



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 September 2019

Excellency,

As you will recall, I held nine Morning Mingas, the dialogues between the President of the General Assembly and Permanent Representatives, mandated under General Assembly resolution 72/313 of 17 September 2017 on the “revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”. The dialogues, which were started during the previous session of the General Assembly, serve as a series of informal discussions focused on issues of concern to the United Nations and seek to build understanding and consensus on those issues to facilitate concrete action.

The nine Morning Mingas, I convened focused on the following thematic issues:

- 2 November 2018 on “Advancing Revitalization through the work of GA, the main Committees and ECOSOC”;
- 6 December 2018 on “Leading by example: Making progress on gender equality and women’s empowerment”;
- 30 January 2019 on “40 years after BAPA: Reinvigorating South-South cooperation”;
- 8 March 2019 on “Improving participation in and effectiveness of the General Assembly’s Work, including through the quality of service”.
- 15 April 2019 on “Bringing the UN closer to the people: re-thinking media and communication for the General Assembly and its Committees”;
- 29 May 2019 on “Strengthening the Office of the President of the General Assembly for an effective General Assembly”;

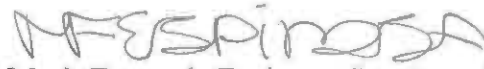
All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

- 27 June on "LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS at the UN: supporting their effective engagement";
- 30 August 2019 on "Combatting intolerance and hate speech on the internet and social media: what potential for action at the intergovernmental level?";
- 9 September 2019 on "Bringing the UN closer to the people: Millennials Perceptions of the United Nations and its Communication Efforts".

I found the outcomes of those discussions extremely beneficial and could be helpful for the work of the General Assembly in the years ahead.

In this regard, I am pleased to share with you a compilation of all the reports of the Morning Mingas.

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



María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

Summary of the First Morning Minga¹ (Dialogue)
Advancing Revitalization through the work of GA, the main Committees and ECOSOC

Friday, 2 November 2018

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mrs. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés convened the first Morning Minga, on Friday 2 November 2018 with the participation of 25 Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives.

The series of Morning Minga, introduced during the previous session of the General Assembly, will offer an opportunity to engage in informal discussions on issues of concern for the United Nations. Discussions do not represent a formal process and will not generate any official report. They are held under Chatham House rules, with the main objective to promote genuine dialogue that seeks solutions and provides ideas for concrete action, without constituting a parallel track for existing processes.

The first Morning Minga has been dedicated to the critical issue of the revitalization, rationalization and harmonization of the work of the General Assembly, its main committees and the ECOSOC. During this dialogue, participants highlighted a number of issues related to the work of these bodies, while stressing some measures that need to be undertaken to improve existing methods of work. This includes:

- For the General Assembly Debate, there was a broad agreement on the need to address the critical issue of the growing number of High-Level meetings and side events, which is undermining the General Debate of the Assembly. Participants stressed on the importance to preserve the primacy and deference of this important forum, which cannot be achieved without making sure that parallel activities are managed rationally, in order to avoid impacting negatively the Debate.
- Participants were of the view that General Assembly Revitalization process has the potential to further improve methods of work on different clusters, while recognizing the achievements realized so far. In this context, consensus has been qualified as a golden rule, which makes the outcome stronger despite the difficulty to achieve it.
- While recognizing the important role of the General Assembly, as a universal body that sets the norms on a range of matters, there is a great need to work more on communication in order to ensure that the people we deliver for understand the outcomes.
- Representatives underlined the importance of a stronger involvement and early engagement of Ambassadors in different negotiation processes, while recognizing the

¹ Minga is an Ecuadorian tradition of community activity

important role of experts. It is about finding a balance between technical and political constraints, that ensure a quality outcome.

- In this context, there was a suggestion to create a space for informal discussions, including retreats that involve Ambassadors, experts and secretariat to brainstorm on appropriate solutions for different processes. Experts will also need to be strengthened so that they seek for solutions rather than adhering to their positions.
- The number and length of resolutions has been raised by participants, who insisted on the need to further rationalize, especially for small delegations who are facing difficulties to follow all processes.
- This could be done through clustering and revising periodicity of resolutions as well as streamlining the content. We need also to discuss the added value of new resolutions and evaluate what exist already, in order to ensure more efficiency.
- As far as the work of the main Committees is concerned, participants underlined the need to ensure more interaction between different committees as well as between exiting and incoming Bureaus.
- They have raised the issue of the growing number of tabled resolutions, while the time to deliver on respective agendas did not change over the years. They also stressed on the need to focus more on the implementation, including through dedicating more time to review status of implementation, strengthen the system and raise awareness.
- There was also a reference to the committee's agenda items related to revitalization, which are usually not used by Chairs of committees to advance the issue within their respective committees.
- While recognizing the added value of some side events, their huge number raised questions about their impacts. There is a serious need to manage this challenge, including through exercising self-discipline by Member States and UN agencies and establishing guidelines.
- Facilitators of different processes have been encouraged to meet and exchange views and practices in order to improve their work. Some highlighted the need for facilitators to meet and engage directly with regional and political groups to understand the gist of their positions and seek compromise.

- The process of alignment of agendas of the GA, ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been highlighted as an important process to create more coordination and synergy in the work of different organs.
- It was suggested that the General Committee, which has a balanced representation and a manageable number of members, should meet more regularly and deliberate on these important matters.

Summary of the Second Morning Minga (Dialogue)
Leading by example: Making progress on gender equality and women's empowerment

Thursday, 6 December 2018

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mrs. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés convened the second Morning Minga, on Thursday, 6 December 2018, with the participation of 18 Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives.

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The second Morning Minga has been dedicated to the critical issue of gender equality and women's empowerment. The discussion focused on how the General Assembly and its Committees can advance gender equality around the world to achieve the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Key points raised during the dialogue include:

- There was a broad agreement on the need to focus on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in light of the upcoming 25th anniversary of its adoption. The anniversary should be used as an opportunity to push for the full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action.
- Participants highlighted that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action continues to serve as a landmark document for the promotion of gender equality around the world and should not be reopened. Other participants noted that the 25th anniversary is an opportunity to take stock of progress and highlight new challenges.

The importance of national and regional reviews was also underlined.

- It was further noted that the resolution adopted during the last session of CSW provides a good guidance for the celebration of the 25th anniversary in the framework of the General Assembly. In this regard, the need for a procedural resolution in the General Assembly and the importance of Member States' ownership was underlined.
- It was further highlighted that the 25th anniversary should be used as an opportunity to share good practices and to set the vision for the next 25 years. The inclusion of civil society and other stakeholders in the process was also underlined. It was also noted that the upcoming 25th anniversaries of the ICPD Programme of Action (2019) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (2020) are complementary.
- Regarding efforts to promote gender equality within the General Assembly, there was a suggestion to engage more young women diplomats in the work of the General Assembly. In this respect, the importance of work-life balance was also underlined.
- The International Gender Champions was highlighted as a useful initiative with practical solutions to promote gender parity within the UN and the General Assembly. Gender balance in the composition of panels and the appointment of co-facilitators are among the practical initiatives that bring about change.
- Participants further noted that gender equality is a cross-cutting issue and should be placed high on the UN's agenda. Some participants noted the polarization of views on certain issues related to the promotion of gender equality and expressed concern about recent efforts to reopen previous agreements. It was suggested that Member States should focus on building bridges and finding practical solutions to challenges.
- Participants welcomed the initiative of the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level event on Women in Power on 12 March 2019 on the sidelines of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- The high-level event will bring together senior leaders and other participants from governments, the UN system, private sector and civil society, to share experiences and learn from success stories on advancing women's leadership.
- Participants suggested that young women as well as opinion-makers should also be included in the high-level event besides political leaders. The engagement of male leaders was also stressed. Finally, there was a proposal to present a President's award for young women in leadership on the occasion of the high-level event.

**Summary of the third Morning Minga (Dialogue)
40 years after BAPA²: Reinvigorating South-South cooperation**

Wednesday, 30 January 2019

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mrs. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, convened the third Morning Minga on 30 January 2019, with the participation of 15 Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives.

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The third Morning Minga was dedicated to the critical issue of South-South cooperation. The discussion focused on the current trends in South-South and triangular cooperation, the role of the United Nations in supporting and promoting such cooperation, and expectations of the upcoming second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 20-22 March 2019. Key points raised during the dialogue include:

- South-South cooperation is unique development cooperation and a collective responsibility and solidarity of the Global South. There is a broad agreement that there is need to reinvigorate and strengthen South-South cooperation in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Participants acknowledged the interlinkages of South-South cooperation to other internationally agreed frameworks and issues, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Global Compact on Migration, the Paris Agreement, United Nations reforms, and health.
- The role of the United Nations in supporting and promoting South-South cooperation was highlighted. While recognizing that the United Nations Funds and Programmes and Specialized Agencies have been mainstreaming South-South cooperation into their works, there were suggestions that the United Nations system makes available their bilateral and multilateral financial access and that the United Nations reforms take South-South cooperation into account further.

² Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries which was adopted on 12 September 1978 in Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and Resident Coordinators can play important roles in facilitating South-South cooperation. RECs could provide platforms for sharing good practices and innovation.
- The role of triangular cooperation is important and relevant as it brings know-how and an added value to bilateral and multilateral cooperation.
- Participants recognized the contribution of South-South cooperation in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in sustainable development.
- With regards to the BAPA+40, participants expressed their high expectations on advancing South-South cooperation agenda to effectively implement the Sustainable Development Goals by means of sharing of experiences, addressing capacity gap and digital divide, engaging the private sector on innovation, financing, and capacities, and discussing evaluation and quantitative assessment of South-South cooperation. There was a suggestion to produce a Plan of Action, particularly on illicit financial flows and global financial aid.
- While recognizing the principles of South-South cooperation as a fundamental framework for the outcome document of the BAPA+40, the outcome document must capture today's reality.
- Opportunities and challenges related to South-South cooperation which require further discussion and careful consideration include emerging technological advances, new internet governance, the 4th industrial revolution, digital divide, rising millennial, growing sustainability mindset, lack of data and collecting data, using GDP indicators rather than multi-dimensional poverty index, monitoring and reporting, follow up to the BAPA+40, incentivizing South-South cooperation at the United Nations, sectoral issue, different level of development among developing countries, and the graduation of Least Developed Countries.
- The lack of data and information on the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in efforts to facilitate knowledge sharing and experiences as well as information on best practices in the attainment of sustainable development was highlighted. There was also a call for South-South cooperation to be effective and less or non-bureaucratic.

Summary of the fourth Morning Minga (Dialogue)
Improving participation in and effectiveness of the General Assembly's Work,
including through the quality of service

Friday, 8 March 2019

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mrs. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, convened the fourth Morning Minga on 8 March 2019, with the participation of 15 Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives.

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The fourth Morning Minga was dedicated to the critical issue of improving participation in and effectiveness of the General Assembly's work, including through the quality and addressing the cost of services. The revitalization and reform of the United Nations, as well as the upcoming 75th anniversary presents opportunities to make the UN more relevant for all people and respond to the needs of all Member States. Key points raised during the dialogue include the following:

- There was broad agreement on the need for strong engagement in the revitalization process. The changes required to improve the effectiveness of the General Assembly reside within the capacity and the commitment of Member States. Emphasis was placed on improving the methods of the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees through pooling the collective wisdom of Committee Chairs, as well as the Secretariat in streamlining and clustering resolutions. In addressing the streamlining of resolutions, it was recommended for specific focus to be placed on policy and political guidelines for implementation and reviewing progress over biennial and triennial periods.
- Both revitalization and alignment processes are important to improve coordination and reduce overlaps. As part of these processes, consideration should be given to the recommitment to the vows of multilateralism including the financial contribution of Member States for the organization to effectively deliver on its mandates and services.
- In improving the effectiveness of the General Assembly, participants reflected on the possibility of reviewing the calendar for the PGA and the Committee Chairs, noting the example of the PGA 73 undertaking all preparatory work for the processes of the High-Level Week of the 74th session. It was proposed that a review of the calendar would be undertaken during the 75th anniversary of the UN.

- Participants highlighted the need to streamline the number of High-Level Meetings and Side events to improve utility and outcomes, as well as the formulation of clear guidelines for the preparation of side events (which can be included in the revitalization document).
- It was acknowledged that while progress had been made in improving the quality of services for effective participation of delegations in meetings, delegations were eager to go further and noted opportunities in the following areas: (i) expanding the accessibility of interpretation services in a multilingual organization, (ii) enhancing the interactive portal for registering for meetings and statements; (iii) simplification of the Journal; and (iv) increase the time limit for presentation of statements.
- Regarding the impact of participation of delegations, it was highlighted that small delegations continue to be overburdened by the number of meetings which inhibits their ability to cover and address many of the critical issues and processes. The principle of leaving no one behind is relevant and important for Member States participation in the General Assembly.
- Consideration was given to improving the financial and support services of the Secretariat provided to the Office of the President of the General Assembly to execute the mandates of Member States. Specific attention was placed on aligning the resources by the Secretariat with priorities of the General Assembly.
- Participants noted the need for improved transparency in the work of the Secretariat to Member States and noted the need for increased interactive dialogue (under Chatham House Rules) to review the status of the organization, funding and delivery of core services as part of the efforts in revitalizing the work of the General Assembly and the reform of the United Nations. The procurement of services for the organization was identified as an area for review.
- There is an overwhelming demand for the reports of the Secretary-General to inform Member States of overlapping issues. It was acknowledged that there is a need to account for the specific circumstances of certain contexts and regions, which does not necessarily require the creation of separate reports and resolutions.
- Bearing in mind the special situation and needs of Small delegations, consideration should be given to a One Stop Shop arrangement to reduce the overlap, fragmentation and duplication; and calls for the implementation of recommendations made in previous reports.
- Careful consideration is required in assessing the quality and cost of services at facilities to Member States. There was expressed concern regarding the monopoly of the internal catering services at the UN, and the price of services which are above market and inhibits Member States use. A recommendation was made to streamline the costing of services in the UN to increase efficiency.

- UN HQ should be at the forefront of the ban plastics campaign to translate the policy and political directive into action. This was recognition for the Member States to support the Secretariat's internal efforts and there was a request for more information to support in this regard.
- Participants also noted their support in making the UNHQ more sustainable beyond the use of single-use plastics. Participants highlighted the large number of visitors and tourists to the UNHQ each day and noted that this presents an opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness and relevance of the UN.

Summary of the Fifth Morning Minga (Dialogue)
“Bringing the UN Closer to the People: Re-thinking Media and Communication for the General Assembly and its Committees”

Monday, 15 April 2019

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mrs. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, convened the fifth Morning Minga on 15 April 2019, with the participation of 10 Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives.

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The fifth Morning Minga looked at the critical issue of how the UN communicates to the public, to promote the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees. The discussion examined the effectiveness (and challenges) of UN communication efforts, vis-à-vis an ever-changing media landscape and evolving trends in engagement strategies. For the first time, the Morning Minga featured an external guest speaker, Mr. Jere Sullivan, Vice Chairman of International Public Affairs at Edelman, one of the leading global Public Relations and Marketing firms. With extensive expertise in communication, Mr. Sullivan set the stage for the discussion by illustrating research and evolving trends within the media landscape. Key takeaways from his presentation included the following:

- Communication is about relationship building – trust is key. In the Edelman trust barometer (a survey across 26 countries conducted yearly), UN polls high, as do many individual UN officials. However, when delving deeper into public knowledge about what the UN actually does, there is often confusion.

- The most critical element of successful communication is messaging. Organizations and businesses who communicate most effectively are those who have clear, concise messages and speak with a **unified voice**. Effective communication also goes beyond content. Platforms (social media, for example) used to communicate are just as important.
- The rise of individual communicators (influencers on social media, high-profile figures communicating directly to public) has altered the communication landscape. Women and Millennials have become the greatest amplifiers of messages, with millennials being the fastest rising group. Millennials also tend to be opinionated, and moved to action. Their communication consumption differs as well, as they prefer visual content, where brevity is key
- Research shows that there are 3 categories of individual consumers: 1) the “Disengaged” – those who seek out information less than once per week; 2) “Consumers” – those who seek out information weekly; and 3) “Amplifiers” – individuals who not only regularly consume information, but help to disseminate it further to amplify the messages. This is the group that is **CORE** to what the UN does, and the group we need to focus on engaging
- Nowadays, people have more access to information in any given day than our grandparents had in a lifetime. But with so much access to information, consumers need to be more selective.
- Academics and technical experts are seen as the most trustworthy sources of information, while the trust levels in media outlets are continuing to decline. News are increasingly seen as being politically driven, and audiences have developed a tendency to “aggregate” their own news – seeking out sources that are consistent with their political leanings or general interests. The onslaught of perceived “fake news” is also calling the credibility of media as reputable sources into question

Key Discussion Points Raised in the Dialogue:

- The general public does not fully understand what the UN does. The way we communicate is convoluted and difficult to understand, peppered with too many acronyms and references to internal bodies and processes that are unknown to a broader audience. There is a need for better storytelling, clear messages and talking points. We must not be afraid of new media platforms. We also need to simplify our stories and need an “elevator pitch” to succinctly communicate and showcase the impact of the Organization’s work
- The UN needs to improve its engagement at the local level as well. We are not communicating solely to New York-based audiences. Our messaging needs to be as clear and as relevant to all individuals we serve, whether they live in urban or remote rural settings. We need to involve local offices (RC, UNICs) to help us amplify the messages with local audiences, and speak as ONE UN
- Media training for UN staff and officials is extremely important. News outlets are always looking for content as well as counter points. The UN usually represents this

counter point, therefore, we must be skilled at driving the conversation to our own key messages and talking points. If academics and technical experts are seen as the most trustworthy sources of information, we should utilize those individuals as spokespeople as much as possible

- Old ways of public diplomacy have changed. There are no 'governmental tools' for transmitting information to the new generations. New platforms such as Twitter and Instagram pose a challenge in rapid communication. We need to rethink the way we communicate as diplomats, rethink the target audiences, and ways to engage them. But we must not forget that diplomacy is one of the main things we have to communicate on
- All Member States are spokespeople for the UN. While Member States have different priorities at the country level, we all have a shared responsibility to communicate a unified message about the work of the UN, its results and impact around the world. There is agreement that a larger conversation with the Secretariat is needed on how to better utilize the existing communication resources, both at the Headquarters level, but in the field as well, through the use of UNICs and RC Offices.

Summary of the Sixth Morning Minga (Dialogue)
"Strengthening the Office of the President of the General Assembly for an effective General Assembly"

Wednesday, 29 May 2019

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mrs. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés convened the sixth Morning Minga, on Friday 29 May 2019, with the participation of 11 Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives. The meeting has been generously hosted by the Ambassador of Argentina, H.E. Mr. Martín García Moritán, at his residence.

The series of Morning Minga, introduced during the previous session of the General Assembly, will offer an opportunity to engage in informal discussions on issues of concern for the United Nations. Discussions do not represent a formal process and will not generate any official report. They are held under Chatham House rules, with the main objective to promote genuine dialogue that seeks solutions and provides ideas for concrete action, without constituting a parallel track for existing processes.

The sixth Morning Minga has been dedicated to the important issue of strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, in order to ensure it serves Member States in a more effective and efficient manner. During this dialogue, participants highlighted a number of issues related to staffing, financial situation of the Office as well as other measures to strengthen its institutional memory, transparency and accountability. This includes:

- There was a broad agreement among participants on the need to address the critical issue of appropriate measures to strengthen the Office of the PGA, in particular in light of the

growing role of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the number of mandates, processes and events to be organized.

- The sources of funding for the Office constitute a critical matter to ensure more predictability, transparency and effectiveness. While recognizing efforts of Member States who have generously made contributions to the Trust Fund of the Office, the current funding model is not sustainable, as it relies essentially on voluntary contributions 87%.
- Most participants agreed on the need to address the financial challenges the OPGA is facing, in order to spare the President-elect fundraising efforts throughout the whole session and ultimately ensure equality between different PGAs in terms of available resources.
- The issue of staffing needs also to be addressed, as the high level of turnover at the Office is affecting seriously its institutional memory. Secondments from Member States and the UN System continue to provide majority of the Office members.
- Some participants drew parallel with the Security Council, which has permanent staff to provide the needed support to the President of the Council. The Revitalization process needs to address this problem, including through providing permanent staff to support successive presidencies, taking into consideration the existing examples (UNESCO for instance). In this context, participants expressed support to this issue, including the provision of a permanent P5 position for the Office, discussed previously in the context of the GA Revitalization process as well as the fifth committee.
- Preserving the institutional memory of the Office relies also on the quality of support provided by the Secretariat. Participants suggested to strengthen the SG's support to the Office, through exploring further options and means.
- Participants stressed out the primacy of the position of President of the General Assembly, as he/she is representing the chief deliberative and the most universal body of the United Nations. Accordingly, the treatment to be reserved to the PGA in terms of protocol and precedence should reflect this position.
- The Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly has been reaffirmed as the main forum to promote all issues related to the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

Summary of the Seventh Morning Minga (Dialogue)
LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS at the UN: supporting their effective engagement

Thursday, 27 June 2019

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés convened the seventh Morning Minga, on Thursday 27 June 2019, with the participation of 12 Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives. The Minga was conducted at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Reading Room.

The Morning Mingas provide a critical opportunity for the President of the General Assembly to engage with Permanent Representatives and Member States on matters of thematic and strategic importance to the work of the General Assembly and the United Nations more broadly. All Morning Mingas are held under Chatham House rules in order to encourage open and frank dialogue. With a view to seeking solutions and discussing innovative ideas to streamline and fast track the work of the General Assembly.

During the Morning Minga, participants highlighted multiple issues of concern to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) whilst recognising their distinct challenges and vulnerabilities. Topics covered included strengthening the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS); addressing structural rigidities and challenges associated with achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and financing for initiatives to support LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. The summary of the discussion and its key messages are as follows:

- For LDCs/LLDCs/SIDS, strengthened partnerships, international cooperation and solidarity are of key importance. These will be essential to the success of LDCs/LLDCs/SIDS in achieving their dedicated Programmes of Action – Istanbul Programme of Action, Vienna Program of Action (VPoA) and Samoa Pathway – which have been all recognized as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda.
- There is a need to scale up means of implementation for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS including, but not limited to, technical and technological capacity building, financial resources, technology transfer, and access to markets.
- LDCs/LLDCs/SIDS need urgent mobilization of resources. It is concerning that both Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) have decreased over the last few years. This compounds the vulnerabilities that are faced by LDCs/LLDCs/SIDS. There was broad support for the use of blended finance to de-risk private sector investments. Better support for private sector must be available, to ‘demystify’ the process of investing in countries in vulnerable situations.
- The Report on Implementation of the VPoA demonstrates that progress has been made on some SDGs in LLDCs, but they lag behind in many, particularly SDG 1 (Eradication of Poverty). The Mid-Term Review process, which is taking place now and will conclude

in December 2019, provides an excellent opportunity to take stock, determine next steps to accelerate implementation of the VPoA and revitalize the international community's commitment to addressing LLDCs challenges. The Group is looking for a Political Declaration that is balanced, ambitious, and action orientated.

- Climate change was mentioned as one of the major concerns for LDCs/LLDCs/SIDS as well as limited access to technologies and lack of timely and reliable data. Participants also agreed on the need to better understand multidimensional poverty.
- The role of the regional commissions is important in supporting LDCs/LLDCs/SIDS with research and data to inform policy decisions. It is partly a lack of data that contributes to the ineffective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Participants commended the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its leadership for being effective in its support to its region.
- There was broad agreement among participants that the UN support to LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS needs to be strengthened. In particular, this pertained to the strengthening of OHRLLS, which services a constituency of around 90 Member States. This relates to budget as well as staffing.
- Support was given to the idea that political declarations, negotiations, and discussions on issues pertaining to LDCs/LLDCs/SIDS must be adequately politicised. Participants encouraged greater politicisation of issues pertaining to LDCs/LLDCs/SIDS, owing lack of progress not to a lack of political will, but to excessive reliance on process.
- International financing institutions need to better support LDCs/LLDCs/SIDS and take particular note of their structural rigidities which require tailored and specific policy approaches. Structural rigidities also needed to be taken into account when assessing progress on the SDGs. By virtue of their nature, they require longer-term policy approaches to be adjusted; these time frames are incompatible with the 2030 deadline of the SDG agenda. In that sense, they stressed the need to plan strategically beyond 2030.
- It was highlighted the need to reinforce coordination between New York and Geneva, particularly in order to bolster the effective participation of smaller delegations from LDCs/LLDCs/SIDS in the multilateral negotiation processes.

Summary of the Eight Morning Minga (Dialogue)

“Combatting intolerance and hate speech on the internet and social media: what potential for action at the intergovernmental level?”

Friday, 30 August 2019, 8:30 p.m.

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mrs. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés convened the eighth Morning Minga, on Friday 30 August 2019, with the participation of 9 Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives.

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The eight Morning Minga has been dedicated to the important issue of **“Combating intolerance and hate speech on the internet and social media: what potential for action at the intergovernmental level?”**

During this dialogue, participants highlighted a number of issues related to, which includes:

- There was a consensus among participants that Member States and the United Nations should quickly take collective action to combat the spread of hate speech through social media channels
- Several recent hate-based attacks were mentioned to illustrate as the need of a coordinated response is urgent and mandatory
- Representatives acknowledged that the *UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech*, launched by the Secretary-General on 18 June 2019, was a very important and timely step in this direction
- Most participants stressed that the dissemination of hate speech cannot be misinterpreted and therefore addressing it could not be considered limiting freedom of speech
- Considering the reach of social media, especially among the youth, it could also be used in a positive and constructive way as a powerful tool to disseminate values of tolerance, as part of a more comprehensive educational plan of action
- Addressing hate speech is crucial and cannot be an exclusive responsibility of governments. It should be done in a multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder approach, including the participation of civil society, academia and the private sector representatives
- Some participants indicated that hate speech cannot be considered only under the auspices of the UN human rights system issue as it negatively affects all three UN pillars impeding the full realization of peace and security and sustainable development

- There was a consensual view that, considering UN historical engagement on different expression of hatred, the Organization must also take the lead in combating nowadays atrocities and securing democratic values
- Concrete suggestions for follow-up were raised, such as recommending the incoming PGA and the UNSG to coordinate efforts with Member States to strengthen multilateral mechanisms to combat intolerance and hate speech; organizing a compilation of all UN existing documents, such as resolutions and reports from different bodies; and considering the creation of a Group of Friends to discuss and present further proposals on the matter

Summary of the Ninth Morning Minga (Dialogue)
Bringing the UN closer to the people: Millennial Perceptions
of the United Nations and its Communication Efforts

Monday, 9 September 2019

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mrs. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, convened the ninth Morning Minga on 9 September 2019, with the participation of 14 Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives.

The series of Morning Minga, introduced during the previous session of the General Assembly, offers an opportunity to engage in informal discussions on issues of concern for the United Nations. Discussions do not represent a formal process and will not generate any official report. They are held under Chatham House rules, with the main objective to promote genuine dialogue that seeks solutions and provides ideas for concrete action, without constituting a parallel track for existing processes.

The ninth Morning Minga featured eight graduate students from United World College, who shared their insights and perceptions of the United Nations and its agenda, representing the Millennial perspective, and engaging in a discussion around how the UN can engage more effectively with youth. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Jere Sullivan, Vice Chairman of International Public Affairs at Edelman, one of the leading global Public Relations and Marketing firms. Key takeaways from the discussion included the following:

- The students began the discussion by sharing some of their perceptions of the United Nations. In general, the group overwhelmingly felt that the UN was a tangible, albeit not always reachable force. There was consensus that the world is well aware of the UN, but when delving deeper into public knowledge about what the UN actually does, there is often confusion.

- Same holds true for Sustainable Development Goals – there seems to be general awareness of the goals, but details of what they are, how they are being addressed, and how the UN is actually supporting is not well known
- When asked to use one word they associate with the UN, the students expressed the following: potential, hope, connection, collaboration and bureaucracy
 - The UN is perceived as a powerful, inspiring body that is needed to solve the world's problems and to create connections between different cultures, governments, and people around the world. But is also seen as a confusing, overly hierarchical entity, where processes are convoluted and take too long
- The digital world is where communication with youth is taking place. Youth communicate and consume information instantaneously. Communication is constant and transcends borders and time zones. It is important for the UN to utilize this space, but it needs to remain mindful of maintaining its integrity and reputation as a reliable, authoritative source. Successful social media approaches should involve local celebrities or local leadership. Messaging needs to be “relatable” and relevant to the audiences consuming the information.
- However, it's important to remember that, in some communities, information is a privilege- not everyone has access to it. The UN must continue to reach out to communities on the ground, through civil society and grassroots organizations in order to ensure no community is left behind.
- When asked what the UN should do in order to connect more closely to youth specifically and people around the world more generally, the students had the following insights
 - The UN needs to engage with youth directly. Engage them in conversation, hear their opinions, make them active participants in decision-making processes
 - The SDGs are inter-generational in nature, and represent frameworks designed to include youth perspectives as we look towards long-term sustainability. The UN should engage youth more actively in pushing the 2030 Agenda
 - One of the biggest challenges youth face is uncertainty- uncertainty as a result of climate change, of job insecurity, etc. The youth want to look to the UN to provide that sense of certainty, to be a source of knowledge and authority
 - The UN needs to do a better job at explaining how it works – not only through the 193 Member States, but also through various agencies on the ground
 - The UN needs to be more “accessible” and more relatable – need to explore ways to involve the creative community and provide them with access to see the inner workings of the UN, explore ideas of documentaries which further demonstrate UN work behind the scenes

- Finally, there was overwhelming consensus that the youth need to TAKE OVER, within their families, communities, countries- to take charge, take action and get involved to ensure a better and more sustainable future for all