visit on invitation of government of India;
- Liechtenstein, in September 2015 to attend Meeting of Elders on strengthening UN@70 on invitation of Liechtenstein;
- Japan, in September 2015 for a bilateral visit on invitation of government of Japan

From 15 September 2015, after assumption of office

- Peru, in October 2015, to address the Development Committee at the annual meetings of the World Bank Group and IMF - the first time a President of the General Assembly participated in this meeting;
- China, in October 2015, for a bilateral visit at the invitation of the Government of China;
- Europe (Paris, Vienna, Copenhagen), in November and December 2015, to attend the UN Climate Change Conference COP21, to meet with heads of UN agencies (UNODC, UNIDO, OECD, UNOPS) and for bilateral meetings in Austria;
- UAE, Jordan and Davos, in January 2016 for bilateral meetings, to attend Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, to visit a refugee camp in Jordan and to attend WEF;
- Europe (Stockholm, Brussels) and Morocco, in February 2016 for a bilateral visit and participation in the Post-Davos Nordic Summit, to meet with leaders of the European Institutions – including the European Commission, the European External Action Service and the European Parliament, to address the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, and hold bilateral meetings with the Belgian Government as well as for a series of bilateral meetings in Morocco in preparations for COP22;
- Switzerland (Geneva) and Ethiopia (Addis Ababa), in February and March 2016 to meet with president of Human Rights Council, High Commissioner for Human Rights, heads of WHO, ICRC, WEF UNAIDS, to meet Government and UN leaders and to address the African Union and visit a refugee center in Addis Ababa;
- Washington D.C. (United States of America), in April and May 2016 to participate in 1) the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and IMF Development Committee and 2) Climate Action 2016, meeting representatives from Government, think tanks and civil society;
- Copenhagen (Denmark), in May 2016 to participate in the Women Deliver conference and address the conference on the future of United Nations;
- Doha (Qatar), in May 2016 (on invitation of State of Qatar to participate in the 6th session of the Doha Forum - “Stability and Prosperity for All”);
- Turkey (Istanbul, Antalya, Gaziantep), in May 2016 to participate in the World Humanitarian Summit and Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs;
- Egypt (Cairo), May 2016 for a bilateral visit on invitation by government of Egypt)
- Havana (Cuba), June 2016 (bilateral visit at the invitation of the Cuban government, and participation in the bilateral ceasefire and laying down of arms agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.)

Annex 5: Mandates for the 71st session

The General Assembly has decided upon a number of mandates for implementation which require follow-up during the 71st session, some of which were initiated during the 70th session. These include facilitated processes, the convening of meetings of the General Assembly and other events:

A. Facilitators to be (re)appointed by the PGA for meetings/ other processes

RESOLUTION	MANDATE	Action taken 70 th session	Action 71 st session
<p>Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly</p> <p>Resolution 70/305 of 13 September 2016 (see A/70/1003, pp.22-33)</p>	<p>Resolution 70/305 decided to establish at the 71st session an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly open to all Member States “to identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on the progress achieved in past sessions as well as on previous resolutions, including evaluating the status of their implementation” and “to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its 71st session.”</p> <p>The AHWG furthermore shall continue its review and updating of the inventory of GA resolutions annexed to its report at the 70th session (A/70/1003, pages 34-90)</p> <p>Resolution 70/305 makes provision for a number of major new steps forward on accountability and transparency for the President of the General Assembly including: An oath of office and code of ethics; Financial disclosures for the PGA; Provision of formal induction briefings; Written terms of reference for staff; and Enhanced reporting on finances and substantive activities.</p> <p>The AHWG during the 71st session, among other things, will also be tasked to engage in an interactive and comprehensive dialogue with the Secretariat on its relationship with Permanent Missions and to</p>	<p>Co-Chairs appointed: H.E. Vladimir Drobnjak (Croatia) H.E. Wilfried I. Emvula (Namibia)</p> <p>The AHWG convened a total of eight formal meetings focusing on the four thematic clusters (role and authority of the GA; working methods; selection and appointment process of the S-G and other executive heads; strengthening of the institutional memory of the OPGA) and three informal meetings for an exchange of views on the transparency, efficiency and accountability of the OPGA as well as certain aspects of the S-G selection and appointment process (single term; multiple candidates; secret ballot; desirability of a co-facilitator led process). Pursuant to resolution 69/321, informal dialogues with presented candidates for the post of S-G have been conducted (the PGA</p>	<p>Co-Chairs will either need to be reappointed or new ones appointed for the AHWG which will convene during the resumed part of the session.</p> <p>Informal GA dialogues may be required with any additional SG-candidate that emerge in the course of the process.</p> <p>PGA may also wish to consider ways to arrive at a consensual GA resolution to appoint the next SG</p>

	hear briefings by the Main Committee Chairs on the improvements of their Committee's working methods.	also organized a global town hall meeting).	
Intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council Reform Decision 70/559	The General Assembly decided in July to immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.	Facilitator appointed: H.E. Sylvie Lucas (Luxembourg)	New facilitator(s) will need to be appointed.
United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development Resolution 70/226 of 23 December 2015 Resolution 70/303 of 9. September <i>Sustainable development and Oceans and the law of the sea</i>	The General Assembly decided to convene the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 from 5 to 9 June 2017. It also decided to define modalities of the Conference as well as the preparatory process during the 70th session. Modalities of the Conference as well as the preparatory process have been adopted by the GA GA also decided that the Conference shall be convened at United Nations Headquarters	Co-facilitators appointed: H.E. Magnus Lennartson (Sweden) H.E. J.D. Koonjul (Mauritius)	Co-facilitators to be appointed (one developed country, one developing country) to oversee the preparatory process and to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on the "Call for Action" by May 2017. PGA71 is requested to convene a two-day preparatory meeting in February 2017 in New York.
A/RES/70/125 of 17 December 2015 <i>Global health and foreign</i>	OP 19. Decides to hold a high-level meeting in 2016 on antimicrobial resistance , and requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization, and in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to determine	Facilitator appointed H.E. Juan Jose Gomez Camacho (Mexico)	Following the approval of the outcome document at the HLM on 21 September, the PGA71 is to submit the draft resolution containing the outcome for adoption at a

<p><i>policy: strengthening the management of international health crises</i></p>	<p>options and modalities for the conduct of such a meeting, including potential deliverables.</p>		<p>forthcoming plenary meeting.</p>
<p>A/RES/70/232 of 23 December 2015</p> <p><i>Rights of indigenous peoples</i></p> <p>(Also mandated by A/RES/69/159)</p>	<p>OP 4. Reaffirms the decision to convene a high-level event to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to be held during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, in 2017, and that the event will take stock of the achievements of the preceding 10 years and assess the remaining challenges for the rights of indigenous peoples, and also consider the further follow-up to the Declaration, including the consideration of a third International Decade;</p> <p>OP 19. Requests the current President of the General Assembly to conduct, within existing resources, timely, inclusive, representative and transparent consultations with Member States, indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions from all regions of the world, and existing relevant mechanisms of the United Nations, on the possible measures necessary, including procedural and institutional steps and selection criteria, to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, and further requests the President to prepare a compilation of the views presented during the consultations, including good practices within the United Nations regarding indigenous peoples' participation, which will form the basis of a draft text to be finalized and adopted by the General Assembly during the seventy-first session</p>	<p>Co-facilitators appointed</p> <p>H.E. Kai Sauer (Finland) and H.E. Martha Arna Akyaa Pobee (Ghana)</p> <p>and Ms. Chartes and Mr. Anaya (indigenous peoples), as Advisers, to consult on the possible measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples representatives and institutions in meetings of the relevant UN bodies on issues affecting them.</p> <p>PGA letter dated 8 July 2016 to MS transmitting the final compilation of views expressed as well as an addendum providing potential elements for discussion during the 71st session, which was subsequently issued as document A/70/990.</p>	<p>PGA is requested to convene a high-level event to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2017</p> <p>Facilitators may either need to be reappointed or new facilitators appointed, unless the Third Committee negotiates the draft text.</p> <p>The document of the 70th session, containing the views of Member States, will also have to be brought to the attention of the Chair of the Third Committee, to which the relevant item has been allocate</p>
<p>A/RES/70/202</p>	<p>OP 11. (a) To form a Steering Committee on partnerships for small</p>	<p>Co- Chairs appointed</p>	<p>Co-facilitators may need to be</p>

<p>of 23 December 2015</p> <p><i>Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States</i></p>	<p>island developing States that shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, chaired by one small island developing State and one State that is not a small island developing State, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, which shall meet on a regular basis, with interpretation services provided on an as available basis, to support the follow-up of existing, and promote and advocate the launching of new, small island developing States partnerships; entities of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, major groups and other stakeholders will be invited to contribute, as appropriate; the Secretariat, in particular the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, will provide a supporting role to the Steering Committee; the first meeting of the Committee should be held as soon as possible, and no later than February 2016, when it will discuss, inter alia, the working methods of the Committee;</p> <p>OP 16. Decides to consider, during its seventy-first session, the conduct of a midterm review, in 2019, on the progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway.</p>	<p>H.E. Ahmed Sareer (Maldives)</p> <p>H.E. Sebastiano Cardi (Italy)</p>	<p>appointed re. OP16 unless the matter is considered in the Second Committee.</p>
<p>A/RES/70/179 of 17 December 2015</p> <p><i>Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons</i></p>	<p>OP 6. Also recalls its decision to appraise, from within existing resources, on a four-year basis, starting at its seventy-second session the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action* in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments, and therefore decides to convene, within existing resources, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in October 2017, immediately after the general debate;</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>PGA may wish to appoint co-facilitators unless the matter is considered in the Third Committee.</p>

	<p>OP 7. Requests the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, in close cooperation with Member States, to take all appropriate measures to arrange the high-level meeting;</p> <p>*Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons</p>		
<p>A/RES/70/262 of 27 April 2016</p> <p><i>Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture</i></p>	<p>OP 29. Decides to convene at its seventy-second session, under the agenda item 'Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace', a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations' work on sustaining peace, on a date and in a format to be decided by the President of the General Assembly.</p>	N/A	The PGA may wish to commence consultations

Annex 6: Mandated meetings to be convened by the President of the 71st session

RESOLUTION	MANDATE	Action taken 70 th session	Action to be taken 71 st session
<p>Decision 70/539 of 22 December 2015</p> <p><i>High-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants</i></p>	<p>OP 1. Decides to convene a high-level meeting of the plenary of the General Assembly, within existing resources, on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016;</p> <p>OP 2. Also requests the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements, including on a possible outcome, for the high –level meeting, through open, transparent and inclusive consultations with Member States</p>	<p>Co-facilitators appointed</p> <p>H. E. David Donahughe (Ireland)</p> <p>H.E. Dina Kawar (Jordan)</p> <p>Res 70/290 on the HLM’s modalities adopted by the GA on 30 June 2016.</p>	<p>Finalize arrangements for the convening of the meeting.</p>
<p>A/RES/70/125 of 17 December 2015</p> <p><i>Global health and foreign policy: strengthening the management of international health crises</i></p>	<p>OP 19. Decides to hold a high-level meeting in 2016 on antimicrobial resistance, and requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization, and in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to determine options and modalities for the conduct of such a meeting, including potential deliverables.</p>	<p>Facilitator appointed</p> <p>H.E. Juan Jose Gomez Camacho (Mexico)</p> <p>Organizational arrangements were circulated to MS in the PGA’s letter dated 13 September.</p>	<p>Finalize arrangements for the convening of the meeting.</p>
<p>A/RES/70/155 of 17 December 2015</p> <p><i>The right to development</i></p>	<p>46. Decides to convene a one-day high-level segment of the General Assembly, in the margins of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-first session, in order to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development;</p>	<p>PGA has initiated preparations in informal consultations with member States. Meeting will be held on 22 September 2016.</p> <p>Provisional programme was communicated to MS in PGA's letter of 9. September 2016</p>	<p>Finalize arrangements for the meeting.</p>
<p>A/RES/70/34 of 7 December 2015</p>	<p>OP 10. Requests the President of the General Assembly to organize, on 26 September every year, a one-day high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate</p>	<p>PGA has sent letter to MS on 11 August informing that the one-day HL plenary meeting will take place on 26.</p>	<p>Inform MS on programme of the meeting.</p>

<p><i>Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament</i></p>	<p>and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons;</p> <p>OP 11. Decides that the aforementioned high-level plenary meeting shall be held with the participation of Member and observer States, represented at the highest possible level, as well as with the participation of the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General;</p>	<p>September</p> <p>List of speakers was opened on the 1. September.</p>	
<p>A/RES/70/145 of 17 December 2015 <i>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto</i></p>	<p>OP 8. Invites the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level panel meeting in late 2016 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention*, aimed at promoting its universalization;</p> <p>*Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Convene the meeting</p>
<p>A/RES/70/110 of 14 December 2015 <i>The impacts of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon</i></p>	<p>OP 9. Decides to convene, given the global urgency of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon, a plenary meeting of the General Assembly in 2016, during its seventy-first session, on the socioeconomic and environmental effects of the 2015/16 El Niño phenomenon, to discuss action-oriented recommendations for addressing its impacts;</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Convene the meeting</p>
<p>A/RES/70/140 of 17 December 2015 <i>A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial</i></p>	<p>OP 22. Requests the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Human Rights Council to continue convening annual commemorative meetings of the Assembly and the Council during the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*, with the appropriate focus and themes, and to hold a debate on the state of racial discrimination worldwide,</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Convene the meetings</p>

<p><i>discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action</i></p>	<p>with the participation of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in this context encourages the participation of eminent personalities active in the field of racial discrimination, Member States and civil society organizations in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly and the Council, respectively</p> <p>* 21 March</p>		
<p>A/RES/70/144 of 17 December 2015 <i>International Covenants on Human Rights</i></p>	<p>OP 3. Decides to devote one plenary meeting of the General Assembly, within existing resources, at its seventy-first session, to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and requests the President of the General Assembly to conduct consultations with Member States in order to determine the modalities for that meeting.</p>	N/A	Conduct consultations with Member States in order to determine the modalities for the meeting.
<p>A/RES/70/160 of 17 December 2015 <i>International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</i></p>	<p>OP 12. Decides to devote one high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, within existing resources, at its seventy-first session to the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of adoption of the Convention*, and requests the President of the General Assembly to conduct consultations with Member States in order to determine the modalities for that meeting.</p> <p>* International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</p>	N/A	
<p>A/RES/70/175 of 17 December 2015 <i>United Nations Standard</i></p>	<p>OP 7. Decides to extend the scope of Nelson Mandela International Day, observed each year on 18 July, to be also known as Mandela Prisoner Rights Day, in order to promote humane conditions of imprisonment, to raise awareness about prisoners being a continuous part of society and to value the work of prison staff as a social service of particular importance,</p>	N/A	PGA may decide how to celebrate this occasion in an appropriate manner

<p><i>Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules)</i></p>	<p>and to this end invites Member States, regional organizations and organizations of the United Nations system to celebrate this occasion in an appropriate manner;</p>		
<p>A/RES/70/179 of 17 December 2015</p> <p><i>Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons</i></p>	<p>OP 6. Also recalls its decision to appraise, from within existing resources, on a four-year basis, starting at its seventy-second session the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action* in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments, and therefore decides to convene, within existing resources, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in October 2017, immediately after the general debate#;</p> <p>OP 7. Requests the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, in close cooperation with Member States, to take all appropriate measures to arrange the high-level meeting;</p> <p>* Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons</p> <p># Preparations need to be undertaken during 71st session for the HL meeting in October 2017.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>PGA may start consultations on how to take this process forward.</p>
<p>United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p> <p>Resolution 70/226 of 23 December 2015</p>	<p>The General Assembly decided to convene the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 from 5 to 9 June 2017. It also decided to define modalities of the Conference as well as the preparatory process during the 70th session.</p> <p>Modalities of the Conference as well as the preparatory process have been adopted by the GA GA also decided that the Conference shall be convened at United Nations Headquarters</p>	<p>Co-facilitators appointed:</p> <p>H.E. Magnus Lennartson (Sweden)</p> <p>H.E. J.D. Koonjul (Mauritius)</p>	<p>PGA71 is requested to convene a two-day preparatory meeting in February 2017 in New York.</p> <p>The PGA is requested to appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to oversee the preparatory process and to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on a "Call for Action" by May 2017.</p>

**Resolution
70/303
of 9
September**

*Sustainable
development
and Oceans
and the law
of the sea*

Annex 7: Summaries and Outcomes of PGA70's High Level Thematic Debates

High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

New York, 21 April 2016

Informal Summary²

The President of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly convened a climate neutral High Level Thematic Debate on 21 April, 2016, in order to bring attention to, and catalyse action by all actors, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Some key actions and proposals noted by the President included:

Member States need to drive national responses to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through early action to establish methods of national coordination, identify gaps in policy, institutions and capacity, according to national circumstances, and map existing tools and reporting requirements to establish information needs.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships building on trust, common goals and a clear vision, and that enable action at all levels, fostering engagement, investment and accountability for implementation of all SDGs, need to be promoted.

A global tax body hosted by the UN, which would provide for universal participation of countries in the elaboration of new rules, should be considered.

An advisory committee of experts from the finance ecosystem to assist member States and the UN system in unlocking private investment, especially from capital markets, in support of the SDGs, should be considered.

An initiative to produce effective standards of disclosure on SDG impacts building on climate-related financial disclosures could help accelerate global investments in technological innovation and clean energy.

The Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its online platform represent an important opportunity to maximize the contribution of science, technology and innovation in the achievement of the SDGs.

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The Event brought together global political, finance and civil society leaders to discuss the “how” of implementation, in particular related to finance, technology, data and partnerships. Close to 30 Heads of State or Government, and more than 60 Ministers participated, as did large numbers of leaders from finance, business, academia, and other sectors of civil society. Discussions were held in multiple fora, including a plenary, interactive dialogues, a high-level luncheon, a high-level reception and in policy rooms related to the substantive aspects of the Event. A digital media zone facilitated significant presence from all forms of media, enabling engagement of communities globally.

² The summary does not necessarily express the views of the President of the General Assembly. It is a compilation of messages by participants in the Event, summarized in an informal format. It does not attempt to be exhaustive, nor does it reflect necessarily the views of all member States or other participants.

Sustainable Development Salons, among the many innovative features introduced, featured interviews with political leaders and prominent personalities which were webcast live.

Declared candidates seeking to become the next Secretary-General of the United Nations were also invited to attend, as a means of broadening their awareness of the challenges ahead.

Action at all levels

Member States committed to drive national responses to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, hence strong national ownership was highlighted as the foundation for its success. Countries were devoting considerable time and effort to develop or realign national development plans and strategies to reflect the New Agenda and its vision for the future. Early actions highlighted, included establishing national coordinating mechanisms, mapping of existing instruments and reporting requirements as well as identifying gaps in policy, institutions and capacity according to national circumstances, in order to prioritize and build capacity.

Governments reiterated their commitment to enhance a global partnership complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, with a view to supporting the achievement of the SDGs in all countries, but also at regional and global levels.

In order to move forward, Governments would have to reinforce their credibility and capabilities. They would have to establish long-term strategies and incorporate in a coherent way the imperatives of sustainable development in all its dimensions, including poverty eradication, climate action, productive transformation and growth. Investment priorities had to be determined by the interlinkages between specific SDGs and the overall framework of the 2030 Agenda.

Success in realising the SDGs necessitated a common understanding of the goals and holistic, integrated and balanced strategies to achieve them, between public and private sectors. Countries were seen as driving these efforts which needed to be complemented at regional and global levels.

In order to achieve a truly transformative Agenda, mode of business by all actors had to change. Governments must put in place regulatory frameworks that promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption, while financial markets and the productive sector must adapt sustainable patterns of production and consumption, for the transformation to take hold.

A shift was also seen as needed in international cooperation to move away from business as usual towards really transformative projects. The 2030 Agenda necessitates a renewed understanding of international cooperation based on results. International cooperation has to reflect a genuine partnership and be done in a way that allows the international community to get beyond short-termism and go beyond donors and recipients, the north and south divide, while focusing on the most vulnerable.

There was a need for strengthening international governance to better connect all the SDGs and enhance transparency, accountability and policy coherence. For example, some bilateral investment treaties were seen as potentially making the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs more difficult. In going forward, it would be important to explicitly consider tensions that may exist

between enticing the private sector to take a major role in the implementation of SDGs; the need to avoid harmful tax competition (“race to the bottom”); as well as the urgency to address profit shifting and combat illicit financial flows. Achieving the SDGs may in some cases imply more, not less regulation.

Financing poverty eradication and sustainable development

To achieve the SDGs, successfully eradicate poverty and fight climate change, capital flows needed to be redirected and investments accelerated into the SDGs. A low-carbon future required reorientation of investment, not necessarily more. Reform should continue in order to create a sustainable, resilient and inclusive global financial system able to handle potential shocks, including those of climate change and the impact of climate action on investment in financial markets. As an example, the current G20 Presidency included the SDGs in the agenda for the next G20 Summit and supported green finance as a critical means for implementing it. Green financing is seen as an approach that should be continued and that should potentially embrace all the SDGs. All countries needed to have the right macro-prudential regulation in place to absorb such sustainable investment flows.

Social impact investment and corporate social responsibility initiatives would have to be complementary and disclosure requirements unified, in order to incentivize investment shifts towards sustainability on a global scale. It was suggested to establish a form of advisory committee whereby experts from the finance ecosystem could assist Member States and the UN system unlocking private investment, especially from capital markets, in support of the SDGs. Investors were looking for sustainable asset classes, such as infrastructure, wind farms, biomass and green power capacity. Country experiences included changing regulations to allow pension funds and insurance companies to invest in SDG-related activities both domestically and abroad including in developing countries, as well as improving perceived risks through blended finance instruments. Development Banks could play an important role in this regard as risk mitigators. Official Development Assistance (ODA) could be used effectively to create incentives and leverage private sector resources, for example, in the renewable energy sector. However, these actions tended to shift the risk to the public sector which was perceived as problematic in some cases.

Private finance was seen as playing a critical role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was therefore important to build up a pipeline of projects that would be interesting enough to attract private investment. While renewable energy is a long-standing sector with a well-established market and the corresponding investment risks well understood, other sectors, such as water, had yet to reach this maturity. In general, private investment would need to be accompanied by accountability mechanisms and aligned with the SDGs and human rights.

Taxation

Enhanced mobilization of domestic resources was seen as critical to implementation of the SDGs. To that end, Governments would need to mobilize public resources, expand their revenue base and build up tax administration capacity, including through technical assistance and exchange of best practices, as necessary. Given the importance of the local level for the delivery of the SDGs, it would also be important to focus on improving sub-national and local level financing. In Addis Ababa,

Governments had decided to further strengthen the United Nations expert arrangement to address international cooperation on tax matters.

Current constraints in the trading system and the high level of indebtedness of some countries also affected developing countries' ability to mobilize resources for development. Recent reports had highlighted the extent to which illicit financial flows and tax avoidance drained resources from the public purse.

Many recognized the need for a more coherent, strengthened international tax regime. Reflection was underway in different fora to find ways to avoid harmful tax competition among countries. Tax incentives usually generated externalities across borders, which had brought about new challenges not adequately addressed by the current global fora. Some called for a UN Convention on tax abuses while others called for a retooling of transfer pricing rules.

Concrete steps had been taken in recent years to step up international cooperation on tax matters. The OECD through the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes had been at the forefront of this work. The work on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) had made advances and the initiative set a benchmark for discussions at the G20. Yet, it was limited in scope. For example, country-by-country reporting for multinational corporations represented a step forward, though reports are still not available for all countries and to the general public. Similarly, an issue of routing money through tax havens had not been addressed. Finally, though BEPS had been largely discussed and globally reviewed, its decision-making and endorsement excluded many countries which significantly hinder its outreach and effectiveness.

Many were calling for a follow-up to BEPS, or "BEPS+" in order to form a comprehensive agenda that build an international framework on tax cooperation. Many called for an increased role of the UN in such efforts, including in the form of a global tax body hosted by the UN, which would provide for universal participation of countries in the elaboration of the new rules.

Technology for SDGs

Each of the SDGs involved aspects related to technology. Technology would be critical in moving to a less resource-intensive production system. Acceleration of technological change could create opportunities and disruptions. A real issue for the SDGs could be the speed at which knowledge had to be applied along supply chains. This implied tighter links among potential users, needs, and the research system. The science and technology communities had an important role to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through highlighting science-based pathways to achieve the SDGs as an indivisible set of goals, providing new metrics, and bridging the data gaps.

Successful strategies used by Governments to stimulate technological innovation had involved combinations of actions, including: devoting a significant portion of budgets to research and development; adopting strong standards that challenged business while leaving time for business to devise solutions; and, building dialogue with business in order to build trust. Some countries had established a competitive advantage in the private sector in areas of renewable energy, waste-to-energy and wastewater cleaning, utilizing such strategies. Public agencies could facilitate the diffusion of knowledge and technology from academia to companies and in particular to Small and

Medium size Enterprises. In some countries, basic policies to support innovators, such as facilitating access to laboratories and allowing pilot projects, could go a long way to stimulating local innovation.

Several international fora and programmes had worked to make national projects available at the global level or worked to spur resource efficiency and transfers of technology. There had been successful examples of incubator systems financed by donor countries, which had enabled genuine transfer of technology. In other cases international agreements had technology transfer provisions that had proven effective. Technology collaborative programs, which brought together the private sector, Governments and academia, had delivered concrete advances in past years. However, key challenges had included identifying promising technologies, mobilizing investment and maturing these technologies in order to bring them to scale. The role of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its online platform would give an opportunity to maximize the contribution of science, technology and innovation in the achievement of the SDGs.

Public-private partnerships could help transfer technology to developing countries. There had been collaborative experiences in health, agriculture and other sectors. Partnerships could be especially needed to push forward technology and corresponding policy in “laggard” sectors. For example, observed rates of technological progress in transport and in industrial use of energy were not high enough compared to what was seen as needed to achieve the SDGs.

As examples presented at the Event highlighted, technology had always been embedded in social innovation and played a central role in new business models. It was very important to demystify technology and help people relate it to local problems, in order to foster local capacity to innovate. Women and girls needed to be part of the conversation on technology and should be a primary target for social training and awareness raising programmes. It was also important to devise policies that favoured increased engagement of women in technology development and IT careers, including achieving equal pay for equal work.

Data for SDGs

Data requirements to manage the 2030 Agenda were seen as vast. Many statistical offices had started using big data to produce statistics, including from spatial and mobile phone sources. Going forward, countries would need roadmaps to strengthen their statistical capacity. The UN Statistical Commission recently created the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda to advise on harnessing the opportunities of the data revolution for the implementation of the SDGs. The group was designing a roadmap for modernizing and strengthening statistical systems, and was planning for the first UN World Forum for Sustainable Development Data to be held next year. Others were offering support with the application and testing the use of big data. There were important lessons to be learned from other areas, for example, the use of text messages in crisis contexts. Countries had launched pilot projects using data from satellite imagery, mobile phones and social media. Recent experiences with utilizing mobile phone data to better identify where poverty existed had produced lessons that were applicable to developed and developing countries alike.

The promise of new data and technologies should not overshadow the need for efforts to produce the most basic structural data, such as registration of all births. Other examples included birth registration schemes, data on school attendance, and accurate measurement of economic activity. Such data were seen as critical to identifying those left behind, especially girls, youth, and people with disabilities. Giving identity and legal status to everybody would be critical to the achievement of sustainable development and empowerment of peoples.

Data should not be confined to statistical offices and Governments. All stakeholders should have access to information and data on progress made on implementing the Agenda. Accountability was easier to obtain when open data policies and obligation to make data accessible were in place. One example of such access was the Open Data Inventory (ODIN), which assessed the coverage and openness of official statistics to identify gaps, promote open data policies, improve access, and encourage dialogue between national statistical offices and data users. The Aarhus Convention, which had articulated Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, could provide a powerful mechanism for bottom-up accountability. Accountability was much easier to request when civil society was seen as an important resource in providing data, for example, through community-based systems of information.

It was no longer the purview of Government only to produce data. All over the world, people were mapping their own communities. The proliferation of mobile phones and the rapidly spreading ability to use computers had increased capacity to use information technologies, even in marginalized communities. Those communities should be seen not only as pockets of vulnerability, but also as a source of skills for generating data. There were many examples of locally produced data of better quality than data available from the Government. This provided opportunities for development of strategies and guidelines that integrate these new approaches with statistical data for improved decision making and better quality data overall.

Partnerships for the implementation of SDGs

The 2030 Agenda demands effective and complimentary multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to meet the highly ambitious SDGs and address their long-term, integrated nature with transformative solutions.

Efforts were widespread and awareness increasing in the finance and business community and among civil society partners in bringing the SDGs to the forefront of the development agenda. Business leaders were translating the SDGs into language that the private sector understood, transforming the aspirational values embedded in the SDGs into practical opportunities. For example, long term business viability and global sustainable development were mutually dependent on sustainable supply chains. With global agreement around the SDGs, businesses now had the opportunity and tools needed to assess and modify their supply chains in relation to these universal priorities, affecting the individuals, communities, lands and waters that their supply chains touch. Leading business communities had framed the SDGs as an opportunity for business to innovate, enter new markets, elevate the global labour force, and create a competitive edge, recognizing that there were risks for those who do not embrace the 2030 Agenda.

Partnerships that involve the UN should ensure a high level of integrity in relation to their private sector partners, especially in regards to human rights, labour, environmental and corruption issues.

Many countries had legal mechanisms in place within which to hold the private sector accountable. At the global level, the UN Global Compact played an important role as entry point for the private sector into the UN.

Better data were needed for investors and pension holders to ensure companies were accountable to their commitments around the SDGs. Examples of initiatives on climate-related financial disclosures gave hope to accelerating global investments in technological innovation and clean energy by increasing transparency. This approach could be expanded to include all SDG-related disclosures with the ultimate goal of producing effective standards of disclosure on SDG impacts.

Countries, international organizations and civil society had a long history of multi-stakeholder partnerships from which to draw experience and success, in particular in areas such as renewable energy, transport, water, forests, sustainable agriculture, gender equality and women's empowerment. Civil society had played an essential role in raising awareness, building capacity of Governments, as well as holding actors and systems to account for transparency and results. The private sector and Governments had contributed support through multiple vehicles and instruments, and had shaped principles of engagement on core issues of sustainability and gender.

An in-room survey of participants conducted during the partnership luncheon captured essential elements and current challenges of multi-stakeholder partnerships. Participants were asked to select three 'essential characteristics' and three 'chronic challenges' from a list of 13 options (plus a 'write-in'). 90 percent of tables submitted responses, with at least one table submitting views for each SDG except for Goal 1. Results found that certain qualities were commonly identified as essential for multi-stakeholder partnerships success include a shared vision (prioritized by 81 percent of participants), clear goals (66 percent), and trust and understanding between partners (66 percent). These were followed closely by good governance (50 percent) and sustainable financing (47 percent), results-orientation (40 percent), responsible to people and planet (29 percent), and clearly-defined roles for partners (26 percent). Conversely, three elements stood apart as chronic challenges: lack of trust and understanding, lack of sustainable finances, and lack of shared vision. These were deemed twice as critical as the next group of potential challenges which included lack of governance and poorly defined roles. Additional comments provided by participants highlighted specific aspects of clear communication, honest dialogue, engaging youth, transparency, trust and mutual respect, acceptance of profit for participating businesses, rigorous standard setting, good governance including anti-corruption, building on prior success, and enabling regulatory frameworks.

Climate action in the context of sustainable development

Timely action on climate change was seen as an important enabler for reaching the other SDGs. It would therefore be crucial to mainstream climate action and SDGs in national plans and action at all levels.

It was important that countries promptly ratified the historic Paris Agreement so that it could enter into force as soon as possible. Governments needed to establish credibility, starting with sending clear signals through ambitious Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. This would create a virtuous circle and spur transformative actions by the private sector.

Rather than being seen as two separate processes, the Paris Agreement and the SDGs should be considered complementary, as successful implementation of one would depend and strengthen the other. Many countries had started to reflect on this coherent implementation in their national strategies and plans, for some small Islands in particular, it was seen as a matter of ensuring survival.

The finance and business communities had supported a strong Agreement, and highlighted the need for a price on carbon. Public-private partnerships had been created that directly support the transition to low-carbon economies, and the youth movement in particular has presented a compelling case for action.

High Level Thematic Debate – In a world of risks: A new commitment for peace

New York, 10-11 May 2016

Conclusions and Observations

by the President of the seventieth session of the UN General Assembly

On 10 and 11 May 2016, members of the General Assembly – many at the level of Foreign Minister – gathered together with the chairs of the most recent peace and security reviews, a wide range of active or retired senior officials of the United Nations, representatives from academia, civil society representatives and other stakeholders for a strategic reflection on contemporary threats and challenges to international peace and security. We looked at commonalities and interlinkages between policy areas, including the Sustainable Development Goals and we discussed ways to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of the UN in this area at a time when the Organization is considering who – as the next Secretary-General – will lead it in this and other equally vital tasks.

From two days of lively and spontaneous debate, I have drawn up a few chief conclusions and observations that I wish to share with the membership for further consideration.

Conclusions:

- An invitation to member states committed to leading by example, to continue to champion efficient and effective mandate implementation, fostering policy and normative developments where needed, particularly to advance the primacy of conflict prevention, to ensure that UN peace operations are adequately equipped and financed, and to ensure engagement with civil society and the private sector;
- An encouragement to those member states to consider organising an event on the same matter in the margins of the General Debate in September 2016, complementing other relevant initiatives, including those aimed at fostering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to address large movements of refugees and migrants;
- A recommendation to members to further reflect on tools and means for the Organization and the Secretariat to respond in meaningful ways to the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in various contexts where the UN is confronted with this increasingly complex phenomenon, particularly where peace operations are deployed;
- An invitation to the Secretary-General to brief the membership on the current state of implementation of the pertinent recommendations outlined in the recent peace and security reviews and relevant resolutions (peace operations, peacebuilding, women, peace and security);
- A recommendation to the next Secretary-General to outline his / her vision of the new realities of the peace and security landscape and proposals to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of the UN in this field. This could include benchmarks regarding the implementation of recommendations outlined in the peace and security reviews and

relevant resolutions – not least those review recommendations directed to the next Secretary-General, as well as further proposals to adapt the UN peace and security instruments to a changing context.

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Observations:

1. Over two days of general debate and interactive sessions – reflecting also contributions from more than a dozen regional workshops and building on on-going and recently concluded intergovernmental negotiation processes (peacebuilding, C34,– amongst others) – the high-level thematic debate fostered rich and extensive exchanges. These extended from the importance of recognizing significant achievements when key actors and member states cooperate and coordinate to acknowledging shortcomings and standstill among and between member states and/or the UN system.
2. The key importance of continued attention to the matter of Security Council reform, bearing in mind the on-going inter-governmental negotiations, was evident and underlined throughout.
3. Likewise, it was recognized that the next Secretary-General has a window of opportunity early in his or her term to seek and achieve much needed efficiency gains and streamlining while addressing resolutely well-identified institutional and structural shortcomings of the Organization.
4. The deliberations highlighted a number of key issues that – taken together – echo a shortlist of widely shared aspirations and concerns for member states, including that today’s threats and growing geopolitical tensions have resulted in multiple challenges for the Organization.
5. The lack of adequate tools and capacity to protect civilians in conflict, to respond effectively to new forms of complex conflicts - especially in the Middle East; to address international terrorism, as well as other challenges with a clear security dimension such as large-scale epidemics, climate change and large displacement of populations, has undermined trust in the Organization’s ability to fully deliver on its role in maintaining peace.
6. These are challenges that call for responsible leadership and accountability at multiple levels – a call that numerous participants made during the debate. It is crucial that member states live up to their obligations to refrain from the use of force or the threat of the use of force in international relations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law.
7. The United Nations plays – and should continue to play – a crucial role in the maintenance of international peace and security. It was a consistent message from participants that on the occasion of its seventieth anniversary, it is essential that we collectively reaffirm our commitment to the Charter, stress our commitment to work through the United Nations to meet common challenges, and enhance the ability of the Organization to confront evolving threats and challenges to peace and security. This involves firm commitments to sustaining peace – also in the longer term – including making available the financial resources to doing so.
8. Concrete action is required to strengthen the ability of the United Nations to confront those threats and challenges. This will require that the United Nations continually emphasize its diplomatic and preventive functions, seek new partnerships at political and operational level, and explore effective mechanisms for mandate implementation. In the light of recent allegations of sexual

exploitation and abuse by the very UN forces that are deployed to protect civilians, it is of utmost urgency – and numerous contributors made this point – to restore the credibility, reputation as well as performance and accountability of UN missions and operations on the ground. This also requires that member states provide the needed capacities and capabilities to enable effective mandate implementation.

9. The recent reviews of UN peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture, and women's contributions to peace and security, among others, were all timely and widely welcomed by participants. Member states would be expected to lead by example and demonstrate their sustained engagement in support of those reviews. They will need to continue to champion the reviews' recommendations and help ensure that constraints and challenges are turned into opportunities for the United Nations. The membership and the Secretary-General should continue to be seized of the implementation of the recommendations and to improve the Organization in order to be maximally effective and efficient, including at UN Headquarters.

10. The next Secretary-General in particular should continue to emphasize the need to sustain peace across the whole spectrum from prevention to recovery, as well as the primacy of the political framework in the search for peace. S/he will also need to appoint special representatives of the highest integrity and diplomatic skill to lead peace efforts, continue to address gender issues, and promote the role of women in peace and security, both in policy and in leadership positions, and ensure the Security Council and members' support to peace efforts.

11. Throughout the debate, it was repeatedly stressed that renewed attention to upstream prevention as part of sustaining peace requires effective strategic analysis. It will also require tightening the range of tools available – including a feed-back loop from planning and analysis through implementation, monitoring and evaluation to adaption – as well as the evidence of which preventative approaches work. In addition, fragmentation should be addressed including by enhancing the Peacebuilding Commission's role as a bridge between the Assembly and the Council as well as by debating with member states the spectrum of operations and functions that are needed to suit different circumstances on the ground and the complementary roles of the three pillars of the UN system in prevention.

12. Be it through UN managed missions and operations, efforts pursued in cooperation with regional organizations, or multi-national actions authorized by the Security Council, the search for conflict resolution must be grounded in an overall political framework.

13. The emphasis on a political framework is also essential in the fight against violent extremism and terrorism. While the UN is not currently structured or equipped to counter terrorist entities when encountered in mission environments, it is likely that more and more conflicts will contain an element of terrorist threat or host a terrorist-affiliated organization. It will therefore be of utmost importance that the Secretary-General and member states continue to deliberate about how, in concrete ways, the UN could effectively contribute to the international coordination, prevention and response to terrorism and violent extremism and about the capacities and doctrines required for the UN to provide an effective response – in addition to existing frameworks and policies, including sanctions.

14. Ensuring that peace operations are in sync with today's demands and expectations requires placing people at the heart of their engagement. Many interventions during the two days of debate made clear that civilians are the main stakeholders of peace operations, with the most to gain from their successes and the most to lose from their failures. Communities should be front and center in

decision-making. Placing people at the center means also that peace operations are accountable to the people they are meant to serve.

15. For such people-centered approaches to become a reality, a fundamental transformation in practice and culture is needed – one that will address the lack of a clear and effective interplay between diplomatic, security and developmental efforts both within the Secretariat and with agencies, funds and programs, and international financial institutions. Due attention must be paid to establishing sound budgetary and management mechanisms for context-specific and local approaches to analysis, planning and monitoring for prevention, protection, resilience and peacebuilding.

16. While numerous participants underlined the need to achieve greater cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, crucial challenges such as mobilizing predictable funding and adopting clearer lines of responsibility needed to be addressed urgently in order to make subsidiarity and partnerships more effective and strategic.

17. Member states and the UN system need to acknowledge the increasing contributions of civil society and the private sector to protection, peace efforts and peacebuilding undertakings and to develop more long-term and effective ways to partner with these stakeholders in ways consistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

18. The full range of the Sustainable Development Goals is an essential corollary to efforts in pursuit of peace and security. Preventing the next wave of conflict will require innovation in supporting member states' efforts to solidify their own work on inclusive political institutions, on strengthening the rule of law and on inclusive justice.

19. Large-scale displacement may be a consequence of instability or feed into new or existing tensions. Properly responding to these flows in the longer term will require focus on addressing the underlying root causes, whether it is conflict, economic hardship, climate change, political exclusion or human rights violations. It will also require a constructive sense of global partnership to both realize the benefits and manage the costs associated with migration and refugee flows.

20. All three recent reviews contain practical recommendations on organizational and structural changes as well as administrative and financial issues that may be implemented either in the short or longer term to help achieve all those objectives. The next Secretary-General will have a special responsibility to follow up with member states, fostering consensus, and seeking both long-term, sustained commitment and support to targeted policies and actions.

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UN@70: Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda
High-Level Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly

New York, 12-13 July 2016

Informal Summary³

As part of his overall efforts to foster 'A new Commitment to Action', President Mogens Lykketoft held a High Level Thematic Debate (HLTD) on 12-13 July at UN Headquarters, entitled, '**UN@70: Human Rights at the centre of the global agenda**'.

Taking place in the context of the 50th anniversary of the international human rights covenants, the 30th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development and the process to select and appoint the next UN Secretary-General, this HLTD sought to:

- reinforce the foundations needed for the enjoyment of human rights
- identify how action to realize human rights can contribute to progress on peace and security and sustainable development and vice-versa
- highlight ways to strengthen the United Nations' role and effectiveness in this area

The debate began with an opening segment involving the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the President of the General Assembly, Mr Mogens Lykketoft, Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of Belgium and Ms. Agnes Leina Ntikaampi of the Illaramatak Community Concerns (Kenya). It was followed by a plenary debate with Ministerial participation and three interactive dialogues.

18 representatives at ministerial level, a large number of senior government officials, Permanent Representatives to the UN, independent human rights experts as well as senior representatives from civil society and the private sector participated in the event.

Declared candidates seeking to become the next Secretary-General of the United Nations were also invited to attend, as a means of broadening their awareness of the challenges ahead in this area. In the margins of the debate, 10 of the 12 candidates participated in a Global Townhall organized by the President in partnership with Al Jazeera Media Network.

A. Key points emerging from the Plenary debate:

- Given current challenges relating to poverty eradication, climate change, inequality, violent extremism, terrorism, conflict and a global refugee and humanitarian crisis, a "redoubling" of efforts is required to make human rights commitments a reality and to place human rights at the very core of global efforts to secure peace, security, justice and sustainable development
- The linkage between adherence to human rights and greater **peace and security** was highlighted throughout. Maintaining human rights standards in the context of countering violent extremism is particularly important. The connection between human rights implementation and conflict prevention, particularly in light of the recent UN reviews in the area of peace and security, was also underscored as was the role of monitoring human rights abuses as a tool for early warning.

³ The summary does not necessarily express the views of the President of the General Assembly. It is a compilation of messages by participants in the Event, summarized in an informal format. It does not attempt to be exhaustive, nor does it reflect necessarily the views of all member States or other participants.

- Human rights have been included at the heart of the 17 **Sustainable Development Goals** and are captured in the 2030 Agenda’s mantra to “leave no one behind.” It is critical that there be no “cherry picking” of certain goals over others and that steps are taken to incorporate the agenda into national legislation, policies and action plans. There was also a suggestion that the UPR be revised to include reporting on progress of SDGs implementation; and that the High Level Political Forum create space for the human rights dimensions of the SDGs to be discussed.
- Many Member States took the opportunity to highlight their **national efforts** to implement human rights commitments, including through national human rights commissions and offices of ombudspersons, specialized legislation, or national action plans. Others underscored their State’s roles in supporting particular UN efforts in the promotion of human rights, their membership of the Security Council and/or Human Rights Council, and the election of their national candidates to the Treaty-based Bodies.
- Some Member States questioned the apparent **selective application** of certain rights vis a vis certain States; the perception of a double standard; the application of human rights as a tool in foreign policy, and the politicization of the Human Rights Council.
- There were a number of affirmations of support for the **Human Rights Council** and its mechanisms, especially the **UPR**, with many Member States’ highlighting the recommendations that their governments had accepted and providing examples of their implementation. There was a call for the concretization of new recommendations for the third round of the UPR without the repetition of existing and unfulfilled recommendations. Funding gaps were identified in terms of the capacity of the mechanisms to support Member States and the ability to implement the recommendations at the national level.
- Many Member States expressed appreciation for the work of **Special Procedures**, identified the importance of standing invitations and highlighted visits that had taken place in their country. Others took exception with some of the issues taken up by special rapporteurs and felt that funding for the mechanism should be more transparent. Multiple Member States noted the progress achieved with the June 2016 resolution (HRC/32/L.2/Rev.1) creating the new special procedures mandate on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- There were also numerous calls for the implementation of standards in the **core human rights treaties** (notably CEDAW), as well as their optional protocols. Several Member States mentioned the need for the **Security Council** to better incorporate human rights issues and to cooperate with the Human Rights Council. There were also expressions of concern for both the politicization of the Council as well as its polarization over key issues.
- Many Member States underscored the important work of **OHCHR**, and the need for it to be strengthened with greater human and financial resources. Many mentioned their cooperation with the Office or mentioned that they had invited the High Commissioner to visit. Some noted their support for OHCHR’s Change Initiative.
- A number of member states affirmed support for the **UN Human Rights Up Front initiative** while some States reiterated the need to further the “responsibility to protect” agenda.

B. Interactive Segments

The following issues were highlighted by speakers, discussants and others during the three interactive segments.

1. *Combating discrimination and inequalities*

- The historical struggle against discrimination related as it was to colonialism, racism and other practices, continues around the world today. The evolving nature of discriminatory practices together with growing levels of intolerance and the dynamics of global income inequality, however, demand continued and more expansive action in this area. This reality was recognized by world leaders in adopting the 2030 Agenda which situated action to combat inequalities and discrimination at the heart of global sustainable development agenda.
- The prevailing form of capitalism, the effects of an ideology of white supremacy and the undermining of democracy were highlighted by one speaker as factors that contribute to today's growing global human rights crisis particularly relating to discrimination. To overcome this crisis, leaders must tell the truth, be inclusive, promote diversity, and mobilize as well as demand transformation.
- The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals demand action on discrimination on a number of grounds. Goal 5, which focusses on women and girls, together with other goals, capture the fact that there are multiple forms of discrimination that affect women and girls which must be tackled simultaneously.
- Similarly, persons with disabilities are in all groups of society and can suffer discrimination on different grounds. Challenges of accessibility exist in the streets, in schools, in the justice system and beyond. To implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda, partnerships and networks are crucial.
- Structural and institutional racism is a major aspect of discrimination today, including as it relates to migrants and refugees. The international community must promote social solidarity and ensure access to justice for the victims. It must support civil society, promote education; elaborate and implement National Action Plans that link development to justice; and denounce racism and xenophobia. Strengthening coordination between UN agencies is also crucial.
- There is an intrinsic relationship between a lack of development and all forms of discrimination. Member States should recognize the right to development at the national level, by ensuring good governance, and at the international level, through international cooperation to overcome inequalities between states. Voluntary accountability is important and states should consider addressing poverty, unemployment, education, women's empowerment as SDG priorities.
- OHCHR plays a crucial role in promoting human rights and advancing progressive norms, while the Human Rights Council's recent resolution establishing the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity is also important. People everywhere should discuss sex despite the tide of conservatism and Member States must respect the rights of sex workers.
- Political leadership is critical to overcoming discriminatory attitudes in society. Temporary special measures including in parliaments should be considered. Accountability for

discrimination is also important while inclusion should be a central principle when implementing the SDGs.

2. *Building the foundations for human rights – governance, the rule of law and access to justice*

- The importance of rule of law as a fundamental cornerstone for the realization of human rights was underlined by all in the discussion . Also, panellists referred to issues related to access to justice, including both domestic and international justice; and the fundamental role of international tribunals and in particular the International Criminal Court in this regard. Among other issues, the importance of strengthening and enhancing cooperation between national governments in the prosecution of international crimes was emphasized.
- It was noted that international criminal justice was essential to enforcing international human rights and humanitarian law and to fostering the rule of law. Though standards and norms have developed in the past 70 years, ensuring compliance remained an important problem. It was stressed that international justice needs to be applied globally and consistently. Wider ratification of international instruments , as well as greater resources and cooperation were also required. A call was made for greater complementarity between the global system of international criminal justice and national courts, as access to justice remains a major issue globally.
- Some participants noted that while there is no inter-governmentally agreed definition for the “rule of law”, however, it was clear that the term encompasses also substantive justice, in addition to legislation and institutions.
- The crucial role of lawyers was emphasized throughout the event. The transformative effect of the testimony of sexual and gender-based violence survivors and witnesses in specific cases was also highlighted. There was a call on all courts to provide victims greater role in legal proceedings.
- The principles of accountability, transparency and efficiency were mentioned as central to the rule of law, and necessary for good governance. The lack of an independent judiciary could have a corrosive impact on the rule of law, , and it was also noted that law-making required the participation of all stakeholders, including civil society and national human rights institutions, as well as the commitment of political leaders. Panellists noted that reform in the area of rule of law should ideally build on what is already present rather than import models from elsewhere.
- It was highlighted that causes of conflict are often related to failures to respect human rights and the rule of law. Furthermore, human rights and the rule of law are imperative when countering terrorism and for creating a sustainable counterpoint for violent extremism.
- UN discussants highlighted examples of their support to national efforts to strengthen the rule of law. They stressed the importance of planning for rule of law and peace sustainment activities from the very outset of any international intervention. The importance of strengthening the rule of law was mentioned as essential for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, and important in forging partnerships to advance the SDGs. Furthermore, the rule of law was important for sustainable peace and human rights, as it provided a mechanism to place people’s needs at the centre and to strengthen national institutions that protect human rights and provide access to justice.

- A private sector perspective was shared with the participants, stressing that the rule of law is essential for ensuring access to justice, respect for human rights and economic development. The new and important role of technology, including the use of mobile apps to document human rights violations, was highlighted. The awareness and knowledge of laws was also highlighted as important, as effective access to justice requires access to and understanding of the laws, including due process guarantees. The importance of increasing the involvement of private actors, in particular lawyers, in the discussions on the rule of law was also highlighted.

3. *Enabling active participation in society*

- An attack on civil society is an attack on “human agency” and new global trends demonstrate how security measures are undermining human rights. In the last year, Amnesty International documented 113 countries which have placed restrictions on the right to freedom of expression. The Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism has reported 60 countries which restricted the right to freedom of assembly, and 150 human rights defenders have been reportedly killed. Civil society now wastes precious resources on their protection and in defending themselves against accusations of demonization.
- The perception of some governments that there is a trade off between security and the Human Rights is wrong: security can only be realized with an active civil society. Local religious and tribal leaders play an important role in the promotion of an active civil society, including the role of women and girls. Human rights have become politicized, with the complicity of the UN. Social media users, community leaders and governments supportive of human rights could further assist with the implementation of the SDGs.
- Media workers are often targeted and persecuted. Annual numbers of the murders of journalists remain the same despite efforts. Sixty-seven were killed in the last year in the “line of duty”. Eight hundred deaths due to deliberate attacks on the media were documented in the last ten years. 176 media workers were imprisoned and there had been a 4% decrease in the index on press freedom in a number of countries.
- Social media has played an important role in promoting active civil society participation, and in giving those a voice who would not have had one twenty years ago, but the protection of users from reprisals is a challenge. Social media companies often receive requests from governments to remove content, and the content is then reviewed for compliance with international legal standards for human rights. These would only remove extremist/violent content, such as terrorism propaganda.
- Governments often do not see lawyers as allies the media is often used as a “mouthpiece” for the governments in power.
- There is a need for UN funds, programmes and agencies to improve how they work to protect civil society organizations. They can do more to help government create a better overall environment for civil society actors.
- The recent report by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions was highlighted. It looks at whether states presenting themselves for review at the HLPF have created an “enabling environment” for active civil society participation and implementation of the SDGs.

- Among comments from the floor, the importance of promoting the active engagement of all sectors of society was noted because democracy does not end at the ballot box. CSOs can provide helpful expertise for governments.
- The relationship between civil society space, the rule of law, access to justice and equality was highlighted throughout demonstrating an active and protected civil society will be one of the critical success factors in achieving the SDGs and realizing human rights worldwide.
