



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 August 2020

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith, a letter from H.E. Mrs. María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, announcing the publication of a book on the seventy-third session of the Assembly.

Copies of the book are available for collection. Delegations may wish to contact Mr. Marlon Salazar, Department of Operational Support ([salazarm@un.org](mailto:salazarm@un.org); 917 232 7956) to make arrangements for pick up.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script.

Tijanni Muhammad Bande

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

New York, 15 June 2020

Excellency,

It is with deep pleasure and gratitude that I share with you a copy of the book on the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, *Making the UN Relevant For All*, prepared by my office with input from the Committees of the Assembly. I regret that, due to the challenges of COVID-19, the release and distribution of the book was delayed.

The book highlights the key thematic priorities of the session as well as the work and outcomes on the major agenda items tackled by the Assembly and its main Committees; the innovations introduced to bring the United Nations closer to the people, including closer and more effective coordination with the other principal organs of the United Nations, with a view to advancing revitalization of our Organization; as well as the successful efforts to bring women and young people, especially young women leaders, into the processes and deliberations of the Assembly.

As you will recall, we began the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session with seven priorities of action: women's empowerment; youth, peace and security; environmental action; decent work; support for persons living with disability; migration and refugees; and revitalization of the UN. I am proud to say that we hosted High Level Events on each of these critical areas and were involved in all major global processes, from the Global Compact on Migration to COP25. Through each of these events we demonstrated the critical role of the General Assembly as the 'parliament of humanity', a truly democratic forum for all Member States to engage and to pursue the principles of the UN Charter.

One of the lasting legacies of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session is the complete removal of single-use plastics from UNHQ. Through our campaign on plastic pollution, supported by Member States such as Antigua and Barbuda, Norway, and Qatar, and working closely with the Secretary General, we hosted both a global advocacy campaign and spearheaded local efforts at home. For this I am deeply grateful and personally proud.

The book, which seeks to capture the vision and the achievements of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session, is both a record of the session as well as a source of information on the ways through which outcomes critical for peace and security, human rights and sustainable development were realized. It is therefore of value to practitioners, young diplomats, researchers and academia.

The results of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session are a shared achievement of the membership of the United Nations. It is through the support of those Member States that the achievements, challenges and lessons learned of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session could be captured, synthesized and presented for all.

I am grateful to the many Member States who graciously provided resources to the Trust Fund of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. I would like to express particular appreciation to the Government of Qatar for their support in the production of this book.

The last few months have presented some of the most challenging times that the world has ever seen. Certainly, the most challenging that we have seen in our lifetimes. Now more than ever, multilateralism, and the spirit of cooperation, partnership and solidarity are needed across board. We are truly stronger together. It is my hope that this book will contribute to reinforcing the commitment essential to that end.

With many thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. ESPINOSA". The letters are stylized and connected, with a prominent "M" and "E" at the beginning.

Maria Fernanda Espinosa