



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17 September 2018

Excellency,

In line with resolutions 72/313 of 17 September 2018 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, I wish to share with you the below handover report I transmitted to H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President-elect of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

This handover report is a contribution to the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and supports a smooth transition from the 72nd to the 73rd session of the General Assembly.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miroslav Lajčák

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

HANDOVER REPORT

From the President of the 72nd session
of the General Assembly,
H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák,
to his successor, President of the 73rd session
of the General Assembly,
H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

17 September 2018

Executive summary

With consideration to current issues of importance for the international community and with respect to mandates given to the President for the 72nd session, the President selected the following theme to guide the work of the 72nd session of the General Assembly: “*Focusing on People: Striving for Peace and a Decent Life for all on a Sustainable Planet*”. In line with the above, following topics featured prominently in the 72nd session: migration, prevention of conflict, sustaining peace and sustainable development, with a focus on youth and financing for development. Issues such as trafficking in persons, fight against terrorism, corruption or nuclear disarmament were also given due attention.

As regards *migration*, altogether over 18-month-long process to prepare the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was brought to a successful conclusion on 13 July 2018, when agreement was reached on the Global Compact. The President transmitted the agreed outcome to the Intergovernmental Conference to be held in Morocco in December 2018.

President identified *prevention of conflict and sustaining peace* as one of his key priorities. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) on the review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, the President convened a High-level meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace from 24 to 26 April 2018 with the objective to assess efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations' work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Keeping the political momentum high on the implementation of *the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development*, was also in the President's focus. Out of the four signature events organized by the President during the 72nd session, three have been dedicated to Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) related matters, namely the launch of the Water Decade for Action, the youth dialogue as well as the SDG's financing event. These events focused mainly on appropriate measures and actions by different stakeholders, including governments, private sector and civil society leaders in order to achieve the agreed goals and targets within the timeframe.

The extremely busy session was also determined by 20 intergovernmental processes led by 38 facilitators and chairs.

As far as UN Security Council reform is concerned, the President's main objective was to conduct a credible, transparent and inclusive process that could result in a meaningful outcome. Member States continued discussing their positions, trying to identify commonalities and built on what was achieved in previous sessions.

For the first time, candidates for a President of the General Assembly presented their vision statements and Members states had an opportunity to engage with them in an informal dialogue. This new process contributed to strengthening the role of the General Assembly and enhancing the credibility and transparency of the election of the President. It is expected, that established format will be followed in the future. President's Morning dialogues with Permanent Representatives, as an attempt to revive the genuine discussion in the UN were highly welcomed by Member States and reflected in annual resolution on Revitalization of the General Assembly.

The 72nd session was exceptionally crucial for the UN as the three tracks of reforms - development, management and peace and security pillar - were taking place. It is expected that the reforms will transform the UN to be more relevant, fit for purpose.

The President also resumed the tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly twice, on 21 December 2017 and on 13 June 2018, upon the request of Member States and in accordance to relevant General Assembly resolutions.

Looking ahead and lessons learned

Process related to *migration* will culminate at the conference, preserving the unity of member states and keeping momentum in preparation for implementation of the Global Compact will be needed.

Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace will remain central in the agenda of the 73rd session of the General Assembly that will consider report of UN Secretary-General.

Three *health related meeting and processes* will dominate the 73rd session. Mandates from this and previous sessions already define President's role in convening and preparing several High level meetings, interactive dialogues and hearings, while new mandates can also come throughout the 73rd session.

With aim to facilitate smoother and faster modalities negotiations efforts for reaching more general agreement or understanding among the membership on the issue of *civil society* participation should continue.

While the UN reforms have been endorsed and are well on track, certain financial and administrative aspects remain to be considered in the Fifth Committee. Furthermore, the General Assembly is expected to be engaged in the implementation of the reforms. Traditionally, member states will follow closely the process of UN Security Council reform.

Within the revitalization of the GA process, growing workload of the GA and responsibilities of the President should be addressed. While draft decision on scheduling the dates of several High-level events at the beginning of 74th session was agreed by Member States and will be adopted during the 73rd session, the growing number of resolutions and meetings including 7 High-level events mandated during the 72nd session deserve due attention.

Taking into consideration the growing number of mandates and responsibilities given to the Office of the President of the General Assembly, continuous efforts must be paid to strengthening the institutional memory of the office, preserving its impartiality and ability to work in inclusive and transparent manner.

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1. Introduction

This handover report is prepared pursuant to resolution 72/313 of 17 September 2018 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (GA) and it serves to support a smooth transition from the 72nd to the 73rd session of the General Assembly (GA). It also serves to further strengthen the institutional memory of both the GA and the Office of its President (OPGA).

This report outlines major outcomes realized during the 72nd session, on-going processes and lessons learned. It includes a number of annexes containing information on support provided by Member States, the Secretariat and others to OPGA, and refers to mandates that require follow-up action by the President (PGA) during the 73rd session.

2. Major initiatives realized during the Presidency of the 72nd session

A total of 117 formal plenary meetings were convened during the 72nd session. The PGA convened 10 High-level Meetings of the General Assembly and a further 133 informal meetings, hearings and thematic debates. In addition, no fewer than 40 informal-informal meetings were held relating to the many mandated intergovernmental consultations.

In line with relevant mandates arising from past decisions taken by the GA, 20 mandated processes took place throughout the 72nd session, for which 38 co-facilitators or co-chairs were appointed by the PGA (see Annex 1).

In total, the PGA delivered more than 300 statements at the UN and beyond. During his tenure, PGA held meetings with more than 120 UN officials, 440 with representatives of Member States, 80 meetings with stakeholders including civil society and other regional and international organizations. He conducted more than 60 interviews and media engagements and attended no less than 200 events, where he also delivered his remarks. PGA undertook 20 trips to 36 destinations, in 28 countries.

The PGA also resumed the tenth Emergency Special Session of the GA twice, on 21 December 2017 and on 13 June 2018, upon the request of Member States and in accordance to relevant GA resolutions.

2.1. General debate of the 72nd session

The general debate of the 72nd session attracted an unprecedented level of participation. In the course of its six days, from 19 through 25 September, for the first time in 11 years, every delegation of the GA took the floor, with all 193 Member States and three observers presenting a broad array of positions on a wide range of issues, and with 20 rights of reply occurring.

In addition, during the High-level period of 15-29 September, four High-level meetings were also convened. The Secretary-General and the PGA co-hosted a **High-level meeting on Hurricane Irma** on Monday, 18 September. That same afternoon, the PGA participated at a **High-level meeting** convened by Secretary-General on the efforts of the United Nations **to combat sexual exploitation and abuse**. A **High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in**

Persons was held on Wednesday, 27 September, and Thursday, 28 September, in accordance with resolution 71/287.

The 196 delegations speaking during the general debate included 18 represented by women. Of the 77 Heads of State who spoke, there were five women; of the 37 Heads of Government, three women; of the seven Vice Presidents, one woman; and of the 60 Ministers, nine women. The longest speech of the general debate lasted 43 minutes; the shortest, five; and the average speech length was 18 minutes.

Several important topics dominated the 2016 general debate, including climate change, which was the most frequently-mentioned issue, with 165 speakers (84%) focusing on the topic. Sustainable development and the SDGs came next with 162 delegations (83%) mentioning the subject. Terrorism also received broad attention both as a global issue and in connection to various conflicts and regions, with 157 speakers (80%) referring to it. The threat of nuclear weapons elicited comments from 136 (69%) speakers, an increase of 97% over the previous session, when 69 (36%) mentioned the issue. Of the 144 (74%) speakers who focused on reform issues during this year's general debate, 118 (81%) commented specifically on the reforms made and proposed by the Secretary-General and 74 (51%) referred to the Security Council reform.

2.2. Advancing the theme of the 72nd session including through PGA's Events

2.2.1. High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (24-26 April 2018) and a Roadmap for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

In his acceptance speech, the PGA identified peacebuilding and sustaining peace among his key priorities. The PGA was mandated to convene, under the agenda item entitled "*Peacebuilding and sustaining peace*", a High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, in reference to General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council Resolution S/RES/2282(2016) on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. To build momentum in the lead up to the High-level Meeting, the PGA released, on 16 November 2017, his Roadmap for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace. The roadmap contained a set of priorities that guided the PGA as he engaged in and planned activities aimed at assessing the efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations' work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In all his engagements related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the PGA promoted the participation of women and youth.

As part of the roadmap, the PGA held the two landmark initiatives a view to promote peacebuilding and sustaining peace:

- (1) Dialogue with relevant stakeholders, entitled "*Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding*", 8 December 2017
- (2) Retreat on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, organized in collaboration with the International Peace Institute and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, 6 - 7 March 2018

Further to these two initiatives, the PGA engaged in several initiatives related to peacebuilding during the 72nd session.

The PGA convened a High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace from 24 to 26 April 2018. The report of the Secretary General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43), issued on 18 January 2018, informed the meeting.

The meeting consisted of an opening and a High-level segment, a High-level lunch, a plenary debate of the General Assembly, four interactive dialogues and a closing segment.

125 Member States and 5 Observers to the GA took the floor in the plenary debate of the High-level Meeting, including 5 Heads of State, 1 Head of Government, 2 Deputy Prime-Ministers, 21 Ministers and 16 Vice-Ministers, in a resounding manifestation of political support for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including for mediation and conflict prevention. On the occasion, Member States also voiced their support for the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and its central theme: the importance of United Nations system-wide coherence in support of nationally-led efforts to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, and an increased focus on prevention, guided by national ownership and people-centered approaches.

The topics covered in the interactive dialogues were:

- (i) Sustainable Financing for Peace;
- (ii) Strengthening the UN Work on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Field;
- (iii) Strategic Partnerships with the United Nations in the Field for Peace; and
- (iv) UN Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Peace.

A total number of 150 civil society representatives participated in the activities related to the High-level Meeting, including the four interactive dialogues that were held in parallel to the plenary debate.

The High-level Meeting reached gender parity among the speakers in the opening, the High-level lunch and interactive dialogues, with a total of 19 male and 19 female panelists.

As an outcome of the High-level Meeting, the GA adopted by consensus the procedural resolution 72/276 on the “*Follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace*”. In parallel, the Security Council unanimously adopted the identical resolution 2413 (2018) after holding a briefing session on peacebuilding and sustaining peace on 25 April 2018.

In this regard, the resolution adopted as an outcome of the High-level Meeting decide to further discuss the recommendations and options contained the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and to further advance, explore and consider their implementation. They also request that the Secretary-General further reports on his recommendations and options, including those on financing for UN peacebuilding activities, during the seventy-third session of the GA. For the following session, the Secretary-General is requested to submit a detailed report in connection with the next comprehensive review of the UN peacebuilding architecture.

As another outcome of the High-level Meeting, the PGA released a summary aiming to synthesize the key recurring messages that stood out and to capture the experiences shared by Member States and the relevant stakeholders that attended the meeting. The Chair’s Summary

of the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on 24-26 April 2018 was circulated to Member States on 23 May 2018 and is included in Annex 5.

2.2.2. Launch Event of the “International Decade for Action, Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028”, 22 March 2018

Pursuant to GA resolution 71/222 of 22 December 2016 entitled “*International Decade for Action, Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028*”, the PGA convened a High-level Event to formally launch the Decade on the World Water Day, 22 March 2018.

The Decade aims to further improve cooperation, partnership and capacity development in response to the 2030 Agenda, including through exchanging views about how the International Decade for Action can help advance the implementation of water related goals and targets. The Event consisted of a High-level opening segment, interactive panel discussions as well as a plenary session. The summary of the discussions was circulated to Member States on 23 April 2018 and is included in Annex 5.

2.2.3. Youth Dialogue

The Youth Dialogue was a one-day event convened by the PGA on 30 May 2018, with the purpose of listening to young people and focusing on the topics of education, employment and the prevention of radicalization leading to violent extremism. It consisted of an opening segment, two chats, an open mic session and a closing segment. The Youth Media Zone ran in parallel to Youth Dialogue.

The event added value to the increasing number of youth engagements at the UN in several ways. It demonstrated commitment at a high level to bringing the UN closer to young people. The Dialogue gave young people the opportunity to speak, with a concerted effort to have mainly young speakers at the event.

The Dialogue was also innovative as it created an atmosphere for real dialogue without prepared statements. In the open mic segment, which was described as a “youthful version of a plenary meeting”, there was nothing but an open microphone on a stage with brief, unscripted interventions from the floor. This segment was open to everyone in the room.

The summary of the Youth Dialogue is extensive, with both text summary and photo summaries, and contains a list of ten points for further action coming out of the event. This is a good basis for follow-up in the next session. The Chair’s Summary of the Youth Dialogue was circulated to Member States on 12 July 2018 and is included in Annex 5.

2.2.4. Financing for Development

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 will require a rough estimate of US\$5-7 trillion dollars of annual investment across sectors and industries. But the public sector alone won’t be able to provide sufficient financial resources. Therefore, there is strong and urgent need for the private sector to step in to support the implementation of SDGs.

Against this backdrop, the PGA convened a High-level event on financing for SDGs on June 11. The meeting was aimed to identify the obstacles blocking private investment in the SDG

sectors and explore transformative solutions. It was also meant to set a platform for various financial actors to showcase their innovative initiatives and best practices.

This meeting successfully brought together a wide range of distinguished representatives of governments, businesses, foundations, philanthropy, financial institutions, regional development banks and academia. It highlighted many outstanding barriers standing in the way of investment chain, also provided thought provoking ideas and useful recommendations. A summary report of this meeting has been shared with Member States on July 19, 2018 and is included in Annex 5. As a follow up, the PGA prepared, in close collaboration with major partners of the event, a toolbox-a compendium of key recommendations, initiatives and best practices for the reference of Member States. The toolbox was circulated to Member States on 14 September 2018 and will continue to be updated on a website <http://worldinvestmentforum.unctad.org/financing-for-the-sdgs/> managed by UNCTAD.

2.3. Accessibility of the United Nations

The PGA placed a focus on strengthening accessibility of the UN for persons with disabilities. While during the Capital Master Plan a number of improvements were made, GA Hall was refurbished during 72nd session to facilitated access on wheelchair.

As regards remaining challenges the focus was on three tracks:

a) Provision of accessibility services

Closed captioning not only help hearing impaired persons to follow the conversation of a meeting but facilitates understanding of all people and allows to watch a meeting on mute.

During the 72nd session the following key events of PGA and General Assembly meetings featured CART services and/or international sign language:

- Launch of the International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028, 22-23 March 2018
- High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, 23 – 25 April 2018
- Youth Dialogue, 30 May 2018
- High-level meeting on the Fifteenth Anniversary of adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, 23 May 2018
- Financing for Development, 11 June 2018
- High level plenary to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, 6 September 2018

b) Dialogue with Member States, Secretariat and other stakeholders on longer term improvements

On 9 April 2018 and on 5 September 2018, the PGA organized a luncheon discussion with senior secretariat representatives, PRs, and representatives of civil society. Participants pointed out the need for progress that goes beyond physical accessibility for wheelchair users and addresses accessibility in a comprehensive manner. In particular, the need for a systematized approach to follow up on the progress of accessibility was stressed. Also, it was pointed out

that a comprehensive auditing of UN headquarters on accessibility would be important to identify all accessibility gaps. Participants of the luncheon also recommended the establishment of a Steering Committee under the auspices of the GA to develop a long-term plan on accessibility.

c) Pro-active inclusion of persons with disabilities in the work of the General Assembly

The PGA has actively promoted the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the work of the General Assembly, in particular in his key events. The Office had covered additional costs that incurred for the travel of assistants as well as additional travel time needed for rest. Furthermore, the PGA appointed an accessibility focal point in his Office.

2.4. Gender equality

The PGA has joined the International Gender Champions network at the beginning of the 72nd session. The PGA made commitments to ensure gender parity within his Office, including at senior levels, and to strive towards gender parity throughout the work of the General Assembly. As a result, gender balance was achieved in the selection of co-chairs and cofacilitators of various processes. Out of 38 co-chairs and co-facilitators appointed by the PGA, 20 were men and 18 were women. The PGA also ensured gender parity on the panels of all events and High-level meetings organized by his Office. Furthermore, the PGA dedicated his first morning dialogue with PRs to the issue of gender mainstreaming and have learnt first-hand about the challenges women delegates face in their daily work at the UN.

Gender parity in the General Assembly

Achieving gender parity in the work of the General Assembly is only partially under the control of the PGA. Only 20% of Permanent Representatives (PRs) in New York are women. And Member States continue to nominate male candidates for leadership positions. During the 72nd session, all 6 chairs of the Main Committees were men. And only 5 out of the 21 Vice-Presidents were women. The PGA encouraged Member States to nominate female candidates for leadership positions in the General Assembly in line with the provisions of the resolution on the revitalization of the work of the Assembly. During the upcoming session, the PGA may also consider becoming a Gender Champion and suggest that Member States take bolder action to achieve gender parity in the work of the Assembly (e.g. by applying voluntary quotas to their national delegations or by presenting and supporting more women candidates for leadership positions).

2.5. Morning Dialogues

The PGA initiated a new series of informal discussions with and among PRs called the *Morning Dialogues*. The series was conceived as a space to facilitate genuine dialogue about issues relevant to the work of the GA, but without duplicating any formal processes. The *Morning Dialogues* brought together small groups of PRs for unscripted discussions in their individual capacities under Chatham House rules. Summaries of the sessions were however shared with the full membership. Over the course of the session, 14 *Morning Dialogues* were held, and PRs of all 193 Member States were invited to participate.

They addressed a range of topics from practical and process, to the political and philosophical. And they yielded a number of ideas and proposals on which the PGA acted or have sought to filter into formal processes. Among these were more effort at gender mainstreaming, developing a database of existing like-minded groups, or improving Secretariat services for Small States. At the same time, it was concluded that more needed to be done to engage with external stakeholders, reinforce the GA's leadership role, update our working methods and communicate with our citizens. Most of all the Morning Dialogues reaffirmed the view that while multilateralism faces threats, it remains the essential and the United Nations is its best safeguard.

The very successful initiative received excellent reviews by this membership. Participants welcomed the unique opportunity provided by this new platform and many called for its retention as a means of improving interaction with the PGA, as well as for delegations to address in a frank and honest way issues which may be difficult to deal with in formal settings. In this regard, this has been reflected in the annual resolution on the Revitalization of the Work of the GA.

2.6. President's Group of External Advisors

The Team of External Advisors was a pro bono group of 16 globally respected personalities dedicated to multilateralism, who have been remarkable in their service both to their countries and in the international arena. PGA formed the group with the aim of discussing and sharing views on strategic questions, including the scope and depth of United Nations engagement as well as the role of the GA and to seek advice on how best to advance his priorities for the 72nd session of the GA. The list of advisors is in Annex 7.

Members of the Team of External Advisors offered broad experience and expertise, which was beneficial to the Presidency. Their combined knowledge and advice gave an invaluable contribution to the work of the PGA. Members of the Team of External Advisors provided analytical skills and expertise, combined with fresh and different perspectives.

In line with the theme of the session, the Team of External Advisors focused on peace, conflict prevention and mediation. In addition, it discussed global political issues, multilateralism, sustaining peace, implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement on Climate Change, human rights and human dignity and the future and reform of the United Nations.

Four meetings of the Team of the External Advisors were held under Chatham house rules, with the PGA opening the floor and discussants chosen to lead on each topic. During the first meeting, which took place on 6 October 2017 in New York, members discussed their impressions of the 72nd General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly, highlighting the most important messages and identify the main challenges ahead. Furthermore, modalities of cooperation between the PGA and the Team of External Advisors were discussed, as well as frequency of meetings and possible participation at events that the PGA hosted.

The second meeting took place in Rome on 20 January 2018. It was an opportunity for the Team to discuss and share views on peace and prevention; the role of the GA, both present and future; as well as exchange views on ways how to handle the reform processes.

The Team met for the third time on 20 April in Rome, where they spoke about multilateralism under threat, the state of global affairs, the High-level event on Sustaining Peace and its outcome, as well as pressing global issues – such as migration and the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and mobilization of funds for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The fourth meeting took place on Sunday, 9 September 2018 where members of the team discussed about the achievement of the 72nd session of the General Assembly and the challenges ahead. The team of External Advisors also provided an independent report on the state of multilateral affairs and the United Nations, which was presented and distributed during the event co-organized by the OPGA and the International Peace Institute. The event entitled Broader prospective of the United Nations of today and tomorrow, gather Member States, External advisors of the President of the General Assembly and stakeholders in a discussion devoted to the *Future of a Rules based system/Multilateralism under threat* and *Stronger General Assembly for the stronger United Nations*.

2.7. Other meetings convened during the session

2.7.1. High-level meetings of the GA convened during the 72nd session

2.7.1.1. High-level meeting on Hurricane Irma

Co-hosted by the Secretary-General and the PGA, the High-level meeting aimed to gain High-level political attention to the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma on Caribbean Island states, secure commitment to support countries and people affected, and highlighting the need for building more resilient communities to natural disasters, including those impacted by climate change. The event served to show solidarity towards affected countries and territories and to highlight the coordinated response between the United Nations, regional organizations, humanitarian actors and affected governments.

Equally the event offers an opportunity to highlight the role of climate change in extreme weather events, and the importance of strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus to reduce risk and vulnerability and build resilience to future natural disasters, including hurricanes. The event convened UN Member States, regional organizations, UN Agencies, and other international actors. (*Note: this meeting was not convened by request of a specific resolution, rather than from the initiative of PGA, UN SG reflecting to wish of affected countries*)

2.7.1.2. High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, 27-28 September 2017

In accordance with GA resolution 71/287 on the “*Modalities, format and organization of the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons*”, a High-level Meeting of the GA was convened on 27 – 28 September 2017 to appraise progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (resolution 64/293), and to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments. At the opening plenary meeting, a political declaration on the Implementation of

the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted by consensus, reaffirming Member States' commitment to strengthen efforts to tackle the issue of trafficking.

The High-level meeting consisted of an opening plenary meeting on 27 September, plenary meetings on 27 and 28 September, and a closing plenary meeting. Additionally, there were two consecutive interactive panel discussions on 27 September in the afternoon.

The High-level meeting was attended by High-level delegations from Member States and observers, representatives of United Nations organizations and entities, in particular the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, and representatives of international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the private sector and the media.

2.7.1.3. High-level Plenary Meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, 26 September 2017

Pursuant to resolution 71/71, the PGA convened a one-day High-level meeting on 26 September 2017, to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The PGA, the Secretary-General, 50 representatives including a Vice President and 3 Ministers and 2 civil society representatives took floor. Member states, observers, civil society representatives participated in the meeting.

2.7.1.4. High-level Debate to mark the Fifteenth Anniversary of Adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

The PGA convened a High-level Debate of the United Nations GA to mark the 15th Anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on Wednesday, 23 May 2018. Pursuant to GA resolution 72/196, the debate was organized in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders to highlight emerging trends and promote the effective implementation of the UNCAC.

The one-day High-level Debate consisted of an opening segment, a High-level segment with interventions from Member States and Observers, as well as two interactive multi-stakeholder panel discussions. The first interactive multi-stakeholder panel discussion focused on "*Fifteen years of UNCAC implementation: Trends, achievements and challenges*", and the second on "*Achieving peaceful and inclusive societies through preventing and combating corruption*". Interventions from the floor followed both interactive panels with a closing segment concluding the event by remarks of the PGA.

As per resolution 72/196, PGA's summary of the debate was transmitted to the Conference of the State Parties to the Convention and to all Member States.

2.7.1.5. High-level Plenary Meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests, 6 September 2018

The International Day against Nuclear Tests (29 August) was established by resolution 64/35 and the Presidents of the General Assembly have convened informal plenary meetings to commemorate and promote this day.

At 72nd Session, the General Assembly, through resolution 72/51, requested the PGA to organize annually a High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote this day.

In this respect, the PGA convened the High-level Plenary Meeting to Commemorate and Promote the International Day against Nuclear tests on 6 September 2018. The Secretary General delivered a statement after the PGA. Mr. Lassina Zerbo, CTBTO Executive Secretary and Mr. Karipbek Kuyukov, The ATOM Project Honorary Ambassador delivered keynote statements. With regard to the interest of many Member States to address the meeting, regardless of the traditional commemorative format, additional 28 speakers took the floor in addition to representatives of the regional groups.

2.7.1.6. High-level interactive dialogue on sand and dust storms

Pursuant to GA resolution 72/225 of 20 December 2017, the PGA convened, on 16 July 2018, a High-level interactive dialogue on Sand and Dust Storms to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of the affected countries, including ways to improve policy coordination at the global level to address those challenges in the context of the SDGs. The Event consisted of an opening segment as well as a multi-stakeholder interactive Panel discussion, with the participation of member states, UN system, including DESA, UNEP, WMO and UNCCD as well as other relevant stakeholders.

2.7.1.7. High-level Forum on Culture of Peace

Recognizing the need to further promote the Culture of Peace, particularly in the current global context, and responding to paragraph 15 of resolution 72/137 entitled “*Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace*”, the PGA convened a one-day High-level Forum on a Culture of Peace on Wednesday, 5 September 2018, which focused on the theme “*The Culture of Peace: A Credible Pathway to Sustaining Peace*”. The High-level Forum aimed at highlighting emerging trends that impact on the realization of a culture of peace and to enable Member States and other stakeholders to exchange ideas on further promoting a Culture of Peace. The Summary of High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace was transmitted to Member States on 12 September 2018.

Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption by the GA, on 13 September 1999, of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.

2.7.1.8. Other meetings of the General Assembly:

Other meetings convened on the PGA’s own initiative or at the request of Member States or the UN system (*not listed in detail other chapters of this report*):

- Informal meeting of the GA to hear a briefing by the Secretary-General on his reform proposal contained in document A/72/525 “*Restructuring of the United Nations peace and*

security pillar” on 9 November 2017

- PGA’s Briefing to MS on priorities for resumed session on 12 January 2018
- Briefings by the co-chairs of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals for Member States, as per resolution 72/208 entitled *“Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development”*, on January 29 2018
- Informal meeting of the GA to hear a briefing of the Group of 20 as per resolution 71/327 entitled *“The United Nations in global economic governance”* on 5 February 2018
- Informal meeting of the GA to hear a briefing from the Secretary-General on his report on *“Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace”* contained in document A/721707- S/2018/43 on 5 March 2018
- Commemorative meeting of the Assembly for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as per resolution 72/157 entitled *“A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”* on 21 March 2018
- Informal meeting of the GA to allow the Head of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (the IIIM) to present the first report of the IIIM on the implementation of its mandate, issued as A/72/764 on 18 April 2018.
- Interactive dialogue to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day as per resolution 72/223 entitled *“Harmony with Nature”* on 23 April 2018
- Informal meeting to commemorate the International Day of Living Together in Peace as per resolution 72/130 entitled *“International Day of Living Together in Peace”*.
- Informal meeting of the GA to hear a briefing from the Secretary-General on his proposal contained in document A/72/492/Add.2 *“Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: implementing a new management architecture for improved effectiveness and strengthened accountability”* on 22 May 2018
- Informal meeting of the GA in observance of the Nelson Mandela International Day as per resolution 70/175 entitled *“United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules)”* on 18 July 2018

3. Ongoing processes and meetings involving the President of the 72nd session

3.1. Meetings to be convened at the beginning of the 73rd session for which preparation has already started in 72nd session

3.1.1. Nelson Mandela Peace Summit

By its resolution 72/243 GA decided to convene a High-level plenary meeting of the GA, to be called the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, a day before the start of the General Debate of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly. In this regard, the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit will take place on 24 September 2018 in the General Assembly Hall, UNHQ, New York. The Summit will focus on Global Peace in honour of the centenary anniversary of the birth of Nelson Mandela.

On 17 July, as part of the preparatory process, PGA convened an informal meeting with non-governmental organizations with Economic and Social Council consultative status with relevant expertise to hear views on the draft political declaration for adoption at the opening of the plenary meeting of the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, as part of the preparatory process.

Individual Invitations to attend the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit were transmitted to all Heads of States and Government in June 2018. Subsequently, the concept note and logistical arrangement note were circulated to Member States to assist in the preparation of the Summit. The Speakers list opened on 24 August 2018.

Logistical arrangements on the day of the Summit will include, providing support to the invited guest for the opening Plenary as well as special Guests of the PGA.

Member States decided that the Peace Summit will take place within one day. This may result in some member states not having an opportunity to deliver their statements. PGA informed Member states about the preliminary List of Speakers on the 14 September 2018 indicating that if the list of speakers cannot be exhausted during that day, the debate will continue at a later date, following the conclusion of the general debate on 1 October 2018.

3.1.2. High-level Plenary Meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, 26 September 2018

Pursuant to resolution 72/251, the PGA73 is also mandated to organize this meeting on 26 September 2018. Preparations has already started at 72nd Session. PGA has informed Member States about this event on 18 July 2018 with a save the date letter and about its program and logistics with letters on 8 August 2018, 21 August 2018 and 14 September 2018.

3.1.3. High-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis

In accordance with resolution 72/268, the GA will hold a one-day high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis on 26 September 2018. The PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of Japan and Antigua and Barbuda to co-facilitate negotiations on the modalities and outcomes of the high-level meeting. As part of the preparatory process, the PGA convened an interactive hearing on 4 June 2018 with civil society, the private sector, academia and other stakeholders.

In line with the modalities, the PGA circulated on 9 May 2018 the list of accredited organizations that have been approved to attend the high-level meeting.

The PGA is mandated to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting in accordance with the modalities resolution. The high-level meeting will feature an opening segment, a plenary segment, two multi-stakeholder panels and a closing segment. The high-level meeting shall also approve a concise action-oriented political declaration, which was agreed by consensus on 14 September 2018.

3.1.4. Third High-level meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

In its resolution 68/300 of 10 July 2014, the GA decided to hold a comprehensive review in 2018 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. The PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of Italy and Uruguay to co-facilitate consultations in preparation for the review. Consequently, the GA decided, in resolution 72/274, to hold a third high-level meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases on 27 September 2018 to undertake the review. As part of the preparatory process, the PGA convened an interactive hearing on 5 July 2018 with civil society, private sector, academia and other stakeholders. On 1 June 2018, the PGA circulated the final list of accredited organizations that have been approved to attend the high-level meeting.

The PGA was mandated to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting in accordance with the modalities resolution. The high-level meeting will feature an opening segment, a plenary segment, two multi-stakeholder panels and a closing segment. The high-level meeting shall also approve a concise, action-oriented political declaration.

3.1.5. High-level meeting on Middle Income Countries

By its resolution 72/230 of 20 December 2017, the GA decided to invite the PGA to convene, within existing resources, a high-level meeting of the GA at the beginning of its 73rd session, and no later than December 2018, to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of Kyrgyzstan and Norway, to co-facilitate an open and transparent consultative process with Member States to decide on modalities for the meeting.

After a series of informal consultations, Member States agreed to hold a one-day High-level meeting on 2 October 2018 and on the modalities of the meeting, which were reflected in the letter distributed by PGA72 to Member States on July 20 2018.

3.2. Other meetings and processes

3.2.1. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

In the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1) adopted in September 2016, the UN Member States committed to a process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The preparatory process begun during the 71st session of the GA, and has been one of the central negotiation processes during the 72nd session.

In the 72nd session, the Permanent Representatives of Mexico and Switzerland continued their work as the co-facilitators of the consultations and negotiations. In accordance with A/RES/71/280, they conducted consultations on the modalities of the intergovernmental conference to adopt the Global Compact from April to November 2017. The sixth and final thematic session was held in 12 – 13 October in Geneva, and preparations were made in collaboration between the co-facilitators, OSRSG and OPGA.

As mandated by A/RES/71/280, the Global Compact for Migration Preparatory meeting was held 4-6 December in Mexico. Known, as the “stocktaking meeting”, this brought together

member states and other stakeholders to outline a vision of Global Compact for Migration reviewing the information and positions gathered through the consultation phase. It allowed participations to propose actionable commitments and consider implementation and follow-up and review. Together with the report of the UN Secretary-General this chair's summary informed the zero draft of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The modalities resolution for the international conference to adopted a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration was agreed on 14 November 2017. Following the consideration of the budgetary implications, the resolution A/RES/72/244 was adopted by the GA on 24 December 2017.

The Secretary-General's report (A/72/643), "*Making migration work for all*" was released in January 2018, and on 11 January the PGA held a briefing of the Secretary-General with the entire membership on the report. The co-facilitators' zero draft for the Global Compact was presented to the Member States on 5 February.

Six rounds of intergovernmental negotiations were held from February to July and agreement on the Global Compact was reached on 13 July 2018. On 20 July 2018, the PGA transmitted the Global Compact as agreed in the negotiations to the Secretary-General of the Intergovernmental Conference.

The GA also adopted a resolution 72/308 to revise the modalities of the Conference with respect to the composition of the bureau. It will now comprise 1 President and 14 Vice-Presidents. Customarily, the host country is elected to preside over a conference they host. It is thus expected that Morocco will preside and the bureau will also comprise 2 Vice-Presidents from the African group and 3 each from the other regional groups. Though the formal election of the bureau will take place at the opening of the Conference, a process will be required to identify interested nominees for the Vice-Presidencies. DGACM will call for an expression of interest two to three months prior to the International Conference.

To ensure participation of non-governmental stakeholders, the PGA organized and presided over four informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings during the 72nd session, in accordance with resolution 71/280. The first hearing under the 72nd session took place in conjunction with the sixth thematic session in October 2017, to allow for the engagement of the Geneva based stakeholder community. The second hearing was held on International Migrants Day on 18 December. The third hearing was held in February 2018, in conjunction with the annual parliamentary hearing at the UN, to enable strong participation of the parliamentarians. The fourth hearing was held on 21 May 2018, to ensure stakeholder inputs towards the end of the process. The PGA also circulated a list of stakeholders which had requested special accreditation to participate in the Intergovernmental Conference in April 2018, and the final list was distributed in May 2018.

During the 73rd session, maintaining the political momentum in the lead up to the Intergovernmental Conference will be important, including ensuring the highest possible level of participation at the Conference.

3.2.2. Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on the question of the equitable representation on and the increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council

The Member States have actively engaged in the Security Council reform throughout the 72nd Session.

The PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of Georgia and the United Arab Emirates as the IGN co-chairs.

The plenary meeting to consider the relevant agenda item was convened on 7-8 November 2017.

The IGN meetings were held on 1-2 February, 27-28 February, 27-28 March, 1-2 May and 6-7 June 2018. Generally, the meetings on the first days of the IGN sessions were focused on a specific topic, while the second day was in interactive format, guided by the questions announced by the co-chairs at the end of the meetings of the previous day. The interactive format provided opportunity for the Member States to seek further clarification on different proposals put forward during the IGN.

In line with the call of the PGA to conduct a credible process, the co-chairs built on what was achieved in last sessions. In this respect, they revised the Elements of Commonality and Issues for Further Consideration from the 71st session. As a result, the “*Revised Elements of Commonality and Issues for Further Consideration*” was drafted and was referred to in the oral decision adopted by the GA on 29 June 2018. The oral decision referred to this revised paper as a document which builds on the work of the IGN and mandated the immediate continuation of the IGN at 73rd Session.

3.2.3. Revitalization of the General Assembly

Meeting of the GA plenary to discuss the Revitalization of the work of the GA was held on 13 November 2017.

In accordance with resolution 71/323, an Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the work of the GA, open to all Member States, was established during the 72nd session. The PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of Croatia and Colombia to co-chair the Ad Hoc Working Group which held a total of 7 meetings as well as several rounds of consultations between February and September 2018. PGA reported on the implementation of the mandates accorded to him under resolution 71/323 and previous resolutions in his remarks to the plenary on 13 November 2017 and during the fourth thematic meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on 27 April 2017.

The focus during the past three previous sessions had been on the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General and on strengthening of accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the OGPA, as well as improving the Assembly’s working methods. During the 72nd session, the Ad Hoc Working Group continued its deliberations on all these three areas. The appointments of the senior leadership in the UN System were debated also beyond the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General.

One of the key outcomes of the Ad Hoc Working Group's session was the Pattern for the rotation of chairs of the Main Committees from the 74th to the 83rd GA.

The resolution on Revitalization 72/313 was adopted by the General Assembly on 17 September 2018. There are a number of recurring and new provisions in the resolution which concern the President, including the following:

- Request to continue making full use of the General Committee throughout the session, including by informal meeting before the start of the session;
- Request to identify proposals, through consultations with all Member States and the President of the Economic and Social Council, as well as through the convening of the General Committee, aimed at addressing gaps and duplication in the agenda of the Assembly as they relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Request to continue attaching the list of speakers at high-level thematic debates organized by the President to the summary of those events;
- Encouragement for future Presidents to actively contribute to the implementation of provisions guiding the selection and appointment of the ninth Secretary-General, including improvements to the process;
- Encouragement for future Presidents to continue taking measures to strengthen transparency and accountability, including making voluntarily available the summary of personal financial disclosure;
- Encouragement to continue briefing Member States on activities of the President;
- Need to continue providing a hand-over report at the end of the Presidency, as well as to improve the archiving and record-keeping by the Office;
- Encouragement to continue the practice of regular meetings between the President and the Permanent Representatives, initiated by the President of the 72nd session in the form of Morning Dialogues;
- Encouragement to continue maintaining a balanced gender and geographical representation in the Office of the President;
- Acknowledgement of the importance of voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund supporting the Office of the President, and the practice of seconding staff to the Office;
- Reiteration of the call to channel all non-in-kind contributions to the Trust Fund;
- Encouragement for the President to improve the modalities of the informal interactive dialogues with candidates for Secretary-General, and the Ad Hoc Working Group to decide on the guidelines for the dialogues with candidates for PGA.

Election of the President of the General Assembly

In paragraph 73 of its resolution 71/323, the GA decided to conduct informal interactive dialogues with candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly, thus contributing to the transparency and inclusivity of the process. The Assembly also called upon candidates to present to the Assembly their vision statements. Furthermore, the introduction of the informal interactive dialogues and the vision statements was to be done in full respect of the established principle of geographical rotation and the GA resolution 33/138 of 19 December 1978. Consequently, the President of the 73rd session of the GA was to be elected from the Group of Latin American and the Caribbean States.

The 72nd session was the first GA to implement the new measures to contribute to the transparency and inclusivity of the process. The vision statements of the two candidates, Ms. Mary Elizabeth Flores Flake of Honduras and Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés of Ecuador were distributed to Member States by the PGA on 22 February 2018. The informal interactive dialogues with the candidates were held on 4 May 2018, with two hours allocated for the Member States to interact with each of the candidates separately. The candidates were also given the opportunity to draw and respond to three questions from non-governmental stakeholders submitted in writing through the OPGA.

In line with the mandate to respect fully the established principle of geographical rotation and resolution 33/138 of 19 December 1978, the PGA and his Office maintained close coordination with the Latin American and the Caribbean Group throughout the process. Periodic meetings with the Chair of the Group were organized between January and April 2018, to inform the membership of the Group on the details of the planning and scheduling of the new process. The PGA also met with both candidates, informing them on the planned timeline and modalities for the informal interactive dialogues. To keep the wider membership informed, letters of the PGA were sent out on 12 January to inform Member States of the new mandated process and its indicative timeline, on 22 February to inform Member States on the date of the election and on 16 April to inform Member States on the format of the informal interactive dialogues with the candidates.

As a recommendation to the successor, the method of presenting candidatures and transmitting the vision statements could be further elaborated to provide further clarity and certainty to all Member States regarding the different stages of the new process to elect the Presidents of the General Assembly.

3.2.4. United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The biennial review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) was led by the co-facilitators appointed by PGA, the Permanent Representatives of Finland and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

On 14 May PGA convened an informal meeting of the plenary to hear a briefing on the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The recurrent resolution (72/284 of 26 June 2018) was adopted at the end of the sixth review of GCTS by consensus. The resolution was updated after several rounds of consultations. Restructuring of the draft resolution at the initiative of the co-facilitators made it more coherent and it now better reflects the structure of the initial Global Strategy and its four pillars. Member States also succeeded to introduce significant updates in the resolution, including 29 new paragraphs, as well as amendments to 15, and deleted 5 paragraphs. The document also reflects on the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in 2017.

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 72/284 of 26 June 2018, the Secretary-General is requested to submit to the General Assembly at its 73rd session, no later than May 2019, a report containing concrete recommendations and options on ways to assess the impact of and progress in the implementation of the Strategy by the United Nations entities. This is to inform

discussion among Member States in advance of the seventh biennial review of the Strategy, at the seventy-fourth session of the GA.

3.2.5. Human Rights Prize

The UN Prize in the field of Human Rights was established through GA resolution 21/2217 to recognize individuals and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution in human rights. The prize was first awarded on 10 December 1968. As per the establishing resolution the prize should not be awarded more often than every five years and has since been awarded in 1973, 1978, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008 and 2013. The selection Committee includes five members: the PGA, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the Human Rights Council, the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council.

At its first meeting, the PGA was elected chair of the special committee on the selection of the 2018 human rights prize. The Office of the High-Commissioner for Human Rights in New York serves as secretariat of the special committee. According to the timeline adopted by the special committee, the selection of the winners was concluded by September 2018, at its meeting on 31 August 2018. The selection of winners would be announced to the public during the 73rd session of the GA. In accordance with A/RES/21/2217, the official award ceremony should take place on 10 December 2018. Similar to 2013, the holding of the award ceremony may be formalized through a procedural decision.

3.2.6. Informal interactive hearing with indigenous peoples

Pursuant to paragraph 8 of GA resolution 71/321 entitled “*Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples’ representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them*” of 8 September 2017, the PGA convened, on 17 April 2018, an Informal interactive hearing, on the margins of the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, with indigenous peoples, ensuring, to the extent possible, balanced regional representation. The aim was to reflect on the possible further measures necessary to enhance the participation of representatives and institutions of indigenous peoples in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them, as part of the preparatory process for the consideration of the General Assembly at its 75th session. The informal interactive hearing consisted of an opening segment, followed by an interactive discussion with Member States and indigenous peoples. Additional interactive hearings with indigenous peoples will also be held during the 73rd and 74th sessions.

3.2.7. Global pact for the Environment

In accordance with GA resolution 72/277 of 10 May 2018 entitled “*Towards a Global Pact for the Environment*”, Member States decided to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group to consider options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environmental related instruments. The PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of Portugal and Lebanon as co-chairs of the ad hoc open-ended working group.

The co-chairs convened the organizational session, for a duration of three working days - from 5-7 September 2018 in New York, which offered an opportunity to examine matters related to

the organization of the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group, including the duration and number of substantive sessions. During the 73rd session, they will convene the rest of substantive sessions in Nairobi, as mandated by the aforementioned resolution. The Group is expected to make recommendations to the Assembly during the first half of 2019, which may include the convening of an intergovernmental conference to adopt an international instrument.

3.2.8. High-level meeting on universal health coverage

In accordance with resolution 72/139, the GA decided to hold a high-level meeting on universal health coverage in 2019 and requested the PGA to propose options and modalities for the meeting before the end of the 72nd session. The PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of Hungary and Thailand to co-facilitate consultations on the modalities of the high-level meeting. After a series of informal consultations, Member States agreed on the modalities of the high-level meeting, which shall be held in September 2019 on the third day of the general debate. In light of the anticipated budgetary implications, the GA decided to transmit the draft modalities resolution to the 73rd session for action (A/72/L.65). The draft modalities resolution shall therefore be adopted following the consideration of its budgetary implications at the beginning of the 73rd session. Following the adoption of the modalities resolution, the PGA shall appoint co-facilitators to lead the negotiations on the outcome document. In line with the draft modalities, the PGA shall also organize a multi-stakeholder hearing before the end of July 2019 and has to finalize all organizational arrangement for the high-level meeting.

3.2.9. The process of enhancing synergies and coherence and reduce overlap where it is found to exist in the Agendas of the GA, the ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies in light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In accordance to GA resolution 71/323 of 8 September 2016 entitled “*Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly*”, in particular in its paragraphs 28, 29 and 30, the PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Belgium, co-facilitators to lead the intergovernmental consultations aimed at enhancing synergies and coherence and reducing overlap where it is found to exist in the agendas of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies, as well as the High-level political forum and other related forums in light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

After a series of consultations, the co-facilitators provided recommendations on how to move forward which were taken into consideration in the negotiations on the resolution on the revitalization of the work of the GA.

3.2.10. Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

In accordance with GA resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 entitled “*Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council*”, in particular paragraph 4, the PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of the State of Qatar and Iceland, co-facilitators of the ECOSOC review. This process aims to strengthen ECOSOC’s role in the support of the implementation of the 2030

Agenda for sustainable development and to further enhance the Council's ability to advance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

After a series of informal consultations, the GA adopted resolution 72/305, entitled "*Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council*" by consensus on 23 July 2018 as an outcome for this process.

There is no mandate to be taken by the 73rd session in this regard, as resolution is expected to be reviewed during the 74th session.

3.2.11. Repositioning of the United Nations Development System

In accordance with GA resolutions 71/243 of 21 December 2016 entitled "*Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system*", in particular operative paragraphs 19, 20, 45 and 58, and 72/236 of 20 December 2017 entitled "*Operational activities for development of the United Nations system*", in particular operative paragraph 3, the PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of Algeria and Denmark as co-facilitators of the repositioning of the UN development system, in the context of the General Assembly resolution 71/243.

This process aims to consider the Secretary-General's proposals contained in his December Report entitled "*Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet*", particularly reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system. This process is considered as one of the three UN reforms tracks of the Secretary-General.

After a series of informal consultations, the GA adopted resolution 72/279, entitled "*Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system*" by consensus on 31 May 2018 as an outcome for this process. An oral statement by the Secretariat was also read prior to the adoption of the draft resolution relating to the UN Secretariat's share of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) cost sharing arrangement for 2019 - estimated in the range of 13-16 million USD and - will be submitted to the GA for approval at its 73rd session as revised estimates for the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.

In accordance with OP13 of resolution 72/279, the Secretary-General is requested to present an implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including on the operationalization of its funding arrangements, to the GA before the end of the 72nd session. On 11 September 2018, the Secretary-General presented the final unedited draft of the Implementation Plan for the inception of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system. The resolution (OP29) also welcomes the proposal of the Secretary-General to launch a funding dialogue in 2018. The Deputy Secretary-General launched the funding dialogue on 31 July 2018 and the dialogue will take place from October to the end of December 2018.

The Secretary-General will report to the GA on progress made in the implementation of the mandates at the 74th session.

3.2.12.High-level meeting on South-South cooperation

In accordance with paragraph 8 (b) of the GA resolution 71/318 of 28 August 2017 entitled “*Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation*”, the PGA has drawn up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations, to participate in the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 20-22 March 2019. The PGA submitted the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis on 28 August 2018 and transmitted the approved list for accreditation to Member States on 12 September 2018.

With regard to the 73rd session, paragraph 6 of A/RES/71/318 mandates the PGA to initiate, by the end of November 2018, informal intergovernmental negotiations with all Member States with the goal to produce a draft outcome document by February 2019, prior to the Conference.

3.2.13.Co-Chairs of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS

GA resolution 70/202 entitled “*Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*” requested the PGA to appoint two co-chairs to lead the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS whose function would be to support the follow-up of existing partnerships and promote and advocate the launching of new small island developing States partnerships.

On 6 February 2018, the PGA following consultations with the Maldives in its capacity as Chair of Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) appointed the Permanent Representatives of Belize and Ireland as co-chairs of the SIDS Steering Committee on partnerships for SIDS. With regard to the one year mandate, PGA73 will need to appoint co-chairs in February 2019, in consultations with AOSIS. The current co-chairs’ appointment can be extended and they can serve for a maximum of 2 years.

3.2.14.Scheduling the dates of High-level Meetings in September 2019

In line with resolution 71/323 entitled “*Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly*”, and having consulted with the General Committee at the meeting on 11 May 2018, the PGA appointed the Permanent Representative of Ghana as Facilitator to lead the informal consultations with Member States on the General Assembly draft decision on scheduling the dates for High-level meetings in the beginning of the 74th session. This includes:

1. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) (resolutions 67/290, 70/1 and 70/299);
2. The High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (resolution 69/313);
3. The High-level Meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway (resolution 71/225);
4. The High-level meeting on the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (res. 72/251).

Furthermore, in accordance with resolution 72/139, the GA decided to hold a High-level meeting in 2019 on universal health coverage and requested the PGA, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization and in consultation with Member States, “to propose options and modalities for the conduct of such a meeting, with a view to ensuring the most effective and efficient outcomes [...] before the end of the 72nd session.”

After a series of informal consultations conducted by the Facilitator, the PGA circulated the final draft decision as agreed by Member States on scheduling the High-level meetings of the GA in September 2019, to be brought to the GA for action once its programme budget implications have been reviewed in accordance with rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure.

At the 108th plenary meeting, the GA decided to transmit the draft decision on High-level meetings of the GA in September 2019, to the GA at its 73rd session for action. Accordingly, once the session starts, the President of the 73rd session is expected to submit the draft decision for processing.

While paragraph (e) of the transmitted text says “That each high-level meeting will not have any parallel meetings”, the OP4 (a) of the draft resolution transmitted per decision 72/560 on universal health coverage says “(a) Two multi-stakeholder panels will be held in parallel to the plenary segment, one from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the other from 3 to 5 p.m.” The discrepancy will need to be reconciled.

3.2.15. The 19th meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (the Informal Consultative Process)

Pursuant to GA resolution 72/73 of 5 December 2017 entitled “*Oceans and the law of the sea*” the nineteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (the Informal Consultative Process) took place in New York from 18 to 22 June 2018.

In accordance with paragraph 3(e) of the GA resolution 54/33, on 5 February 2018, the PGA, following consultations, extended the appointment of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus and appointed the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, as co-chairs of the nineteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

In accordance with A/RES/72/73, the Informal Consultative Process will continue next year, with a further review of its effectiveness and utility by the GA at its 73rd session.

3.2.16. The nomination of the President-designate or co-President-designates for the intergovernmental Conference under the auspices of the United Nation on 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

Pursuant to its resolution 72/249 of 24 December 2017, the GA decided to convene an intergovernmental conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to consider the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee established by resolution 69/292 to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea regarding the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible.

In accordance with paragraph 5 of the aforementioned resolution, the PGA undertook a series of consultations, in an open and transparent manner, for the nomination of a President-designate or co-President-designates of the Conference.

Following extensive consultations with Member States, on 14 February, the PGA nominated Mrs. Rena Lee of Singapore as the President-designate of the Intergovernmental Conference convened under the auspices of the United Nations who was elected by acclamation at the organizational meeting of the Conference on 16 April 2018.

The Conference will meet for four sessions of a duration of 10 working days each, with the first session taking place from 4 to 17 September 2018, the second and third sessions will take place in 2019, and the fourth session in the first half of 2020.

3.2.17. Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

On 28 February 2018, the PGA following consultations and pursuant to paragraph 284 of the General Assembly resolution 70/235 of 23 December 2015 on “*Oceans and law of the sea*” appointed the Deputy Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations as co-chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects. The other co-chair, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations, had been appointed by the PGA on 31 March 2016.

4. Practical lessons learned

In terms of practical lessons learned, the following may assist the incoming PGA at the time of the assumption of office.

4.1. Organization and management of the Office

Staffing

The composition and size of the OPGA has varied depending on the priorities of the PGA and the mandates for the session. During the 72nd session, the Office comprised of 31 members, of whom 16 were seconded by Member States or UN System entities. (Annex 2)

In line with the resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the GA, the Office should be geographically representative and gender balanced. Geographical balance helps in ensuring that the team has the necessary outreach to all regions and groups prominent in the work of the General Assembly. During the 72nd session, the Office comprised of members from all regional groups.

Team members were chosen on the basis of their expertise on specific areas, covering all the three pillars of the United Nations as well as expertise in communication. As the Office is only composed for the duration of 12 months, familiarity with the United Nations and the General Assembly was of paramount importance.

The institutional memory of the OPGA remains limited, given that it has no permanent professional position continuing from one session to another. During the main session, the Fifth Committee considered the proposal included in the Proposed Programme Budget for 2018-2019 to allocate one P-5 in the Office of the President to strengthen its institutional memory and support the transition between presidencies. However, the Fifth Committee concurred with the recommendation of the ACABQ against the establishment of this one permanent post in the Office, which continues to be needed.

Retaining team members from previous sessions can also help in safeguarding and transmitting the institutional memory of the Office. However, this rests upon the willingness of Member States and UN System entities to second staff for periods longer than one year. During the 72nd session, 9 Office members had served under the previous Presidents.

Recommendations:

- Given the relatively short duration of the Presidency, prioritizing team members with previous experience and familiarity with the GA proceedings and the issues on its agenda will continue to be important in the future.
- Striving for geographical and gender balance in the Office in line with the resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the GA will continue to be important during future sessions.
- Taking into account the central events and processes of the session, as well as the key priorities of the PGA in the composition of the Office will continue to be useful in ensuring that the team has the necessary expertise to carry out the mandates and other tasks of the Presidency.

- Member states that consider putting forward their candidacy for the position of the PGA might consider seconding staff to Offices of their predecessors to ensure continuity and timely preparation for their presidencies should their candidatures be successful.

4.2. Transparency

The President of the 72nd session upheld the high standards of transparency and accountability of his two predecessors.

President Lajčák was the second President in the history of the UN to take the Oath of Office upon assumption of his duties in September 2017. The President and his Office followed carefully the Code of Ethics, annexed to the resolution 70/305 of 13 September 2016.

All funding to support the Office of the President was channeled through the UN Trust Fund, ensuring that all funds were used in accordance with the financial rules and regulations.

President Lajčák was the first PGA to make publicly available the summary of his personal financial disclosure upon assumption and completion of his duties.

The website of the PGA was used efficiently to make publicly available information regarding the priorities, activities and travel of the President, as well as on the funding and the staffing of the Office.

The daily press briefings of the spokesperson of the President highlighted main events and processes at the GA, and provided ongoing information on the activities of the PGA for the wider international community.

4.3. Finance

The regular budget allocation for the Office of the PGA remains insufficient to cover the costs of the Presidency. As a result, the voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund to support the Presidency are the backbone of the funding available to the PGA. During the 72nd session, the regular budget amounted to 12 % of the overall funds available to the Office, while the Trust Fund equaled to 88 % of the funding.

The total amount of contributions to the Trust Fund to support the 72nd PGA was \$ 2,448,954.

During the 72nd session, all contributions to the Trust Fund were received from Member States. Altogether 15 Member States provided voluntary funding for the Office. The full list of Member States who contributed to the Trust Fund is contained in Annex 3. Contributions ranged from \$ 8,330 to \$ 500,000 in size. The PGA is deeply grateful for all Member States who supported his Presidency.

Given the healthy financial situation of the Office during the 72nd session, roll-over funds from previous sessions were directly allocated to support the President of the 73rd session.

4.4. Archiving, record keeping and other office matters

Prior the start of the 72nd session the OPGA transferred from Lotus Notes e-mail system to MS Outlook. The shared calendar of the PGA gave the opportunity for every team member to be aware of his program and thus prepare necessary documents ahead of time. The OPGA also

on-boarded UniteDocs with the aim to improve the electronic archiving of documents. The system has the potential to be a collaborative platform and thus replace the shared drive, which was used for that purpose in previous years. To effectively use this platform however, proper training of all personnel before the start of the session is needed, as the first weeks of the new session and High-level week represent a significant challenge for the newly established office.

The shared drive with an established file structure during the previous sessions continued to serve as a main document sharing and storing platform.

In line with paragraph 72 of Resolution 71/323, the OPGA has transferred to Archives and Records Management Section (ARMS) all hard-copy files in its possession pertaining to 70th session and is in the process of transferring the records for the 71st and 72nd sessions at the end of the session.

4.5. Planning and preparation of Meetings

In addition to the formal plenary meetings of the GA, the PGA convenes High-level meetings and other meetings and briefings with respect to the mandates or from his own initiative, in line with set priorities or circumstances requiring action. With regard to the fact, that the number of requests and mandates given to PGA continuously grows and taking into consideration insufficient resources, the space for convening High-level events as PGA own initiative is becoming limited.

While DGACM supports meetings convened by the PGA with regard to room allocation and conference services, OPGA is responsible for communication with partners and stakeholders, planning all substantial and logistical aspects of the meeting including drafting the programme, concept notes, issuing invitations, assuring entry passes to the UN premises for guests from outside the UN System and taking care of many other organizational tasks.

Each meeting requires a small team of advisors, with a project leader. A roadmap outlining the list of tasks should be drafted, assigning responsible advisor. Collaboration with Security, Protocol, DPI, Media, the NGLS for the selection of stakeholders is often necessary. Substantive offices and agencies which relate to the mandate of the specific event can also provide support upon request.

It is important to engage Member States in the planning process including the main sponsors of the resolution giving mandate to the PGA, regional groups or other players, if modalities require so. Holding briefings for Members States to facilitate preparation of their delegations for the events is also advisable.

While consultations with all partners are important, ultimate responsibility for the event is on the OPGA and the PGA.

To avoid collision with other significant events and possible financial implications, long term planning and scheduling for the whole session in close cooperation with DGACM is recommended. Careful consideration should also be made to convene complimentary events with those organized by ECOSOC or Security Council which can facilitate better participation from the capitals.

Attention must be paid to financial planning for the events already in the fundraising phase for the Trust Fund - as regular budget would not be sufficient to cover expenses for the travel of speakers, hospitality or presentation and publicity beyond the established standard.

Provision of accessibility services

The UN does not have in-house capacity for Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services. For UN calendar meetings^[1] the Secretariat provides CART services. The request for such services must be directed to DGACM or BCSS.

For non-calendar meetings these services need to be secured from an outside provider directly by the OPGA.

The requesting office is responsible for soliciting the quotes, securing the services and covering the costs. Additionally, a request for services from BCSS (request-for-services@un.org) need to be sent and webcast be informed. These offices provide the necessary services on a cost-recovery basis. CART services can either be provided on location or remotely. The Office of the President of the 72nd session used remote services.

Closed captioning not only enables hearing impaired persons to follow the conversation of a meeting but also facilitates the understanding of all people and allows a meeting to be watched on mute.

4.6. Informal processes and appointment of facilitators.

During the 72nd session, the PGA was supported by 38 PRs, DPRs and other representatives appointed to 20 roles related to the advancement of intergovernmental consultations (Annex 1). 18 of them were women. The appointment of facilitators and chairs require advance planning, mapping the negotiation processes and key events that might require facilitation. Experience of PRs in the particular area and support of their mission is expected. While there are still processes where only one chair or facilitator is appointed, the overall trend is to appoint two, one from global north, one from global south division, with respect to gender balance and regional representation. Taking into account that less than one third of PRs are female, achieving gender parity is particularly challenging.

With some processes continuing through several sessions facilitation or chairing also continues and re-appointment is not necessary. At the same time, with the departure of some PRs, reappointment of his or her successor might be needed.

The PGA can be asked, or can decide to hold consultation by his office. This can expedite the process, but requires capacities within the office. With the intention to preserve the impartiality of the PGA as well as keep his engagement as an additional step to advance negotiation, direct approach should be used on exceptional basis.

While appointed cofacilitators and co-chairs conduct the negotiations on behalf of the PGA, it is important that the PGA is duly informed, maintains regular communication with facilitators and chairs and stands ready to make crucial decisions or rally stakeholders when needed.

^[1] As registered with e-meets.

4.7. Interaction with EOSG and the Secretariat UN system

Over the past year, the PGA has also convened over 120 meetings with UN Officials on various occasions.

The PGA continued with the established practice of holding regular monthly meetings with the Secretary-General, during which key issues of concern relating to the GA were discussed. In addition to that good communication between the OPGA and the EOSG on practical matters was maintained.

On 16 January 2018 the PGA convened an Informal meeting of the plenary to hear a briefing by the Secretary-General on his priorities for 2018.

DGACM is a key partner supporting the PGA during his tenure. Regular communication on long term planning, scheduling, meeting preparation and services is essential. There are three posts dedicated to OPGA in GAAB in DGACM for support, and daily communication among advisors and their partners within DGACM on various aspects of work can be expected.

As many mandates related directly to topics substantially covered by other UN departments, offices or Agencies, communication with them and securing their support of events convened by the PGA is important.

With regard to the image of one UN, the PGA and his office worked closely with UN offices in the field and during his trips always invited the Resident Coordinator or Head of UN representation to be present during his official meetings.

4.8. Relationship with Member States and other organs

During the 72nd Session, the PGA held around 440 meetings with representatives of Member States. He briefed the membership on his priorities – and organised meetings with the various regional groups on issues of interest.

The PGA also met monthly with the Presidents of the Security Council and ECOSOC from which readings were circulated to Member States. Various meetings have been held with the chairs of the regional groups, and the six main committees – as well as with the General Committee.

During the 72nd session the PGA was working closely with the General Committee on matters regarding the general conduct of the work and the agenda of the General Assembly. In this regard 3 formal and 3 informal meetings of the General Committee took place. The President would recommend cooperation and full use of the General Committee expertise to his successor as well.

In general, it is recommended to continue efforts for streamlining the work of the General Assembly, including scheduling the high-level meetings, with a view that all interested delegations are able to participate.

The PGA put emphasis on open door policy to Member States and groups of state and recommends doing the same to his successor.

4.9. Outreach to civil society and media relations

Stakeholders

The PGA plays a key role in facilitating stakeholder participation at the UN – both in response to mandates included in GA resolutions and when organizing informal meetings of the GA. Throughout the session, the PGA emphasized the importance of strengthened multi-stakeholder engagement in UN processes. The team maintained an open channel of communication with civil society, academia and the private sector and a special focal point for stakeholders within the OPGA was established.

Among the challenges related to identifying stakeholders to address GA meetings is securing balance with respect to region, gender and age. There is also a need for new and diverse voices at the UN, and this should be taken into account when selecting stakeholders.

Modalities for participation often differ from one process or meeting to another. This is particularly the case with the process of objecting to a certain organization, known as the ‘non-objection basis rule’. The subtle but significant differences place an additional strain on UN entities implementing them and are often not well understood amongst the stakeholder communities. The OPGA is occasionally requested to follow up with Member States regarding the rationale for their objections.

Arriving at a more general agreement or understanding among the membership on the issue of stakeholder participation would facilitate smoother and faster modalities negotiations. This would also provide more predictability to stakeholder representatives.

The OPGA relied on the expertise and networks of other UN entities. The UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) has been a key partner in facilitating stakeholder participation in events organized by the PGA, and has been the leading entity for stakeholder engagement in the migration process, alongside the UN Global Compact, UN University, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), IOM, UN Office for South-South Cooperation, WHO and OHCHR.

It is important to note that neither the OPGA nor UN-NGLS are provided with additional financial resources to respond to the growing number of mandates in this area. The OPGA played an important role in stabilizing the structure and funding of UN-NGLS, on which services it relies upon. During this session, UN-NGLS was integrated into DPI’s NGO Relations Unit, which is a step forward in assuring the sustainability of the office as well as continuity and improvement of relations between the GA and stakeholders.

As part of his commitment to bring the UN closer to young people, the PGA reached out to youth at all levels, from elementary schools to universities to diplomatic academies. The PGA visited numerous institutions and hosted students and youth groups at the UN, giving them an inside look at the work of the UN and the life of a diplomat. Also, the PGA prioritized speaking roles at youth events and convened his own Youth Dialogue to give young people a platform to speak at the United Nations.

Media relations

Media relations, online communications and social media are essential for raising global awareness about the work of the PGA, demystifying the GA, and promoting transparency and accountability. The OPGA continued with positive initiatives from previous sessions and also instituted a number of new measures to further enhance outreach:

The dedicated PGA webpage (www.un.org/pga/72) continued to be used to share relevant content in a timely manner, including the PGA's speeches, statements, letters to Member States, events, as well as OPGA press releases. The website also included a link to photos featured on OPGA's Flickr Account (<http://bit.ly/PGAflickr>).

For the first time, the web site featured the PGA's daily agenda in an effort to boost transparency.

The PGA revived the practice of daily press briefings by his Spokesperson. The briefings were available on webcast, and written summaries were posted online and emailed to the OPGA's press distribution list. The OPGA started a new practice of issuing official readouts of the PGA's meetings with Heads of State and Government, Ministers and other High-level officials from Member States. These readouts were posted online and distributed electronically.

The PGA gave a number of press conferences and media stakeouts.

The @UN_PGA Twitter account has been a useful tool to instantly update followers (including Member States, stakeholders, media and the general public) on the PGA's activities. The number of followers increased from 55,654 in September 2017 to 70,024 in July 2018. Six live Twitter chats were conducted for the PGA to interact directly with his followers. According to Twiplomacy's report, "International Organisations on Social Media 2017," the PGA was the second most active leader of an international organization on Twitter.

The OPGA worked to develop the PGA's Instagram account (@UNPGA), which was set up in the 71st session to engage a broader and younger audience. In July 2017, the account had 646 followers and 66 posts. That grew to 2,479 followers and 235 posts in July 2018. Instagram was also used to manage a photo competition, which allowed young people outside of New York to participate in the PGA's Youth Dialogue.

The PGA also communicated to the public via opinion pieces. One such piece "*A New Approach to Peace*" appeared in 49 media outlets in 33 countries and 17 languages. The UN Information Centres (UNICs) were key partners through both translation and placement. OPGA briefed UNICs more than once, as their global reach can help transmit the PGA's messaging far beyond New York.

The OPGA also worked with UNTV to produce two short promotional videos – for the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, and the Youth Dialogue. These videos proved to be popular on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

The PGA continued to participate in media interviews – both at Headquarters and during his trips. Before official travels, the UNICs were helpful in arranging on-the-ground press engagement.

5. Official Travel

Over the course of the year, the PGA 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. A full list is included in Annex 4.

6. Tenth Emergency Special Session (resumed) on Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

The tenth Emergency Special Session of the GA was convened for the first time in April 1997, following a request from the Permanent Representative of Qatar.

In 2017-2018, the tenth Emergency Special Session was resumed twice at the request of Member States.

At the 37th plenary meeting of the tenth emergency special session, held on 21 December 2017, the Assembly adopted resolution ES-10/19 entitled “*Status of Jerusalem*”.

At the 38th plenary meeting of the tenth emergency special session, held on 13 June 2018, the Assembly adopted resolution ES-10/20 entitled “*Protection of the Palestinian civilian population*”. Pursuant to the said resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a report A/ES-10/794 for Member States’ consideration.

According to A/RES/ES-10/20, the GA decided to adjourn the tenth emergency special session temporarily and to authorize the PGA at its most recent session to resume its meeting upon request from Member States.

7. Conclusion

Overall, the 72nd Session of the General Assembly resulted in progress across various areas. The conclusion to negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was a major milestone. The first High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace was another. Progress was also seen in the area of Sustainable Development, with Voluntary National Reviews now presented by more than half the membership, and the issue of development financing having gained greater prominence. Moreover, tangible steps towards reform of the United Nations were taken. Finally, valuable work by the GA took place in the areas of human rights, gender and humanitarian actions.

Great challenges, however, remain. During his tenure, the PGA called the attention of the membership to the growing threats to multilateralism, as well as to the dwindling space for real dialogue among diplomats and representatives of the United Nations. The need to buck these trends will become even more crucial as the complexities of global security, environmental and development challenges advance.

It is the firm belief of the President of the 72nd Session of the GA that the United Nations holds the key to addressing the most pressing issues facing the international community. The next Session will contain many opportunities for harnessing the United Nations’ role as a source of global solutions for global phenomena.

- ANNEX 1: Facilitators and Chairs of the 72nd session
- ANNEX 2: Governments and others which seconded staff to the OPGA during the 72nd session
- ANNEX 3: Governments that made contribution to the Trust Fund of the OPGA during the 72nd session
- ANNEX 4: Official Travel
- ANNEX 5: Reports from the HL meetings
- ANNEX 6: Group of external advisors

ANNEX 1: Facilitators and Chairs of the 72nd session

General Assembly Resolution 71/280 entitled “Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration”

Co-facilitators appointed in the 71st session continued in their mandated also during 72nd session:

- H.E. Mr. Juan José Ignacio Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico
- H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland

Decision 71/553 entitled “Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council”

On 30. October 2017 PGA appointed Co-Chairs:

- H.E. Mr. Kaha Imnadze, Permanent Representative of Georgia
- H.E. Ms. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of United Arab Emirates

GA resolution 71/323 entitled “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”

On 10 November 2017 PGA appointed co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group:

- H.E. Ms. María Emma Mejía Vélez, Permanent Representative of Colombia
- H.E. Mr. Vladimir Drobnyak, Permanent Representative of Croatia

Report of the Secretary-General 72/525 entitled “Restructuring of the United nations peace and security pillar”

On 14 November 2017 PGA appointed co-facilitators:

- H.E. Ms. Valentine Rugwabiza, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda
- H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic

General Assembly Resolution 68/1 entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”

On 30 November 2017 PGA appointed co-facilitators:

- H.E. Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland
- H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar

General Assembly Resolution 70/291 entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review”

On 11 December 2017 PGA appointed co-facilitators:

- H.E. Mr. Kai Sauer, Permanent Representative of Finland
- H.E. Ms. Sima Sami I. Bahous, Permanent Representative of the of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

General Assembly Resolution 71/323 entitled “Alignment of the General Assembly agenda with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

On 21 December 2017 PGA appointed co-facilitators:

- H.E. Mr. Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium
- H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

General Assembly Resolution 71/159 entitled “Global health and foreign policy: health employment and economic growth”

On 11 January 2018 PGA appointed co-facilitators to negotiate modalities for the High-Level meeting on Fight against Tuberculosis:

- H.E. Mr. Walton Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda
- H.E. Mr. Koro Bessho, Permanent Representative of Japan

General Assembly Resolution 72/243 entitled “Nelson Mandela Peace Summit political declaration”

On 12 January 2018 PGA appointed co-facilitators:

- H.E. Ms. Geraldine Patricia Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland
- H.E. Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa

General Assembly Resolution 68/300 entitled “Comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases”

On 26 January 2018, PGA appointed co-facilitators for the intergovernmental consultations and negotiations in preparation for a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases:

- H.E. Mr. Sebastiano Cardi, Permanent Representative of Italy
- H.E. Mr. Elbio Oscar Rosselli Frieri, Permanent Representative of Uruguay

On 14 August 2018, PGA appointed a new co-facilitator, to replace H.E. Cardi:

- H.E. Ms. Maria Angela Zappia, Permanent Representative of Italy

General Assembly Resolution 71/257 entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”

On 5 February 2018 PGA appointed co-chairs for the open-ended Informal Consultative Process:

- H.E. Mr. Kornelios Korneliou, Permanent Representative of Cyprus
- H.E. Ms. Penelope Althea Beckles, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago

General Assembly Resolution 70/202 entitled “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”

On 8 February 2018 PGA appointed co-facilitators:

- H.E. Ms. Lois M. Young, Permanent Representative of Belize
- H.E. Ms. Geraldine Patricia Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland

General Assembly Resolution 72/249 entitled “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”

On 14 February 2018 PGA nominated as the President-designate of the Intergovernmental Conference convened under the auspices of the United Nations pursuant to that resolution:

- Ms. Rena Lee, the Senior State Counsel of the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General’s Chambers of Singapore

General Assembly Resolution 71/243 related to the Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

On 19 February 2018 PGA appointed co-facilitators to lead the intergovernmental consultations on repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the General Assembly resolution 71/243 related to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) of operational activities for development of the UN system:

- H.E. Mr. Sabri Boukadoum, Permanent Representative of Algeria
- H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark

Secretary-General’s report 72/707 entitled “Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace”

On 13 March 2018 PGA appointed co-facilitators to lead the intergovernmental consultations on a draft resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly during the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on 24-25 April:

- H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
- H.E. Ms. Audra Plepyte, Permanent Representative of Lithuania

General Assembly Resolution 70/235 entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”

On 28 February 2018, PGA appointed a co-chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment including Socioeconomic Aspects.

- Ms. Minna-Liina Lind, Deputy Permanent Representative of Estonia (*appointed by the President of the General Assembly on 28 February 2018*)
- Ms. Juliette Rosita Riley, Deputy Permanent Representative of Barbados (*appointed as Co-Chair by the President of the 70th Session of the General Assembly on 31 March 2016*).

General Assembly Resolution 72/230 entitled “Development cooperation with middle-income countries”

On 7 May, PGA appointed co-facilitators for a high-level meeting to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- H.E. Ms. Mirgul Moldoisaeva, Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan
- H.E. Mr. Tore Hattrem, Permanent Representative of Norway

General Assembly Resolution 71/323 entitled “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”

On 14 May, PGA appointed a co-facilitator to lead the informal consultations on scheduling the dates for the high-level meetings during the 74th session of the General Assembly:

- H.E. Ms. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Permanent Representative of Ghana

General Assembly Resolution 72/139 entitled “Global health and foreign policy: addressing the health of the most vulnerable for an inclusive society”

On 22 May, PGA appointed co-facilitators to lead an open and transparent consultative process with Member States to propose modalities for the high-level meeting in 2019 on universal health coverage:

- H.E. Ms. Katalin Annamária Bogay, Permanent Representative of Hungary
- H.E. Mr. Vitavas Srivihok, Permanent Representative of Thailand

General Assembly Resolution 72/277 entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment”

On 4 June, PGA appointed co-chairs for the ad hoc open-ended working group to consider options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environmental related instruments:

- H.E. Ms. Amal Mudallali, Permanent Representative of Lebanon
- H.E. Mr. Francisco António Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal

ANNEX 2: Governments and others which seconded staff to the OPGA during the 72nd session

Algeria
Angola
Brazil
China
Finland
Hungary
Montenegro
Nauru
Qatar
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Slovakia
South Africa
Switzerland
Thailand
Turkey

IOM

ANNEX 3: Governments that made contribution to the Trust Fund of the OPGA during the 72nd session

Bahrain
China
Cyprus
Georgia
Germany
Hungary
India
Ireland
Japan
Kuwait
Luxemburg
Qatar
Slovakia
Turkey
United Arab Emirates

Roll-overs from previous sessions were transferred directly to support the Office of the President of the 73rd session of the General Assembly

ANNEX 4: Official Travel

Note: The primary source of funding for each trip is indicated below. Please be aware, however, that on many occasions, the host government provided on-the ground travel or other support to the President and his delegation.

Travel by the PGA

Prior to assuming office:

- **Moscow (Russian Federation), June 2017**, for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the Government of Slovakia.
- **Tokyo (Japan), July 2017**, for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the Governments of Japan and Slovakia.
- **Beijing (China), July 2017**, for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the Governments of China and Slovakia.
- **Geneva (Switzerland), July 2017**, for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the Government of Slovakia.
- **Delhi (India), August 2017**, for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the Government of India and UN regular budget.
- **Bled (Slovenia), September 2017** to participate in the Bled Strategic Forum. The trip was supported by the Government of Slovakia and UN regular budget.
- **Warsaw (Poland), September 2017** to address the meeting of Ambassadors. The trip was supported by the Government of Slovakia and UN regular budget.

From 12 September 2017, after assuming office

- **Geneva (Switzerland), October 2017**, to chair the second multi-stakeholder hearing on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, and address the sixth informal thematic session on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration. The trip was supported by UN regular budget.
- **Paris (France), November 2017**, to participate in UNESCO Leaders' Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of UNESCO. The trip was supported by UN regular budget.
- **Manama (Bahrain), November 2017**, to address the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum on "Achieving the SDGs through Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovation" and to meet Bahraini officials. The trip was supported by the UN regular budget.
- **Sir Bani Yas (United Arab Emirates), November 2017**, to participate in the 8th annual Sir Bani Yas Forum in the United Arab Emirates. The trip was supported by the Government of the United Arab Emirates.
- **Bonn, Germany (November 2017)** to participate in the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Vienna (Austria), November 2017** to participate at the 17th Session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and to meet Austrian officials. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

- **Geneva (Switzerland), November 2017**, to address the 108th Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Nairobi (Kenya), December 2017**, to address the United Nations Environment Assembly and for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Puerto Vallarta (Mexico), December 2017**, to participate in a stocktaking meeting related to the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Paris (France), December 2017** to address Council of Ambassadors to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Abu Dhabi (UAE), January 2018**, to address the 8th session of the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), on margins of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) and World Future Energy Summit (WFES) and for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Kuwait City (Kuwait), January 2018** to address Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute in Kuwait and to meet Kuwaiti officials. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Doha (Qatar), January 2018**, to address the Regional Dialogue on Sustaining Peace and to deliver a lecture on Conflict Prevention in 21st Century and role of the United Nations in Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and to meet Qatari officials. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the State of Qatar.
- **Rome (Italy), January 2018**, to hold a meeting of the Team of External Advisers of the President of the General Assembly. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly
- **Davos (Switzerland), January 2018** to participate in the 2018 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos as well as for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly,
- **Seoul, PyeongChang (Republic of Korea), February 2018** to participate in the XXIII Olympic Winter Games, to deliver remark at the Global Engagement and Empowerment Forum on Sustainable Development as well as for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the UN regular budget.
- **Munich (Germany), February 2018** to participate in the Munich Security Conference and for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the UN regular budget.
- **Geneva (Switzerland), February 2018**, to address the opening of the 37th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Council's Annual High-level Panel on Human Rights Mainstreaming and the Conference on Disarmament. The trip was supported by UN regular budget.
- **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), March 2018** to meet with officials from the African Union Commission, the Government of Ethiopia, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) as well as for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the UN regular budget.

- **Bogotá, Totoró (Colombia), March 2018** to participate in the launch of Colombia's national strategy for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, to visit a United Nations interagency project and to meet Colombian officials. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Prague (Czech Republic), March 2018**, to address the opening of the United Nations' Economic and Social Council 'ECOSOC' Preparatory Meeting and to meet Czech officials. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Brussels (Belgium), March 2018**, to visit European institutions. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Baku (Azerbaijan), April 2018**, to participate in term Ministerial Conference of the Non- Aligned Movement. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Rome (Italy), April 2018**, to hold the meeting with the Team of External Advisers of the President of the General Assembly. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Vatican City State, April 2018** and to meet with His Holiness Pope Francis. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Stockholm (Sweden), May 2018** to participate in the 2018 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development and to meet Swedish officials. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Kigali (Rwanda), May 2018** to address the Transform Africa Summit and to visit Kigali Genocide Memorial and to meet Rwanda's officials. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Bangkok (Thailand)**, to address the 74th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and meet with Thai officials. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Bratislava (Slovakia), May 2018** to participate in the GLOBSEC 2018 Bratislava Forum. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Helsinki (Finland)**, to participate in foreign and security policy debate Kultaranta Talks and meetings with Finnish officials. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Bucharest (Romania)**, to address the National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA) and to meet with Romanian officials. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Rhodes (Greece), June 2018**, to address the opening of the third Rhodes Conference for Security and Stability and for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Beijing (China), July 2018**, for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the Government of China.
- **Ankara (Turkey), August 2018** to participate at annual Turkish Ambassadors' Conference and for meetings Turkish officials. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

- **Vaduz (Liechtenstein), August 2018** to deliver remarks in the event on “Migration as part of the Sustainable Development Agenda” and to meet with Liechtenstein officials. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **Alpbach (Austria), August 2018** to participate in the European forum Alpbach and for bilateral meetings. The trip was supported by the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.



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Summary Report

Introduction

On 11 June 2018, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd General Assembly of the United Nations, convened a high-level event, entitled “Financing for SDGs--Breaking the Bottlenecks of Investment, from Policy to Impact”.

This event was held in close collaboration with UNCTAD, UN-DESA, Group of Friends of SDG Finance, World Bank Group, OECD, International Chamber of Commerce, the UN Global Compact and Professor Jeffrey Sachs.

The event brought together representatives from Member States, the private sector, UN entities and other international organizations.

The objective of this event was to take stock of various initiatives and best practices in removing the barriers of investment chains so as to scale up private financial resources to support the SDGs, and explore what the United Nations could do to better align itself with the rapidly-changing world of international finance in support of the 2030 Agenda.

The event started with opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, H.E. Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, followed by testimonials from the private sector and four break-down panel discussions.

Opening

The President of the General Assembly of the United Nations stressed that time is running out for finding SDG financing solutions, and that urgent and bold actions are required. The private sector is needed to bridge the enormous financing gap for the achievement of the SDGs, but it does not hold all the answers. Equally important is public financing and, in the development context, the need for all countries to live up to their ODA commitments, and for the global south to strengthen south-south and triangular cooperation. The UN can play a facilitating role in charting the course forward, fostering development discourse and assisting in the uptake of best practices. The ideas and examples of best practices emanating from the event will provide input to the Secretary-General’s high-level meeting on financing the 2030 Agenda (in September 2018).





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The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations stressed that finding solutions for the financing bottleneck of the SDGs is a UN priority. This hinges on addressing five key issues: the lack of a long-term vision (on the part of the private sector), the lack of an enabling environment (on the part of countries), the lack of investable projects, the lack of innovative financing mechanisms and the lack of clarity in terms of definitions and standards. The UN has a role to play in addressing all these bottlenecks, and the reform of its development pillar demonstrates that it is fit and ready for purpose.

The Secretary General of UNCTAD stressed that the negative foreign direct investment (FDI) trend and the correspondent slow-down in global value chains, as reported in the World Investment Report 2018, are worrisome considering that FDI remains the largest external source of finance for developing economies, making up 39% of their total incoming finance. UNCTAD's six pack of transformative action presents public-sector action that can help transform the investment environment and orient private investors towards a pro-SDG approach. However, many of these actions require active private sector participation to galvanize action, mobilize funds and ensure this translates into impact on the ground.

Introductory presentations: Testimonials from the private sector

Five key messages emanated from the testimonials from the private sector:

- ***There is no shortage of capital to finance the SDGs. However, mobilizing it requires a systematic change in the way equity markets are organized.*** Aligning capital markets with the SDGs can be facilitated by the UN, which has been shaping the debate through initiatives such as the SSE, PRI and the Global Compact. What is needed is to resolve regulatory issues that prevent SDG impact (both nationally and internationally), educate the broader public about responsible investment (e.g. through a reform national curricula) and build-on and strengthen various existing initiatives (through, e.g., turning the PRI into an International Standards Organization (ISO) certified standards), including through practical and hands-on solutions (e.g. developing a smart-phone application that measures SDG impact).
- ***Bridging the financing gap requires developing an SDG financing architecture and creating an SDG bond market, initially through green bonds, but extending it to blue or social bonds*** (e.g. to support affordable housing). Mainstreaming sustainability into the finance sector requires risk mitigation frameworks, and adequate and appropriate transparency and disclosure rules. Multilateral development banks (MDBs) can provide important support for the development of new financial instruments (e.g. the International Finance Corporation's help in the issuance of India's first green bond).





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- *Another challenge to mobilizing private SDG financing is the lack of impact measurement tools and data* (which, for example, prevents ranking of companies by SDG performance). This requires the development of core standards (e.g. for measuring equity performance by carbon intensity) and the tools to help bridge the knowledge gap for investment in the SDGs.
- *Although the private sector's contribution to SDG financing can be substantial (including finance, expertise and know-how), it is not a substitute but rather complementary to public financing.* The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's engagement to ending malaria in Central America is an example of how successful private initiative with public support (nationally and internationally) can be.
- *The ability to attain the SDGs, including SDG finance, will be profoundly affected by modern technology, including artificial intelligence (AI)* (e.g. in energy, health care, etc.). Although in its infancy, AI will fundamentally change the way the private and public sector interact, including in pursuit of the SDGs. However, harnessing the potential of AI and new technologies in general requires overcoming the current misalignment between short-term profit-orientation and long-term vision. There is a need for a new incentive structure that puts ethical issues and the social good at the heart, and new governance systems and institutional arrangements that support this (e.g., how to deal with data privacy, the use of AI in weaponry). The UN is best placed to play a catalytic role in this regard, e.g. in the development of a "digital rights" dimension in the human rights catalogue.

Panel One -- Build fertile soil for business: providing concerted leadership

Key challenges towards providing concerted leadership to build the fertile soil for business to get engaged in financing the SDGs include the need to mitigate real and perceived risk, engaging all relevant stakeholders, to find scalable financial solutions that can live up to the challenges of development finance, and to foster an international regulatory environment that is conducive and hospital to innovative forms of financing.

MDBs can provide solutions for **de-risking investments**, but it is also important to engage with, and develop domestic capital markets. Unleashing the power of profit and making sustainability integral to financial markets requires **capacity-building**, particularly as far as scaling-up projects is concerned.

However, there is no room for paternalistic approaches to development finance. Rather there is a need for tailor-made solutions considering the specificities of countries and sectors. It is also not a question of domestic vs. foreign or public vs private financing, but rather a question of **getting all hands-on deck**. Public financing should not end up subsidizing private investment and foreign investment should not curtail the adequate participation of the domestic private sector in poor countries.





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Other laudable projects and initiatives include the G7's Charlevoix Commitment on Innovative Financing for Development; the Dutch Water Finance Facility and its pilot project in Kenya; Canada's G7 follow-up project on women empowerment; Denmark's SDG Investment Fund and its Partnering for Green Growth Initiative; the African Development Fellowship Programme (developed with Meridiam); and various initiatives by the global social entrepreneurship community (such as for coral reefs re-engineering by Oceans Unite).

Panel Two -- Let the investment grow: filling in the gap of trillions

Addressing the investment gap for attaining the SDGs, especially in developing countries, requires overcoming three gaps: the lack of common definitions, guidelines and standards for measuring impact; the shortage of bankable projects; and the difficulty in risk assessment and de-risking.

A key requirement is **developing basic principles, guidelines and standards** for establishing due diligence backstopping of sustainability action plans. These need to be monitored and evaluated, to allow for scalability and replicability. Equally important is the identification of the sectors with greatest needs, developing investable projects on the ground and ensuring that these are attractive to investors.

Partnerships are the backbone in this regard, involving all key players and bringing official development assistance (ODA) into play. Examples include the European Union's (EU) Juncker plan (which is replicable outside the EU), the Economic Resilience Fund, the Bloomberg Global Majors Network for city infrastructure funds, the Climate Awareness Bond, and the Dubai Green Fund.

A big boost for sustainable development financing can be derived from the (carefully managed) **privatization of State-owned assets, reducing the cost of remittances, encouraging diaspora investment, cash-less financial inclusion** and adequately addressing the **gender dimension** through ensuring gender equality and closing the gender pay gap.

However, private sector financing of the SDGs also has its limits in the profit maximizing rational of private sector activities, as ultimately the **SDGs** are public goods that **cannot become bankable projects**. Especially poor countries cannot find the financing to boost their budgets to undertake the public good works required for attaining the SDGs. Without ODA, they face a human and political disaster. With ODA numbers shrinking and considering that there is more private wealth than ever before, **private development assistance** needs to step up to the plate. For example, the "Move humanity" initiative will be financed by engaging the world's billionaires to donate 1% of their wealth annually, resulting in an estimated \$95 billion. Two billionaires have already subscribed to the fund (the Aliku Dongate Foundation, and the Bill Gross Foundation).

Besides solving the financing issues, there is a need to **stop profit-driven bad practices** (such as deforestation, child labour, etc) and to close tax havens and offshore centres that blur





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responsibility and accountability. Sustainable development is not possible without justice. Limited liability cannot translate into the right to destroy the world.

Panel 3 -- Remove the hurdles of irrigation: channelling investment to the ground

The challenges towards channelling investment towards SDG sectors, especially in developing countries, include a continued high perception of risks and institutional weaknesses, their scarce domestic resource base, coupled with export-price volatility and external shocks, and persistent market failures.

Key to overcoming these challenges is building trust and contributing to de-risking investments. **MDBs** can engage in this by combining traditional funding instruments with innovative forms of finance (e.g. blended finance instruments), thereby playing a catalytic role in overcoming private sector risk perceptions. Although the upward trend in blended finance is an encouraging sign, it is still minuscule considering the overall scale of global financial transactions. Using ODA funds in blended finance instruments can be facilitated by guiding principles such as the OECD DAC Blended Finance Principles.

Countries need to create an **enabling regulatory environment** and make smarter use of taxes and incentives. Tax and transfer systems need to shift towards the SDGs. They also need to make the business case for the opportunities that the SDGs represent. For this, they need to break down risks into components and address these through regulation and standardization. For example, institutional investment in infrastructure still remains relatively limited, since efforts on developing infrastructure as an asset class have bear little fruit so far.

Most funds are still attracted towards operating assets in highly regulated markets with predictable flows. Re-directing these funds to new markets and the places where they are most needed requires partnerships involving all players, including international actors, especially in difficult markets. **Blended finance instruments** that mitigate risk and raise the credit quality by involving public sector guarantees, including from multilateral institutions such as Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) or the MDBs, are cases in point.

However, the emphasis in such public-private sector collaboration should be on risk-sharing rather than on risk-transfer. The challenge is to establish the required transparency in risk sharing arrangements, and to develop “risk appetite” in the financial sector. Also needed is a **change in the incentive structure** throughout the financing chain and the economic

Private sector engagement in SDG financing is not only an issue of overcoming the funding gap through various de-risking strategies but also an issue of **overcoming an efficiency gap**. It requires investable projects of considerable size and creating scalability in this regard depends on profitability. Although the sustainability and profitability of companies is ultimately linked to the prosperity of people, governments and countries, aligning core company objectives with the SDGs requires operationalization at all stages of the funding





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process. There is an acute need for education on the ground to understand the working of capital markets.

At the same time, the push for private sector involvement needs to be coupled with a push for more public investment, especially for poor countries where the SDGs are only achievable through continued reliance on ODA. Analogues to social policies in developed market economies that redistribute national wealth through taxation to provide public goods such as health care, social welfare and other means of public care for the disadvantaged parts of the population, without this notion of global solidarity the attainment of the SDGs in poor countries will be impossible. However, ODA numbers are declining and fiscal difficulties in many advanced countries remain.

Panel 4 -- Securing the fruits: maximizing investment impact

Maximizing the benefits of private sector investment on the ground, while minimizing the potential negative effects, mainly hinges on finding a balance between liberalization and regulation; catering for private profits whilst ensuring the accessibility and affordability of public goods; pushing for public investment while encouraging private investment; and finding global solutions while not leaving anyone behind, especially the least developed countries (LDCs) and structurally weak and vulnerable economies.

It is important in this context to **set SDG priorities** and targets in national and sub-national development plans and to tackle the multidimensional nature of some of the issues that need to be addressed (such as the social dimensions (housing, schooling, health) of extreme poverty). A subsequent issue is the need to align incentives and tax instruments to these priorities based on a thorough cost-benefit analysis (such as in Colombia's tax on plastic bags or on carbon emissions, the proceeds of which were being used for environmental protection and conservation work and the development of non-conventional renewable energy products). Similarly, important is the need to get it right in terms of **PPP legislation** and the required institutional backup.

Maximizing benefits also has a **regional dimension**, especially in the South-South context. Tackling cross-border and cross-boundary issues, ranging from regional indexing for performance analysis and the contextualization of SDG needs to developing financing templates for key sectors, including to channel international support, is important in this regard.

Breaking regulatory barriers for (impact) investors is another means to maximize impact, as B4P's engagement with the Central Bank of Bangladesh (to enable investment in micro financing schemes through permitting hard-currency refunding) or with Gulf States (to overcome cash-depositing rules) illustrate. Special economic zones can be used to experiment with pro-poor-investment regulations, turning them into **SDG dedicated zones** with





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demonstration effects that could emanate throughout the whole economy and the wider region.

The primary responsibility of equity investors is the safeguarding of funds and returns, e.g. to secure pensions and private savings. Operationalizing SDG values needs to take this accountability issue into account. At the same time, SDG issues themselves bear on risk assessment, as e.g. the poverty risk emanating from rising sea levels demonstrates. Hence, **risk assessment and risk partnering** over the whole range of the risk-return spectrum is of critical importance, even for so-called “angel investors”.

Information-sharing and fostering dialogues with all stakeholders are key ingredients to ensure impact maximization. Development of cross-cutting strategies and national action plans need to ensure that no one is left behind; investors need to be kept abreast of where their funds are going and what the risks involved are; and standards and measurements need to support impact tracking and information sharing. The data gap needs to be overcome while addressing the cost of the data burden for poor countries and small firms.

Maximizing development impact is inherent to the many forms of **impact investment** (such as crowd funding, diaspora funding and venture philanthropy, etc.), as analysed and catalogued in Armenia’s global narrative on development (derived from the Impact Investment Summit in Armenia held in 2017).

Follow up

- President of the General Assembly will circulate a summary report of this event to the Member States.
- The summary report will also be shared with the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for their reference to prepare the Secretary-General’s major financing event in September 2018.
- President of the General Assembly would convey the key findings of this meeting to various events dedicated to financing for development.
- The Office of the President of the General Assembly will endeavor to work with partners to develop a “toolbox” -- a pack of recommended solutions and best practices, to be made available to Member States on a dedicated website managed by UNCTAD to be launched at its World Investment Forum in October 2018. That site will also cross-reference the various service providers in the international community.



ANNEX 5 Summaries of the signature High-level events

Summary of the High-level Launch Event of the Water Action Decade

International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028” on World Water Day, 22nd March 2018

In its resolution 71/222 of 21 December, the General Assembly proclaimed the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development” commencing on World Water Day, 22nd March 2018. The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Miroslav Lajčák convened an informal meeting of the General Assembly to officially launch the Water Action Decade. This launch event aimed to further improve cooperation and partnerships towards achieving the water-related goals of the ambitious 2030 Agenda.

The High-Level Event consisted of an opening segment with the following speakers:

- H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Saikal, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan delivered the remarks of the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Miroslav Lajčák;
- H.E. Mr. António Guterres, UN Secretary-General presented the Action Plan of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028;
- H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, initiator of the International Decade for Action and Member of the High-Level Panel on Water presented on behalf of the Panel members the outcome report, “Making Every Drop Count: An agenda for water action”;
- Miss Autumn Peltier, a 13-year-old Anishinaabe water advocate from the Wikwemikong, First Nations.

The opening segment also included a video presentation from the High-Level Panel on Water entitled “*Water’s Promise: Making Every Drop Counts.*”

Following the opening segment, a plenary and two high-level Panels took place:

- *Panel 1* under the theme: “Contribution of the Water Decade to the implementation of water-related SDGs: addressing challenges and seizing opportunities through strengthening cooperation and partnerships”.
- *Panel 2* under the theme: “Role of relevant stakeholders in mobilizing necessary resources for the implementation and follow-up of water related SDGs”.

I- Key Messages

Challenges

Participants underscored some of the challenges countries face when it comes to water and sanitation. It was pointed out that while three quarters of the Earth is covered with water, only 2.5% is freshwater and less than 1% of it is available to sustain all terrestrial life and ecosystems. Water quality in lakes and rivers around the globe is deteriorating due to rising nutrient levels and other chemical pollutants, mainly from agriculture, industry and household waste. Likewise, one in six people do not have access to safe drinking water and over 2 billion are drinking contaminated water, which leads in many cases to sickness and death. It was also stressed that every minute one child dies from contaminated water, poor sanitation and hygiene. Some speakers highlighted the link between water and human suffering, including in the Lake Chad Basin, the Gaza Strip and the Horn of Africa.

In addition, participants indicated that nearly 90% of all natural disasters in the world are water-related and that cities, towns and villages are being battered by evermore frequent hurricanes and storms. Some countries also highlighted specific challenges due to their geographical location, size and unique set of constraints. Lastly, participants underscored that challenges related to water will increase in the future, as demand and competition will increase for drinking water, urbanization, agriculture, sanitation and energy. It is predicted that by 2050, the population will have grown by 2 billion, and therefore water demand will increase by more than 40%.

Opportunities

Sustainable management of freshwater resources and sanitation is a vital element of the 2030 Agenda. SDG 6: “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” focuses on the entire water cycle, including the management of water, wastewater and ecosystem resources. Water related goals will be on the top of the world agenda and would offer an opportunity to foster cooperation and partnerships. In addition to the launch of the Water Decade, participants referred to the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia in March, the Dushanbe Conference in June, the review of SDG6 at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) session in July, the annual Stockholm World Water Week in August and the Budapest Water Summit in 2019.

Participants highlighted the great potential of international and regional cooperation on water management, through integrated approaches, access to technologies and sharing of smart solutions and good practices. They recalled that water plays a pivotal role in achieving all other SDGs and therefore, can be used as a leverage for sustainable development. The Event also offered an opportunity for participants to draw attention to their activities and plans related to water and sanitation, including water desalination, water pollution, hydro-energy projects, collecting and storage of rainwater, as well as management of water related disasters. In this context, the Voluntary National Review at the HLPF session in July is being considered as an important opportunity for Member States to highlight their projects and initiatives, as well as national policies and plans to address water challenges.

Commitments for the way forward

Participants welcomed and expressed their full support for the International Action Decade on Water for Sustainable Development and the Secretary-General's Action Plan. Many expressed the intention to integrate the Secretary-General's Action Plan into their national plans. Others referred to the outcome report of the High-Level Panel on Water and its recommendations, as an important guide in achieving water related goals and targets. Participants emphasized the centrality of SDG 6 for sustainable development. They reiterated that the international community should work together, undertake coordinated efforts and adopt both urgent and long-term measures. Participants stressed the need to enhance cooperation and partnerships, mobilize financial resources, foster investments, improve knowledge generation and appropriate technology transfer and building capacity. In this context, some made a call to support specific initiatives, such as the SIDS partnership framework.

Many delegations highlighted efforts being undertaken by their own countries to address water challenges, including in terms of improved legislation and infrastructure, water financing, preventing leakage and water reuse. Participants expressed their support for raising awareness, sharing best practices and promoting international cooperation on water issues at the United Nations. It was also noted that implementation of 2030 agenda requires better coordination of the review of global water related goals and targets. It was highlighted that solutions to meet SDG6 must be both global and local in nature – and must operate in tandem with multilateral and rules-based systems that foster an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

II- Thematic issues

Climate change

Climate change was identified as a serious threat to humanity. Participants stressed that water related challenges are spread across the globe, aggravated by the adverse impacts of climate change, including in terms of extreme weather events and water-related disasters such flooding and droughts. Climate change is also adversely impacting the quality and quantity of water. It was noted that by 2025 the total area of glaciers could decrease by an average of 30-45% and may eventually disappear. Freshwater could decrease by 30-40%. Participants underlined that water challenges are further exacerbated by climate change, desertification, drought, land degradation and water-related disasters. Noting also that current changes in climate have led to the most serious water scarcity challenges in the horn of Africa. Lastly, climate change was also highlighted as bringing new challenges to global water security. In this context, there was a call for action to address climate change and conserve glaciers.

Gender and youth perspectives

Safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities are particularly important for the safety and health of women and girls and young people in general. Women, children, persons with disabilities and people in humanitarian crisis are more at risk of being deprived of their fundamental right to water, sanitation and proper basic hygiene. It was recognized that women and girls should be

actively involved in the development processes and in water conservation activities. Gender dimensions are critical to support SDG 6 with projects aimed at enhancing local management along with education and training programs especially for women and the creation of decent jobs. The international community must sustainably manage water resources and put more focus on conservation. The next generation needs greater education on water consumption and conservation. Thus, the Water Decade should focus on women and children as the most promising agents of change.

Conflict prevention

International cooperation on water management can create an enabling environment for peace and security. It was highlighted that water scarcity can be a root cause of conflicts and humanitarian crisis and an effective management of water resources is a critical component to secure peace. Participants stressed that water is a human right based on General Assembly resolution 64/292. Cooperation on water is key for a peaceful society. It was mentioned that water is not only a factor for migration, but it may increase the probability for outbreaks of conflicts, and contribute to food insecurity. Transboundary water cooperation is a critical area as it fosters resilience, creates trust and ensures prosperity, including through refereeing to some good examples of water cooperation worldwide. One of the panellists called on the international community to strengthen efforts to protect civilians and highlighted the importance of including water experts in peace-keeping operations underlining that water is a powerful instrument that can leverage peaceful cooperation.

Water Governance

Participants recognized that the harmonization of policies for the protection of water resources is much needed. They acknowledged the interlinkages between different agendas and stressed the need for an enhanced, coherent, and coordinated approach for cooperation on water-related issues. Furthermore, participants expressed the urgency to strengthen water governance, in order to address the mismatch between the ambition of SDG6 and the ability of the UN system to support Member States in its implementation. Some speakers expressed concerns over the fragmentation and lack of leadership of the UN system's action with regard to the water agenda. In this context, they expressed support for a dedicated intergovernmental platform to provide policy guidance and to help strengthen international cooperation, while others supported building upon existing mechanisms and frameworks, including UN-Water. It was also highlighted that water governance challenges should be addressed at all levels – community, local, national, regional and global levels.

Implementation of water related goals and targets

Participants highlighted the need for the Decade to contribute to the implementation of water related goals and targets, through promoting action oriented activities. This includes the establishment of appropriate policies and plans and their effective implementation on the ground. People's participation in the decision-making processes as well as implementation efforts, including the most vulnerable, was underscored. It was noted that \$1.7 trillion US dollars are needed between now and 2030 to deliver on SDG 6 and close existing gaps, which cannot be reached with public financing only.

Participants underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation and establishing partnerships to achieve water related goals and targets and address investments gaps in needed investment for water infrastructure. This included, some announcements of partnership initiatives made by delegations and other speakers. The discussion focused on the critical issue of financing as well as the need for sufficient and adequate data to better inform policy making, follow-up, review and progress measurement. Some participants stressed the need to strengthen technology, innovation and knowledge sharing, including in some specific areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, pollutants and waste management. Some speakers commended the use of education as a tool for improved water conservation and disaster resilience.

Role of stakeholders

Participants agreed that raising awareness and ensuring the involvement of all stakeholders is crucial to achieve SDG6 and the 2030 Agenda. This will bring together governments, UN entities, civil society organizations, businesses and academia – in a new partnership for water. It will facilitate implementing many recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Water, and the Secretary-General's Action Plan for the Decade ahead. The formation of a strategic network of partners on water is needed, including through bringing public-private partnerships calling on all actors to assume shared responsibilities.

Some participants highlighted major financial challenges that local municipalities are facing. In this context, it was suggested that all sources of funding should be considered, including through increasing investments. It is of utmost importance to encourage the private sector to enter the market, which can be motivated by profitable investments, supporting research and development, data collection and analysis. Participants agreed to further strengthen investments in sectors beyond water, such as urban development, food and energy that have positive spillover effects on a sustainable water management. Recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Water such as motivating all water use sectors to value water and collaborate towards an integrated water resources management have been highlighted.

To sum up, the role of the United Nations system in the implementation of water-related goals and targets has been continuously stressed, including in terms of mobilizing new and adequate resources to achieving the goals by 2030. The need to strengthen the mandate of UN-Water to enhance its strategic role in cooperation with bi- and multilateral financial institutions was widely recognized.

High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on 24-26 April 2018

Chair's Summary

Introduction

1. The President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, convened a High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace from 24 to 26 April 2018 to assess efforts undertaken and opportunities to strengthen the United Nations' work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, in accordance to General Assembly Resolution 70/262 and Security Council Resolution 2282 (2016) on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. The report of the Secretary General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43), issued on 18 January 2018, informed the meeting.
2. The President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the UNDP Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Michelle Yeoh, the UNICEF Advocate for Children Affected by War, Mr. Ishmael Beah, the President of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in Nigeria, Ms. Joy Onyesoh, and the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, opened the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace.
3. The opening segment highlighted that conflict prevention and sustaining peace must be at the heart of the UN work. Speakers stressed that more countries are experiencing violent conflict and an unprecedented number of civilians, in particular women and children, are directly affected by them. In view of the current challenges, calls were made for enhanced leadership from the United Nations. In this regard, the need for coherence within the UN system in support of Governments and their people's peacebuilding priorities was also underscored, as well as the urgent need for mobilization of resources for peace. Speakers also highlighted the links between sustainable development, peacebuilding and sustaining peace and human rights and called for active engagement of women and the youth in peacebuilding efforts as agents for peace.
4. 125 Member States and 5 Observers to the General Assembly took the floor in the plenary debate of the High-Level Meeting, including 5 Heads of State, 1 Head of Government, 2 Deputy Prime-Ministers, 21 Ministers and 16 Vice-Ministers, in a **resounding manifestation of political support for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including for mediation and conflict prevention**. On the occasion, Member States also voiced their support for the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and its central theme: the importance of United Nations system-wide coherence in support of nationally-led efforts to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, and an increased focus on prevention, guided by national ownership and people-centered approaches.

5. A total number of 150 civil society representatives participated in the activities related to the High-Level Meeting, including the 4 interactive dialogues that were held in parallel to the plenary debate.
6. The topics covered in the **interactive dialogues** were:
 - (i) Sustainable Financing for Peace;
 - (ii) Strengthening the UN Work on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Field;
 - (iii) Strategic Partnerships with the United Nations in the Field for Peace; and
 - (iv) UN Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Peace.
7. The High-Level Meeting reached **gender parity** among the speakers in the opening, the high-level lunch and interactive dialogues, with a total of 19 male and 19 female panelists.
8. As an **outcome** of the High-Level Meeting, the General Assembly adopted by consensus the **procedural resolution 72/276** on the “Follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace”. In parallel, the Security Council unanimously adopted the **identical resolution 2413 (2018)** after holding a briefing session on peacebuilding and sustaining peace on 25 April 2018. Two years after the adoption of the identical resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, **both organs of the United Nations came together once again with one voice in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.**
9. In this regard, the resolution adopted as an outcome of the High-Level Meeting decide to further discuss the recommendations and options contained the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and to further advance, explore and consider their implementation. They also request that the Secretary-General further reports on his recommendations and options, including those on financing for UN peacebuilding activities, during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly. For the following session, the Secretary-General is requested to submit a detailed report in connection with the next comprehensive review of the UN peacebuilding architecture.
10. As anticipated by the President of the General Assembly, this summary is another outcome of the High-Level Meeting, the aim of which is to synthesize the key recurring messages that stood out in the High-Level Meeting. This summary therefore aims at capturing the experiences shared by Member States and the relevant stakeholders that attended the High-Level Meeting.

Plenary

11. While emphasizing that lasting peace is an on-going process, Member States stressed that **Government authorities have to be fully committed to sustaining peace and own their peacebuilding efforts in conjunction with all sectors of their society.** Delegations also acknowledged the usefulness of the United Nations’ work on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, expressed support for the continuation of the UN’s efforts and underscored the particular needs of countries transitioning to a post-conflict stage. In this regard, they reaffirmed their commitment to the 2016 resolutions on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture and the notion of sustaining peace as defined therein.

12. Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Vice-Ministers and Senior Officials expressed concern with the surge of violent conflicts in many parts of the world and highlighted their own experiences with making and sustaining peace. Several Member States also expressed their concern at what they described as the Security Council's selective intervention in situations of risk and crisis. The UN's response to the crisis in Syria and other protracted conflicts was criticized as it undermined the credibility of the United Nations in face of global threats to international peace and security. In this regard, a few participants also called for the Security Council to effectively fulfil its mandate. Delegations also warned of the threats to international peace and security posed by the spread of radicalization, terrorism, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, weapons of mass destruction, violent extremism, marginalization, exclusion and unaddressed grievances.
13. In light of the above, participants called for addressing the root causes of conflict, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, institution building, deradicalization, education, respect for and protection and promotion of human rights, rule of law, access to justice, security sector reform, respect for international law, the use of preventive diplomacy, mediation, early warning mechanisms and strengthening multilateralism.
14. They also emphasized the importance of enhanced coherence and the pursuit of integrated and strategic approaches across the entire UN system in support of Member State-led peacebuilding efforts. Many delegations cautioned that this approach must be based on sound political and conflict analysis that recognizes the uniqueness and fluidity of each national and regional context rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.
15. In this regard, **the Secretary-General's peace and security, development and management reforms were welcomed as timely and appropriate**, in the hope of tearing down "silos" and strengthening accountability to deliver results and increase coordination and coherence and in line with the international community's refocused attention on prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict. Numerous Member States recognized the **unique and important role of the Peacebuilding Commission** in enhancing coherence among Member States and various partners, and called for a further strengthened Peacebuilding Support Office.
16. Member States also noted that the United Nations alone cannot achieve peacebuilding and sustaining peace and called for **enhanced strategic partnerships** that bring together key actors from across governments, the UN system, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society, including women's groups and youth organizations, international financial institutions, academia and the private sector. Emphasis particularly was placed on the need for improving cooperation on peacebuilding and sustaining peace with the African Union.
17. Inclusivity and a people-centred approach in the implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace was a central part of the discussions. Many stressed the call in the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and affirmed that peace is more sustainable when all parts of the society are involved, including **women and youth**. It was underlined that women should no longer be perceived as merely victims of conflict and rather as key players in peacebuilding. Citing from the **progress report on Youth, Peace and Security**, Member States highlighted the importance of ensuring youth meaningful participation in peacebuilding activities and providing them with equitable

access to basic services (education, employment and other opportunities) to foster resilient societies and strengthen social cohesion.

18. Member States also broadly recognized the importance of prevention, citing from the UN-World Bank study, *Pathways for Peace*, that conflict prevention was “cost-effective, saves lives, and safeguards development gains.” It was also highlighted that a scaled-up system for prevention action could save, in accordance with the UN-World Bank study, **between US \$5billion and US \$70billion per year**, which could be invested in development to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reach the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
19. The need to provide the Secretary-General and the UN system with the required tools, particularly for **adequate, predictable and sustained financing of peacebuilding** initiatives was also acknowledged. The chronic under-resourcing of the Peacebuilding Fund, as well as overall shortage of funds for peacebuilding, were pointed as major challenges moving forward. The Secretary-General’s appeal for a “quantum leap” in funding to the Peacebuilding Fund was recalled in this regard. References were also made to the proposals made by Secretary-General to mobilize resources to peacebuilding from assessed and voluntary contributions, as well as from other innovative financing solutions.
20. Many delegations affirmed the **strong interlinkages between peace and development** and, sharing their own country examples and citing from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, underscored that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. Member States built on the thesis of the World Bank study that both peace and violence are path-dependent and that a considerable proportion of contemporary conflicts are rooted in group-based grievances, which usually evolve from feelings of exclusion injustice and unfairness. In this regard, they reaffirmed that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an important blueprint for building more peaceful societies and called on the UN development system to enhance its capacity in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
21. Member States also asserted that the UN should make use of the **interlinkages and mutually reinforcing nature among the three pillars — peace and security, development and human rights** to enhance effectiveness and timeliness of the UN conflict prevention and human rights-based sustaining peace activities. It was stressed that while human rights violations and abuses are consequences of violent conflict they are also indicators of potential instability or escalation of conflict. In this regard, many Member States underlined the potential role of the Human Rights Council in sustaining peace and suggested utilizing human rights treaties and international norms as a prevention tool and its monitoring mechanisms as an integral part of early warning.
22. The plenary session concluded with the understanding that constructive discussion on sustaining peace should continue actively among Member States, the UN system and all other stakeholders beyond the High-level Meeting, and that now is the time to **focus on implementation**. Similarly, it was noted that continued momentum and consistent support from Member States are critical in ensuring successful implementation of the twin resolutions and continuing to build a stronger and

more effective peacebuilding architecture with greater emphasis on conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

Interactive Dialogue I: Sustainable Financing for Peace

23. The first interactive dialogue brought together Member States, international and regional financial institutions, development banks, private sector, civil society and the United Nations system to reflect on the specific proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report for sustained financing for peacebuilding and on ways to further mobilize resources.
24. The speakers were invited to reflect on
 - (i) how to ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing for nationally led United Nations peacebuilding efforts;
 - (ii) how financing for sustaining peace and financing for the Sustainable Development Goals can be complementary;
 - (iii) how to address the continuing under-resourcing of the Peacebuilding Fund and to achieve the quantum leap that the Secretary-General called for; and
 - (iv) how to build partnerships that reinforce traditional financing mechanisms and lead to innovative financing for sustaining peace.
25. Central to the discussion was a recognition by the panel that the surge of violent conflict is one of the greatest impediments to sustainable and inclusive growth. This **interlinkage between sustaining peace and sustainable development was strongly emphasized**, including through the example of the Colombian peace agreement. The cost of responding to successive, intractable crises has become unsustainably high as the United Nations is spending \$7 billion on addressing the consequences of conflict and less than \$1 billion on preventing them from flaring up.
26. The UN-World Bank study, *Pathways for Peace*, originated from the conviction that the international community's attention must be refocused on **prevention**. This analysis demonstrates average **net savings of close to a total of \$5 billion per year** in even the most pessimistic prevention scenario, including a saving of \$698 million to the international community on humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping operations. Optimistic scenarios project net savings of \$70 billion per year in total and \$1.5 billion savings on humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping operations. **There is ample evidence that prevention works, saves lives, and is cost-effective.**
27. Speakers also reflected that given the increasingly diverse nature of development finance, an integrated response to peacebuilding requires **strategic and effective partnerships with international financial institutions**. The United Nations and the World Bank are governed by different yet complementary mandates, but share a commitment to prevention, including preventing violent conflict. In this regard, the World Bank shareholders recently endorsed a package of measures that will greatly strengthen the institution's financial ability to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and allow for greater responsiveness to risks to stability in fragile countries.
28. The representatives from the **private sector** noted that more can be done to utilize its transformative power, expertise, ability to unlock capital and access resources in the interest of

peace. This can include galvanizing stakeholders from the public, private and philanthropic sectors to jointly create **innovative financial products for peace**. Speakers also highlighted the necessity of exploring innovative financing methods to build and sustain peace. Innovative finance can harness the power of finance to benefit society and the environment, and help build inclusion and reduce inequalities. Innovative solutions, such as investments aimed at the economic empowerment of women and at boosting the economy of countries with high-risk of conflict, were given as a way of illustration of recent involvement of the private sector with sustaining peace and sustainable development.

29. **The role of regional and sub-regional organizations** in the peaceful settlement of disputes was also stressed. Regional organizations have hands-on knowledge and expertise, strong local networks, and analytical capacity. The panel also reflected on the specific challenges that the **African Union** also faces with sustainable financing in the regionally led peace operations. The catalytic role of the Peacebuilding Fund was recognized and calls were made for a “quantum leap” in support for the Fund.
30. Participants stressed the need for paying due consideration to the recommendations and options provided by the Secretary-General on assessed, voluntary and innovative financing to peacebuilding. They also looked forward to further elaboration of the financing options in the requested report of the Secretary-General in the seventy-third session.

Interactive Dialogue II: Strengthening the UN’s Work on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the Field

31. The second interactive dialogue brought together speakers from the UN headquarters and the field, a regional organization as well as a representative of Secretary-General’s high-level advisory board on mediation and academia. Speakers were invited to reflect on
- (i) how the United Nations can better support Member States in the field comprehensively and strategically;
 - (ii) how the advisory and convening roles of the Peacebuilding Commission can be further enhanced and results-driven;
 - (iii) how to further enhance the role of the Peacebuilding Commission; and
 - (iv) how the revitalization of the Peacebuilding Support Office can contribute to enhanced coherence in support of the UN work in the field; what is needed to further revitalize the Peacebuilding Support Office.
32. As **fragmentation remains a challenge** for the effectiveness of the UN’s work, speakers stressed the need for more integration, coordination and coherence of the UN’s activities in the field. Emphasis was placed on the need to bring together work in peace and security, development, human rights and humanitarian action in support of nationally-owned initiatives that seek to meet identified needs and challenges across the peace and conflict continuum. There were calls for joint analysis, the identification of joint goals and a “whole-of-system” approach.

33. Panelists also remarked that international activities to sustain peace cannot substitute nationally owned efforts but rather must reflect an effort to listen to the needs of Member States and their people and accompany governments and societies to realize their priorities. The UN has the ability to connect the dots and the convening power to gather all relevant actors around the table.
34. There was a mutual understanding that **peacebuilding plans should be drawn based upon existing policies** to avoid duplication and should be developed at the country level. In the same vein, consultation processes to develop such plans should be given the time needed and be led in an inclusive manner. For example, in the case of the Central African Republic, the UN's support included a joint peacebuilding and recovery needs assessment by the United Nations, World Bank and EU, to assist the government to identify its priorities and define a way forward, supplemented by the necessary resources. These efforts were translated into a comprehensive national plan for recovery and peacebuilding. In Côte d'Ivoire, the United Nations supported national efforts in building stability and peace and the government had taken the ownership over the key pillars defined in the relevant Security Council resolutions. In Liberia, a national peacebuilding plan was developed and coordinated by the national government with support from the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The case of Liberia in the Peacebuilding Commission provided lessons learned on promoting local and national ownership, and providing time for inclusive consultation, including with women.
35. The responsibility of UN intergovernmental bodies that guide the UN's work in the field in prioritizing addressing root causes of conflict was emphasized. In that regard, the Peacebuilding Commission was mentioned as serving as unique platform to enhance coherence between the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. It was noted that the PBC plays an important role as a dedicated intergovernmental advisory body that can facilitate coherence in international peacebuilding efforts, connecting the pillars of the UN system, and serving as a platform to bring together a diverse and broad-ranging sets of actors on country-specific, regional, and thematic issues.
36. The interactive dialogue outlined the new Action for Peacekeeping initiative and its aim to enable the integration of the sustaining peace framework in the engagement of peacekeeping operations, including through enhanced performance and accountability, more rigorous and independent strategic reviews of peacekeeping operations, examination of political objectives, enhanced coherence across the system and improved cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund in peacekeeping mission settings.
37. Regional and sub-regional organizations also outlined their toolbox for prevention, conflict settlement, building and sustaining peace in the field, structural prevention and partnerships.

Interactive Dialogue III: Strategic Partnerships with the United Nations for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

38. The third interactive dialogue brought together speakers from the United Nations in the field, civil society, private sector and academia to reflect on
- (i) how to effectively build an ecosystem of partners for sustaining peace;

- (ii) how to ensure that partnerships build on the comparative advantages of different actors;
- (iii) how to effectively engage women and young people in peacebuilding efforts;
- (iv) how to enhance partnerships between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations; and
- (v) how to effectively develop community-engagement strategies in cooperation with national authorities.

39. The importance of partnerships was underscored strongly, mostly with the understanding that sustaining peace requires collective responsibility. As such, the United Nations was encouraged to **foster relationships widely**, with various stakeholders such as multilateral organizations, sub regional and regional groups, private sector, International Financial Institutions and civil society. It was acknowledged that the success of partnerships is also rooted at the national level, with the inclusion of women and youth.
40. Speakers noted that sub-regional and regional groups have their fingers on the pulse and proximity to the conflicts. They also have the expertise, strong local networks and analytical capacity and, therefore, can play a pivotal role in mediation and settlement of disputes. Thus, it is important to identify ways of enhancing partnerships and financing regional and sub-regional organizations. There have been useful examples of joint mediation support from various multilateral organizations and conflict analysis to understand drivers of conflict.
41. Another key important partner is the private sector. There was agreement that this avenue is underutilized. The private sector is an important partner in the sustainability of peace and in the creation of an enabling environment. **The private sector controls 90% of the global job market and 60% of global GDP.** Consequently, its key for them to be engaged in discussions on sustaining peace as they have transformative potential, competency to harness resources. Speakers called on the United Nations to understand the nuances of the private sector with a view to engaging them in a constructive manner, and forging partnerships with comparative advantage.
42. Given that most of today's conflicts are not between countries, rather within countries, with multiple actors, as the Secretary-General report mentions, it is a must to effectively build an ecosystem of partners. Therefore, utilizing partnerships with civil society and academia, women's groups and especially youth groups plays a vital role to this ecosystem.
43. There was recognition that in a world where development finance is increasingly diverse, an integrated response to peacebuilding requires strategic and effective partnerships with international financial institutions that act as primary financial partners of many governments.
44. In this regard, **developing partnerships with the World Bank**, has already made great strides for the United Nations particularly by harnessing the UN's implementation capacity, security operations, deep-field presence and normative frameworks to the World Bank's significant financial resources and technical expertise in specific peacebuilding contexts. The recent UN-World Bank study, *Pathways for Peace*, has been another positive contribution to the discourse on sustaining peace.

Interactive Dialogue IV: UN Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Peace

45. The fourth interactive dialogue brought together representatives from the UN, international organizations and civil society. Speakers were invited to reflect on
- (i) how the UN system can ensure policy and operational coherence, accountable leadership and enhanced capacities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace across its pillars;
 - (ii) how to better integrate a youth and a gender perspective with a cross-pillar approach to sustaining peace; and
 - (iii) how sustainable development and the promotion of human rights can be part of conflict prevention efforts.
46. It was widely acknowledged that a cross-pillar approach to sustaining peace and peacebuilding requires coherence and coordination at the country level. In this regard, **UN Resident Coordinators are key in facilitating dialogue between the national government and the UN country team when negotiating the UN Development Assistance Frameworks**. It was particularly noted that progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals goes hand in hand with sustaining peace, as unaddressed grievances due to marginalization and exclusion have the potential to breed violence.
47. The UN deploys over 40 peace and development advisors to every region to work with national partners on addressing potential drivers of conflict and with UN Country Teams to ensure that the UN's development engagement is **sensitive to the country context**. They are a model for systematic and system-wide integrated analysis and programming, which is increasingly becoming the norm, used to inform decision making at the highest levels.
48. Sustaining peace also calls for **greater emphasis on regional strategies**, approaches and engagement. The UN's regional political offices were mentioned as to be particularly effective platforms for preventive diplomacy and mediation. UN Regional Commissions can serve as think tanks to identify challenges, opportunities and threats.
49. It was noted that there was growing recognition that **human rights are a necessary foundation for peace** and their violations an early warning sign of potential conflict. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and treaties that derive from it can be used as prevention tools. It was noted that the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies do important monitoring work. Citing increasing threats to the universality of human rights and shrinking space for civil society, one speaker argued that the UN system and Member States need to reaffirm their commitment to human rights. It was emphasized that sustaining peace cannot be achieved without ending impunity and ensuring reconciliation and justice.
50. Humanitarian action and the promotion of international humanitarian law are vital stabilizing factors and humanitarian assistance can pave the way for peace. In this context, it is important that the UN approach to peacebuilding also allows space for principled humanitarian action.
51. **Inclusion** must be the basis for everything the United Nations does. That is particularly true for women and youth. The recently published progress report on Youth, Peace and Security was mentioned in this context. Women must be promoted as equal and strategic leaders. Women need

to have more active political roles, including as parliamentarians. The panel called to invest in better data and more gender analysis to inform decision making on gender and peacebuilding. The Peacebuilding Fund was commended for allocating 36% of its resources for projects supporting women's peacebuilding work in 2017.

52. Finally, the panel noted the need for better understanding and investing in long term and structural prevention. Climate change, land disputes and increasing water insecurity in many countries were identified as threats to peace. The panel also outlined the risks of illegal arms transfers and trade, the use of which results in serious violations of international law, and the threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity.

Summary of key messages:

- (i) Conflict prevention and sustaining peace should be at the heart of the UN work;
- (ii) Government authorities have to be fully committed to sustaining peace and must own their peacebuilding efforts in conjunction with all sectors of their society;
- (iii) There is a need for greater coherence within the UN system in support of Governments and their people's peacebuilding priorities;
- (iv) There is an urgent need for mobilization of resources for peacebuilding and sustaining peace;
- (v) Women and the youth are active and indispensable agents for peace and they should be included in all stages of sustaining peace efforts and activities;
- (vi) The United Nations alone cannot achieve sustaining peace and, therefore, enhanced strategic partnerships are needed, most notably with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, private sector, international financial institutions and the civil society;
- (vii) The Secretary-General's peace and security, development and management reforms and their implementation shall assist in improving role of the UN in sustaining peace and preventing conflict;
- (viii) The Peacebuilding Commission is a unique platform for the promotion of peacebuilding and sustaining peace and its advisory role and convening power potential should be maximally utilized moving forward;
- (ix) The three pillars of the UN – peace and security, development and human rights – are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. A coherent and integrated approach across the three pillars can contribute to the implementation of sustaining peace..
- (x) Discussion on sustaining peace should continue actively among Member States, the UN system and all other stakeholders beyond the High-level Meeting and it is important to keep momentum for the **implementation of the 2016 resolutions on** the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture.

HIGH LEVEL MEETING
Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace
24-26 April 2018
UN General Assembly, UN Headquarters

Final Programme

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| 04/24/2018 | OPENING SEGMENT | |
| 09:00 - 10:00am GA Hall | H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák H.E. Mr. António Guterres Ms. Michelle Yeoh Mr. Ishmael Beah Ms. Joy Onyesoh Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake | <i>President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly</i> <i>Secretary-General of the United Nations</i> <i>Actress, Producer and UNDP Goodwill Ambassador</i> <i>UNICEF Advocate for Children Affected by War</i> <i>President of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in Nigeria</i> <i>Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth</i> |
| 04/24/2018 10:00am-1:00pm GA Hall | HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT | |
| 04/24/2018 1:15-2:45pm Delegates Dining Room | HIGH-LEVEL LUNCH <u>Keynote speakers</u> H.E. Ms. Mary Robinson H.E. Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão <u>Moderator</u> Ms. Femi Oke | |
| | | <i>Member of the Elders, President, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice and former President of Ireland</i> <i>Eminent Person of the g7+ and Former President and Former Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste</i> <i>Journalist and Television Presenter</i> |
| 04/24/2018 3:00-6:00pm GA Hall | PLENARY DEBATE | |
| 04/24/2018 3:00-4:25pm CR4 | INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE I: SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR PEACE <u>Video Message</u> Mr. Richard Branson | |
| | | <i>Founder of Virgin Group</i> |

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| | <p><u>Speakers</u></p> <p>Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin <i>Senior Vice President, World Bank Group</i> Ms. Durreen Shahnaz <i>Founder and CEO of Impact Investment Exchange (IIX)</i> Ms. María Victoria Llorente <i>Executive Director of Fundación Ideas para la Paz</i> Dr. Donald Kaberuka <i>High representative for the African Union Peace Fund, and Chairman and Managing Partner at SouthBridge</i> Ms. Kate Thompson <i>Principal, Federal Strategy and Operations, Deloitte Consulting LLP</i></p> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p>Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco <i>Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support</i></p> <p><u>Invited as respondent from the floor</u></p> <p>H.E. Ms. Ine Eriksen Søreide <i>Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway</i></p> <p><u>Stakeholders from civil society</u></p> |
| <p>04/24/2018</p> <p>4:35-6:00pm</p> <p>CR4</p> | <p>INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE II: STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS WORK ON PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE IN THE FIELD</p> <p><u>Speakers</u></p> <p>Ms. Najat Rochdi <i>Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, UN Resident Coordinator, and Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Representative of the UNDP</i> Mr. Thomas Greminger <i>Secretary-General of the OSCE</i> H.E. Ms. Roza Otunbayeva <i>Former President of Kyrgyzstan and Member of Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Board on Mediation</i> Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix <i>Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations</i> Ms. Saraswathi Menon <i>Member of the AGE report on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture</i></p> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p>Ms. Ameerah Haq <i>Former Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Field Support and Vice Chair of the Independent Panel on Peace Operations, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor Leste</i></p> <p><u>Invited as respondent from the floor</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Marcel Amon-Tanoh <i>Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Cote d'Ivoire</i> H.E. Mr. Dănuț Sebastian Neculăescu <i>State Secretary for Regional Affairs and Multilateral Global Affairs in Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, in his capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission</i></p> <p><u>Stakeholders from civil society</u></p> |

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| 04/25/2018 10:00am-1:00pm GA Hall | PLENARY DEBATE |
| 04/25/2018 10:00-11:25am CR4 | INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE III: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS FOR PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE <u>Speakers</u> Mr. Yacoub El Hillo <i>UN Resident Coordinator for Liberia, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Humanitarian Coordinator</i> Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa <i>Chair of the Association of War Affected Women</i> Ms. Ilwad Elman <i>Director of Programs and Development Elman Peace and Human Rights Center</i> Dr. Jeffrey Sachs <i>President of General Assembly's External Advisor, University Professor at Columbia University and Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network</i> <u>Moderator</u> Mr. Nik Gowing <i>President of General Assembly's External Advisor, International Broadcaster; Founder 'Thinking the Unthinkable' project</i> <u>Invited as respondent from the floor</u> H.E. Mr. Salahuddin Rabbani <i>Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan</i> <u>Stakeholders from civil society</u> |
| 04/25/2018 11:35am-1:00pm CR4 | INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE IV: UN COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TO PEACE <u>Video Message</u> Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka <i>Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women</i> <u>Speakers</u> Mr. Peter Maurer <i>President of the International Committee of the Red Cross</i> Ms. Susan McDade <i>Assistant Administrator, Director, Bureau of Management, UN Development Programme</i> Mr. Miroslav Jenča <i>Officer in Charge, Department of Political Affairs, Assistant Secretary-General</i> Mr. Andrew Gilmour <i>Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights</i> Ms. Purna Sen <i>Director of Policy, Executive Coordinator and Spokesperson on Sexual Harassment and Discrimination, UN Women</i> <u>Moderator</u> Ms. Adriana Abdenur <i>Director of Peace and Security of Igarapé Institute</i> <u>Invited as respondent from the floor</u> H.E. Mr. Nestor Popolizio <i>Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru</i> <u>Stakeholders from civil society</u> |

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| 04/25/2018 3:00- 6:00pm GA Hall | PLENARY DEBATE |
| 04/26/2018 10:00- 12:00am GA Hall | PLENARY DEBATE |
| 04/26/2018 12:00- 1:00pm GA Hall | CLOSING SESSION H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák <i>President of the General Assembly</i> |

YOUTH DIALOGUE

PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

The President of the General Assembly convened a one-day Youth Dialogue on 30 May 2018, with the purpose of listening to young people and focusing on the topics of education, employment and the prevention of radicalization leading to violent extremism. It consisted of an opening segment, two chats, an open mic session and a closing segment. A Youth Media Zone ran in parallel to the Youth Dialogue. This document contains a written summary of the event, photo summaries of each segment and 10 action points from the President based on the contributions made during the Youth Dialogue.

Snapshot of key messages:

**Young people as
leaders today - not
tomorrow**

**Focus on access to
opportunity**

**Need for consistent -
rather than once-off
- engagement with
youth actors**

**Role for UN as
bridge-builder
between young
people and policy
makers**

**Education: quality
as well as quantity**

**Caution against
linking violent
extremism with
poverty or religion**

**Stronger link
between education
and the job market**

**Unique challenges
faced by young
women**

Opening Segment

The opening segment ran from 10:00 am to 11:00 am and interventions were made from the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák; Sheikha Hind Bint Hamad Al-Thani, Vice Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development; Mr. Pita Taufatofua, Tongan Olympian; Ms. Mari Malek, DJ and founder of “Stand For Education”; The Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake; and Mr. Emmanuel Kelly, Singer and Songwriter.

The President of the General Assembly outlined the importance of convening this Youth Dialogue – to listen to young people. The President stated that the United Nations is here for all people, and young people, in particular, have a lot to contribute (earth on the youngest stage ever with more than 50% of people under 30 years old). He spoke about his interactions with many youths around the world and their frustration at not being included in important decisions affecting their lives. On education, he emphasised the need for quality education and access to it. With regard to employment, the President asked for young people to share their experiences in relation to getting decent jobs and underemployment. He called for more strategic thinking on what we can do to ensure that young people, and in particular young women, have better access to the job market. On radicalization and the risk of violent extremism, the President highlighted that it is a very complex issue that we do not fully grasp. He invited young people to share their views and advice on these issues and to speak freely.

During the opening segment speakers:

- highlighted the importance of education for young people and spoke of Sustainable Development Goal 4 as a universal right.
- described the Youth Dialogue as a milestone in our journey to implement the 2030 Agenda and said that young people cannot be left behind.
- encouraged young people to pursue their dreams and not to be discouraged by failure.
- highlighted the importance of education for girls, with one speaker stressing that child marriages and early motherhood affect girls’ access to education.
- outlined that half of the world’s population is under 25 years old and have been lucrative targets for extremists but that not everyone is a ticking bomb.
- shared personal stories to show that youth have the power to make big changes. The stories included: 1) the story Mohammed Sidibay a former child soldier, who is now a peace activist. With this story it was emphasized that education is the key to conflict prevention; 2) the story of Peace Adobola from Abuja who advocates for girls’ education and seeks partnerships to provide sanitary pads at school; and 3) the story of Rita Kimani, founder of FarmDrive, an enterprise committed to improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Africa by using new data-driven technology to increase the availability of capital.



Chat 1: The future of work – Bridging the gap between education and employment

The Chat ran for one hour, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. The moderator was Ms. Jamira Burley. The speakers were: Ms. Shamoy Hajare, Founder of the Jamaica School for Social Entrepreneurship; Ms. Safaath Ahmed Zahir, Founder of Women and Democracy; and Mr. Mohamed Sidibay, Peace activist, Global Partnership for Education.

It was highlighted that 75 million young people are leaving school without prospects for decent jobs. The mismatch between the education people get in schools and what is actually needed in the job market was acknowledged as well as the need to address this gap. It was stated that the education systems need to change to suit new realities, which could be country specific. The need for investment in education and the fact that 264 million children still do not have access to education were underscored.

Speakers stated that quality education should be a fundamental right and viewed as a necessity for everyone. Some advocated for teaching entrepreneurship and innovation in school.

Speakers also emphasized the role of the private sector in promoting education and offering opportunities for decent jobs.

Internships were highlighted as one opportunity but it was recognised that many do not have the means to access them. At the same time, a lack of opportunities for young people in some countries was underscored.

The need to create an enabling environment, including laws and policies, by both Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that job markets provide opportunities and the education system provides the necessary requirements skills was stressed.

It was said that it is not a lack of money but a lack of political will to address the issues of education and employment.

The need for women to have equal access to education and job opportunities was stressed, including rural women. The point was made that world leaders should appoint women to positions of responsibility and leadership.

Speakers said that young people with the power to make change have a responsibility to other young people.

The critical importance of environment protection was underscored and the fact that new jobs should be environmentally-friendly, promoting the green economy and addressing climate change. It was stressed that we need to develop skills that promote this objective through adequate education.



Chat 2: Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism – What are the Push and Pull factors?

The Chat ran for one hour, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. The moderator was Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. The speakers were: Ms. Joy Bishara, Student at Southeastern University; Dr. Siniša Vuković, Assistant Professor for the Conflict Management Program and Global Policy Program at Johns Hopkins University; and Mr. Farea Al-Muslimi, Co-Founder and Chairman of Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies.

One of the main messages was that the extremist groups develop when institutions fail to provide what they should – whether basic (food, healthcare) or complex (security, opportunities, political representation).

It was outlined that people in the age group of 12-19 years old is most vulnerable to radicalization. Participants said that we are still fighting the symptoms and not the disease and that we need to focus more on preventing radicalization and violent extremism. This included diverting more funding to prevention.

Speakers outlined that radicalization is a complex process and should not be linked to unemployment only. Data was shared to indicate that root causes of violent extremism include political/social exclusion, marginalization, lack of opportunity.

It was highlighted that religion should be seen as an opportunity, not a problem. UNDP study, “Journey to Radicalization”, actually found that the longer someone stays in religious teaching, the less likely they are to become engaged in extremism.

Speakers also made the link between extremism and conflict. It was stated that extremism does occur in peaceful settings but extremist groups have grown in places affected by conflict.

The media was identified as both a solution and a risk. The example was given of Boko Haram using social media to communicate with fighters all over the country while at the same time a social media campaign #bringhomeourgirls led to the liberation of Chibok girls.

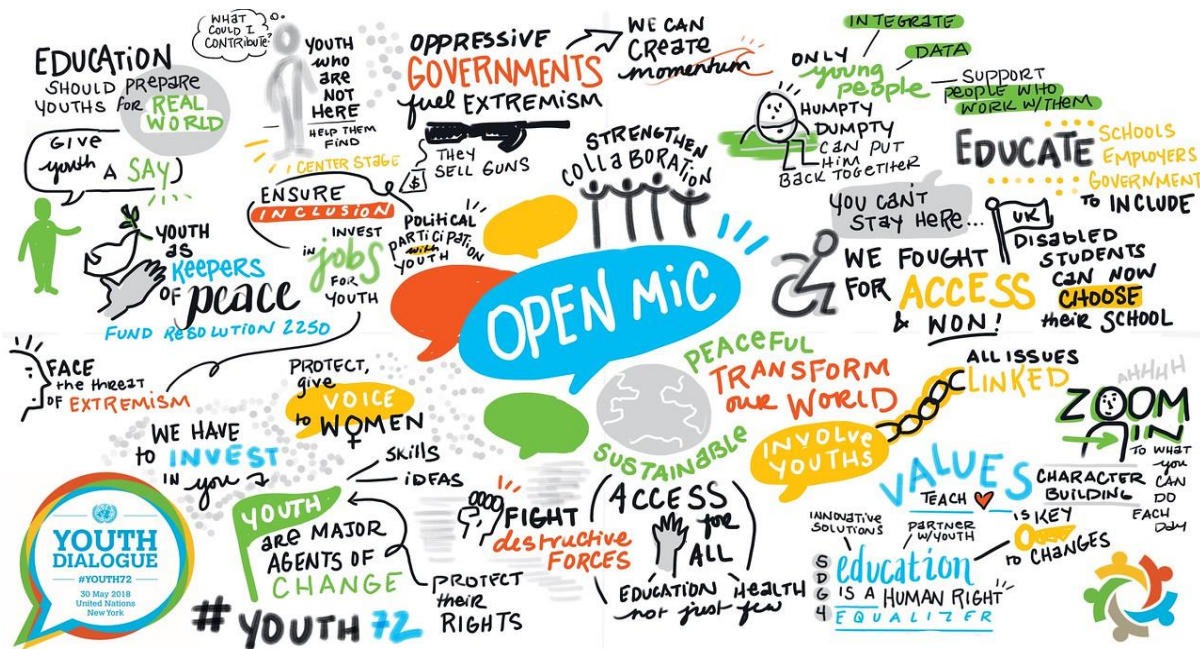
The growing trend of young people to read only news that fits their own ideology/leanings – and to reject anything outside the box was identified as worrying.

The need for respect, love and care when combatting terrorism was emphasised as well as the need to teach children tolerance within the family, in classrooms and through the media.

The link between identity and radicalization was highlighted and the idea that when your own or your “group’s” identity is overly emphasized, you can become radicalized easier.

Speakers dispelled the myth that there is a direct link between poverty and extremism. It was stated that violent extremism is more likely to be caused by political disempowerment than poverty. Speakers also rejected the narrative that youth are a problem and instead said that youth hold the solutions.

Social media was highlighted as an avenue to promote peace.



It was mentioned that governments have a role to play in preventing radicalization and violent extremism. Marginalization and unequal treatment of young people were identified as factors that could lead to violent extremism. Speakers underscored the need for communication between government and youth directly.

Some shared the view that meaningful inclusion of young people can provide an avenue for identification and expression while diffusing social tension and preventing radicalization. Further, it was stated that we must ensure that young people have their say in decision-making. The need to include young people in the peacebuilding process was also mentioned.

The need for youth-led solutions, dialogue and the importance of listening to young people were underscored.

Many highlighted the importance of love, empathy, understanding of each other's cultures and compassion for peace and sustainable development.

Speakers stressed the importance of young people in saving the planet and environment. Some outlined challenges facing young people, including climate change, unemployment, gang violence and access to healthcare.

The need for gender-sensitive policies was stressed. It was highlighted that girls in crises around the world are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys.



Closing Segment

The President thanked participants for sharing their stories and for the solutions which can be replicated in other places and handed over to Mr. Emmanuel Kelly to wrap up the event.

Links to the Youth Dialogue

The Opening Segment, Chat 1 and Chat 2 can be viewed in full using this link:
<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/treaty-bodies/watch/part-1-president-of-the-general-assemblys-youth-dialogue.-youth72/5791519661001/?term=&page=6?lanfrench>

The Open Mic Segment can be viewed in full using this link: <http://webtv.un.org/search/part-2-president-of-the-general-assemblys-youth-dialogue.-youth72/5791892202001/?term=youth%20dialogue&sort=date>

Youth Media Zone

The Youth Media Zone ran parallel to the Youth Dialogue from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in the United Nations Correspondents' Association Room. It consisted of interactive spaces and a series of interviews.

The *first interview* was entitled *Let's talk about Sports! Why Sports and Development go hand in hand*. The moderator was Mr. Brenden Varma, Spokesperson for the President of the United Nations General Assembly and the speakers were Mr. Pita Taufatofua, Tongan Olympian and Ms. Chanelle Sladics, Professional Snowboarder.

The full interview can be viewed using this link: <http://webtv.un.org/search/lets-talk-about-sports-why-sports-and-development-go-hand-in-hand-youth-dialogue-media-zone-youth72/5791419101001/?term=youth%20dialogue&sort=date>

The *second interview* was entitled *Missing Peace: The Role of Youth in Conflict Prevention and Sustaining Peace*. The moderator was Mr. Sherwin Bryce-Pease, President, United Nations Correspondents Association and the speakers were H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the United Nations General Assembly; Ms. Ella Okko, a spokesperson for the “Lennons” Peace Ambassador group, a Finnish youth initiative created by Crisis Management Initiative; and Mr. Leonardo Párraga, Social entrepreneur, Founder of the BogotArt Foundation, and Co-founder of the campaign Cartas por la Reconciliación.

The full interview can be viewed using this link: <http://webtv.un.org/search/missing-peace-the-role-of-youth-in-conflict-prevention-and-sustaining-peace-youth-dialogue-media-zone-youth72/5791458561001/?term=youth%20dialogue&sort=date>

The *third interview* was entitled *Politics Reclaimed! Promoting Youth Political Participation*. The moderator was Mr. Sherwin Bryce-Pease, President, United Nations Correspondents Association and the speakers were Mr. Nasir Adhama, Special Youth Adviser to the President of Nigeria and Ms. Tierney Oberhammer, Director of Production at Flocabulary.

The full interview can be viewed using this link: <http://webtv.un.org/search/politics-reclaimed-promoting-youth-political-participation-youth-dialogue-media-zone-youth72/5791491137001/?term=youth%20dialogue&sort=date>

The *fourth interview* was entitled *The Future of work: a young entrepreneur's guide to success*. The moderator was Mr. Rehman Siddiq, Entrepreneur and social activist, Chief Editor at The Youth Observer and Founder and CEO of MacroHype. The speakers were Mr. Jay Hammonds, VIP Operations Technician at Facebook, Forbes 30 Under 30 for 2018 and Ms. Kelly Lovell, CEO of Lovell Corporation and My Effect Inc., Youth Mobilizer and Social Entrepreneur.

The full interview can be viewed at this link: <http://webtv.un.org/search/the-future-of-work-a-young-entrepreneurs-guide-to-success-youth-dialogue-media-zone-youth72/5791512096001/?term=youth%20dialogue&sort=date>

The Way Forward

During the Youth Dialogue participants focused on what has already taken place (exploring, for example, best practices, lessons learnt and experiences). A key aim of the Dialogue, however, was to focus on the way forward.

The discussions therefore featured many ideas about what can change and how we can effect this change. After carefully listening to the key messages during the Youth Dialogue, the President has compiled 10 points for further action.

Many are targeted at national governments, though NGOs, United Nations agencies and other actors could play a major role in advocating for them or directly enacting them.

10 Action Points from the President of the United Nations General Assembly:

- 1) **Listening** to young people. This means inviting them to the table, for example through national oversight groups, which allow for interaction with government officials.
- 2) **Bringing** the United Nations closer to young people. This could entail more user-friendly social media campaigns, or more events like the Youth Dialogue.
- 3) **Using** education to prevent radicalization. Curricula could be adapted to the new realities of radicalization and violent extremism, in order to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to resist targeting by extremist groups.
- 4) **Encouraging** international donors to put a stronger focus on quality, in the context of educational funding. There could also be more in-depth needs assessments, with the aim of linking training and educational development to gaps in employment markets.
- 5) **Rolling out** workshops and training on entrepreneurship, interview skills and innovation in schools and universities;
- 6) **Developing** outreach initiatives, to educate young peacebuilders on UN Security Council 2250, dealing with Youth Peace and Security. UN Agencies involved in implementing this resolution could also engage in online and in-person surveys and consultations.
- 7) **Designing** gender-sensitive policies across all government bodies and UN agencies, with a special focus on young women.
- 8) **Investing** in green opportunities for higher youth employment.
- 9) **Using** communication strategies and tools to debunk damaging myths, which associate young people with crime, anti-social behaviour, or violent extremism – and highlighting the overwhelmingly positive role young people play in societies.
- 10) **Including** young people in all decision-making processes, particularly where young people are most affected.

ANNEX 6: Team of External Advisors to the President of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly

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| Antonio de Aguiar Patriota | Ambassador of Brazil to Italy, former Foreign Minister of Brazil, former Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN |
| Amina Mohamed | Cabinet Secretary for Education of Kenya, former Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Kenya, former Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the UNEP; former Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations |
| Carl Bildt | Co-chair of the Board of Trustees of the European Council on Foreign Relations, former Prime Minister of Sweden, former Foreign Minister of Sweden |
| Carlos Lopes | Professor, University of Cape Town, former Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa |
| Francisco José Pereira Pinto de Balsemão | Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Group IMPRESA, former Prime Minister of Portugal |
| Igor Ivanov | President of the Russian International Affairs Council, former Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation |
| Irina Bokova | Former Director-General of UNESCO, former Member of Parliament |
| Jean-Marie Guéhenno | Former President and CEO of the International Crisis Group, former Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations |
| Jeffrey Sachs | Director of the Earth Institute, Columbia University, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the Sustainable Development Goals |
| José Ramos-Horta | Chair of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, former President of Timor-Leste, Nobel Peace Laureate |
| Karen Donfried | President of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and former special assistant to the President of the United States and senior director for European affairs on the National Security Council at the White House |
| Kishore Mahbubani | Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, former Permanent Representative of Singapore to the UN |
| Marty Natalegawa | Distinguished Fellow Asia Society Policy Institute, former Foreign Minister of Indonesia |
| Nabil Fahmy | Dean of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy and former foreign Minister of Egypt |
| Nik Gowing | Co-Author, 'Thinking the Unthinkable' |
| Susana Malcorra | Advisor to President of Argentina, former Foreign Minister of Argentina, former Chef de Cabinet of the UN Secretary-General |