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A CONVERSATION
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Digital Supplement

Miroslav Lajčák
President of the seventy second Session of the United Nations General Assembly
“It is crucial that Permanent Representatives become involved in processes. We need to return to a culture of responsibility.”

“We spend too much time on issues that are going nowhere and not enough time on outcomes that could make a difference in people’s lives.”

“There needs to be a balance between political oversight and guidance at the Permanent Representative level, as well as technical and substantive expertise.”

“The quest for consensus is affecting processes. The new paradigm of ‘consensus-only’ can be a disincentive to negotiate. Consensus should be an aspiration not a rule.”

“It is important to always remember that what we are doing will affect what is happening on the ground. That is precisely where it matters. We should remain guided by this principle.”
“Two major challenges that affect the work of the General Assembly are mistrust and inertia. Time should be invested in building confidence, and to ensure that the processes work and deliver better results.”
“Processes which address technical issues need to have negotiators with the right expertise and understanding. They should be given a sufficiently flexible mandate by Permanent Representatives.”
“The PGA’s political support is an important element to achieve successful outcomes. It is crucial to creating the right environment, promoting trust and transparency, and encouraging flexibility and compromise when negotiations get difficult.”

“One suggestion would be that facilitators produce a lessons-learned document at the end of their processes. This can help future facilitators better prepare and execute their mandates.”

“The criteria for selecting Co-facilitators is crucial. It must be a matter not just of skill or personality but also expertise. The political implications of the selections should also be kept in mind.”
Best Practices and lessons learned: what we did, what we didn't do and how to move forward

7 September 2018

Pictured left to right

(Seated)
H.E. Ms. Pennelope Althea Beckles (Trinidad and Tobago)
H.E. Ms. Mirgul Moldoisaeva (Kyrgyzstan)
H.E. Ms. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh (United Arab Emirates)
H.E. Ms. Martha Ama Akya Pobee (Ghana)
H.E. Ms. Amal Mudallali (Lebanon)
H.E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés (President of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly)
H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani (Qatar)
H.E. Ms. Katalin Annamaria Bogay (Hungary)
H.E. Ms. Valentine Rugwabiza (Rwanda)
H.E. Mr. Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve (Belgium)
H.E. Ms. Maria Emma Mejia Vélez (Colombia)

(Standing)
H.E. Mr. Vitavas Srivihok (Thailand)
H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson (Antigua & Barbuda)
H.E. Mr. Koro Bessho (Japan)
H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen (Denmark)
H.E. Mr. Kai Sauer (Finland)
H.E. Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho (Mexico)
H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber (Switzerland)
H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynar (Slovakia)
H.E. Mr. Kaha Imnadze (Georgia)
H.E. Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes (Portugal)
H.E. Mr. Vladimir Drobnjak (Croatia)
H.E. Mr. Kornelios Korneliou (Cyprus)

(Not pictured)
H.E. Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila (South Africa)

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