



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15 September 2020

Excellency,

In line with General Assembly resolution 74/303 of 4 September 2019, entitled, “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”, I have the honour to share with you a handover report, which I transmitted to H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President-elect of the seventy-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

This handover report is a contribution to efforts aimed at strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and at ensuring a smooth transition from the seventy-fourth to seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly. The report highlights the collective determination of UN Member States to maintain business continuity as the world wrestled with the unprecedented challenges triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions, as well as the Secretariat, for their engagement, commitment and support throughout the session to advance the work of the General Assembly.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tijjani Muhammad-Bande', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

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



*Striving Together,
Delivering For All*

HANDOVER REPORT

From the President of the 74th session of the General Assembly,

H. E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande,

To his successor, President of the 75th session of the General Assembly,

H. E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir

14 September 2020

Executive Summary

The 74th session of the General Assembly started on a high tempo with the guidelines for commemorating the 75th anniversary of the UN firmly set. The theme of the 74th session of the General Assembly was built around some SDG Goals, and the decade of action and delivery on the SDGs was in sight. The High-Level Week comprised several meetings focusing on progress and challenges in the attainment of the SDGs.

Seven areas dominated the activities of the 74th session. First were the meetings of the High Level week of the 74th session. These included the Climate Action Summit; the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage; the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development; and the High-Level Meeting to Review Progress made in addressing the Priorities of Small Island Development States through the Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway.

Second was the campaign against poverty eradication, which stood on three pillars, namely, the establishment of an Alliance for Poverty Eradication, the inauguration of an annual series of colloquium/policy dialogues on poverty eradication, and the creation of a Poverty Eradication Fund/Standby Facility. It must be stated that, due to the need for further consultations with all interested parties, the Fund is yet to be established. The Alliance for Poverty Eradication was launched successfully on 30th June 2020 with wide participation of eminent personalities from around the globe as well as the President of ECOSOC, the UN Secretary-General and Heads of UN agencies. A High-Level Meeting on Poverty Eradication Strategies was the first in an annual series of colloquia on poverty eradication. The Meeting identified challenges to poverty eradication and came up with substantive recommendations for action. Thirty-nine (39) countries joined as members of the Alliance for Poverty Eradication.

Third was the campaign on zero hunger, which featured an interactive dialogue at the UN Headquarters on the theme 'Targeting Hunger: South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Transforming Agriculture. The event clearly brought out the need to ensure food equity based on inclusive and efficient food systems; leverage international cooperation to strengthen agriculture systems; prioritize lifelong education for farmers; expose the youth to the entrepreneurial opportunities in farming; and engage the Group of Friends and relevant entities of the UN system to partner on the attainment of a world free from hunger.

Fourth was the preparations for the commemoration of UN@75, which entailed intergovernmental consultations and negotiations on the declaration and the organization of a virtual youth town hall to gather inputs for the declaration from youth organizations around the world; the organization of the UN75 People's Forum on 14 May 2020 during which the People's declaration was handed over to the PGA; facilitating arrangements for a virtual observance ceremony to commemorate the signing of the UN Charter on 26 June 2020; and preparations, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders for a virtual youth plenary on 9 September 2020, where youth representatives and civil society groups from around the world identified and amplified priorities for the commemoration of the UN@75. As stated in resolution A/73/299, the theme of UN@75 shall guide activities, meetings and conferences organized by the United Nations in 2020, including the General Debate of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

Fifth was the PGA's initiative on the High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (the FACTI Panel). The FACTI Panel is a joint initiative launched by the PGA and the President of ECOSOC on 02 March 2020 with the aim of contributing towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by reviewing existing international institutional and legal frameworks related to financial accountability, transparency and integrity, with a view to identifying any gaps, impediments and vulnerabilities in their design and/or implementation to make for efficient systems of financial accountability.

Sixth was the PGA's outreach to UN entities, civil society and the global audience through media briefings/interviews; engagements with various audiences during official travels; Spokesperson's media engagements; and Morning Dialogues with Permanent Representatives.

Seventh was the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the work of the General Assembly during the session. Many agenda items were cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic but, to ensure business continuity, the Assembly innovatively resorted to virtual platforms for convening meetings. The Assembly also adopted decisions through the use of silence procedures when, due to the risks posed by the coronavirus pandemic, it was not possible to convene plenary meetings of the General Assembly. The 75th PGA will thus inherit quite a number of mandates which could not be completed in the 74th session due to the pandemic and would have to devise a balanced approach to the work of the Assembly taking into consideration safety concerns, extant mandates, rules of procedure, imperatives for business continuity and technical capacity for alternative means of convening meetings.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly could not complete certain aspects of its work due the coronavirus pandemic and thus rolled over its work to the 75th session. Similarly, the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. On 31st August 2020, the Assembly adopted, by silence procedure, decision A/74/569 to roll over discussions on the item to the 75th session, and later took note of it in plenary on 3rd September 2020.

Preparations for the High-Level Week of the 75th session was delayed following vastly divergent views on how to adapt the rules of procedure to administrative arrangements for a hybrid format of the High-Level Week. Such divergencies pertained to the use of Speakers' List; use of pre-recorded videos; exercise of

rights of reply; determination of what should constitute verbatim records; and the protocol for introducing speakers during the meetings, among others.

On administrative matters, the staff of OPGA worked to ensure and preserve the dignity and impartiality of the Office and to continue to operate in an inclusive and transparent manner. On this matter, the assistance and guidance of the Secretariat was invaluable. In addition, perseverance and patience, while being time conscious, helped us reach much needed consensus on most matters.

In conclusion, the 74th session showed us that resilience and determination can take us far, especially when the resolve is shared, and belief in the multilateral system is strong.

1. Introduction to Handover Report

This handover report is prepared pursuant to resolution 73/341 of 16 September 2019 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (GA) and follows the standardized format developed by the President of the 73rd session. It serves to support a smooth transition from the 74th to the 75th session of the GA. It also serves to further strengthen the institutional memory of both the GA and the Office of its President (OPGA), as mandated by the resolution.

This report outlines major outcomes realized from events and on-going processes during the 74th session, and the lessons learned. A section on the impacts of the corona virus pandemic on the work of the United Nations General Assembly and their lessons learned is also included. The annexes contain relevant statistical information such as information on support provided by Member States and the Secretariat to OPGA, as well as a list of mandates that require follow-up action by the President during the 75th session.

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2.0 The 74th Session: An Overview of High-Level Deliberations, Priorities and Mandated Processes

Highlights of the 2019 General Debate

The General Assembly commenced its seventy-fourth session on 17 September 2019, while the General Debate was held from 24th to 30th September 2019 with the theme: “Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion.” The President of the General Assembly (PGA), Prof. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, set the tone for the session, underscoring the central role of the General Assembly in resolving the world’s most pressing issues, including threats to peace and security and to socio-economic development. He acknowledged emerging questions about multilateralism but cautioned that “we must never forget that the world looks up to the United Nations.”

During the General Debate, Heads of State and other leaders of delegations reiterated the achievements of the United Nations since inception and re-committed themselves to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, with the organization’s 75th anniversary in view. Speakers from all parts of the world affirmed their belief in an international rules-based order as being essential for global stability, security and prosperity.

The most resonant themes during the general debate were “sustainability” and “multilateralism,” while other themes such as ongoing conflicts, persisting poverty and deprivation, the increasingly catastrophic effects of climate change, widespread violations of human rights, the continuing threat from nuclear weapons and their potential proliferation, as well as the risks inherent in the dissolution of existing disarmament agreements, were also dominant.

During the 74th session of the Assembly, 192 Member States and 3 Observer entities (Palestine, Holy See and EU) made statements. One Member State did not speak. In total, 81 Heads of State and 6 Vice Presidents (including 7 women), 42

Heads of Government (including 4 women), and 57 Ministers (including 5 women) spoke. The longest speech lasted 50 minutes, the shortest 7, with an average speech length of 19 minutes. In addition to the six official languages, statements were delivered in 19 non-official languages. The 2019 high-level week featured six high-level meetings. In addition, the PGA held over 50 bilateral meetings, while 494 side events took place within the United Nations premises.

High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage

The high-level week of the 74th session of the General Assembly kicked off with the High-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage on 23 September 2019. The meeting was convened in accordance with resolutions 72/139 and 73/131. It adopted a Political Declaration negotiated and agreed to during the 73rd session.

The meeting, which featured the participation of more than 70 Heads of State and Government, highlighted the commitments by Member States to realize universal health coverage as a key element to achieve Goal 3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The President of the General Assembly highlighted, among other issues, the need to ensure affordable, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services and invest in research to better equip Member States in preventing diseases, among other benefits.

The event featured a general debate with statements by Heads of State and Government as well as Ministers, and simultaneous panel discussions on the topics of “Universal Health Coverage as a driver of equity, inclusive development and prosperity for all” and on “Accelerating multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder action and investments for achieving Universal Health Coverage”. The Political Declaration was formally adopted as resolution 74/2 on 10 October 2019.

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit)

The HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit), was convened for the first time since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015. The SDG Summit is mandated to “provide high-level political guidance on the Agenda and its implementation, identify progress and emerging challenges and mobilize further actions to accelerate implementation.”

The SDG Summit sought to take stock of progress made in realizing the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since its adoption in 2015, and to identify actions to accelerate implementation. Heads of State and Government, UN system and stakeholder representatives engaged in two plenary segments and six thematic Leaders’ Dialogues on: megatrends impacting the achievement of the SDGs; accelerating the achievement of the SDGs: critical entry points; measures to leverage progress across the SDGs; localizing the SDGs; partnerships for sustainable development; and the 2020-2030 vision.

Member States adopted the Political Declaration, “Gearing up for a Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development”, by consensus (A/RES/74/4). The political declaration reaffirms the transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda, highlighted the slow progress made in several areas, launched an ambitious and accelerated decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, pledged to strengthen the effective and participatory character of the HLPF and encouraged the peer-learning character of the voluntary national reviews. Additionally, Member States and stakeholders used the Summit to launch some 100 ambitious SDG Acceleration Actions.

The 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report was launched during the session and it identifies six entry points where interventions can have multiple impacts across the SDGs: human well-being and capabilities; sustainable and just economies; food systems and nutrition patterns; energy decarbonization with universal access; urban and peri-urban development; and global environmental

commons. Across all entry points, governance, economy and finance, individual and collective action, and science and technology were identified as important levers that can trigger positive synergistic impacts across the SDGs.

High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development/ HLD FFD

On 26 September 2019, the General Assembly held a High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (HLD FFD) at the United Nations Headquarters. The HLD FFD programme, which was the first since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (resolution 69/313, annex), was aligned with the priorities of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. A total of 14 Heads of State and Government and 28 Ministers, as well as several leaders of multilateral development banks, philanthropic, key institutional investors and civil society organizations participated in the deliberations.

Looking ahead to the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development (2020–2030), the participants in the HLD FFD called for intensified efforts, and made concrete commitments, towards accelerating the mobilization of resources from all sources, recognizing the cross-cutting importance of financing to achieve all of the Sustainable Development Goals. (The President’s summary of the HLD FFD is available at <https://undocs.org/A/74/559>).

High-Level Meeting to Commemorate and Promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear weapons

On September 26 2019, and as part of the High-level week of the 74th session, the PGA and his team organized the High-level plenary meeting to commemorate the International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on Sep 26, 2019. The International day is celebrated annually on the sidelines of the General Assembly with the aim of raising public awareness and seeking deeper engagement of the International Community on nuclear disarmament matters. A total of 56 countries participated in the meeting which included several Heads of State and

Government and Senior Ministers. The Assembly also heard from two civil society representatives on issues related to nuclear disarmament and the humanitarian consequences of their potential use. Participants at the meeting made a strong plea for nuclear disarmament and reiterated that total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only way to eliminate the threat of their use.

In addition, the PGA participated in the High-level Ceremony on Signing and Ratification of the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear weapons organized by the ten core group countries and the Office of Legal Affairs on September 26, 2019. The event was well attended and concluded with the signing/ratification of the treaty by a total of 12 additional countries, bringing the number of ratifications reached to 32 and those of signatories to 79. The PGA renewed his commitment to working towards a collective vision of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) bans all nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosions. The Treaty was negotiated in Geneva by the Conference on Disarmament. It was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution A/RES/50/245 on 10 September 1996, and opened for signature in September 1996. However, it is yet to enter into force. All 44 members of the Conference on Disarmament with nuclear power and/or research reactors must sign and ratify the Treaty before it enters into force. They are listed in Annex II of the Treaty. As of the date of the meeting, 184 countries had signed the CTBT, which has a unique and comprehensive verification regime to ensure that no nuclear explosion goes undetected. The International Monitoring System (IMS) will, when complete, consist of 337 facilities worldwide to monitor the planet for signs of nuclear explosions.

The 11th Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was held on 25 September 2019. During the conference, the PGA made a statement in which he highlighted the need to realize the vision of the CTBT and its core objectives, in order to contribute

effectively to the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. The PGA stressed that the CTBT regime constitutes, in itself, a powerful normative framework and a tacit deterrent to nuclear testing, adding that “It must, however, move from its current status to a legally-binding obligation for all Member States.” He urged those Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so without delay, especially those whose ratifications were needed for the Treaty to enter into force. The PGA also recalled in his speech the signing in 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as a legally-binding milestone instrument that included prohibitions against developing, testing, acquiring, using or even threatening to use nuclear weapons.

High-Level Meeting to Review Progress Made in Addressing the Priorities of Small Island Developing States Through the Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

Pursuant to General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/71/225, A/RES/72/307 and General Assembly Decision A/RES/73/522, the President of the General Assembly held the high-level review of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway on 27 September 2019 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters. The review served as a key opportunity for Small Island Developing States, partners, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the progress made and the challenges encountered in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, and the 2030 Agenda across all SIDS.

3.0 The Priorities of the 74th Session

Poverty Eradication

Recognizing the danger which poverty posed, particularly, to peace and stability, good governance and development, the President of the 74th Session of the General Assembly placed poverty eradication (SDG 1), at the top of his agenda. The PGA’s initiatives on poverty eradication sat on three pillars, namely, the establishment of an Alliance for the Eradication of Poverty, the inauguration of an

annual series of colloquium/policy dialogues on poverty eradication, and the creation of a Poverty Eradication Fund/Standby Facility.

Poverty Eradication Alliance

The Poverty Eradication Alliance is a group of like-minded UN Member States established with the aim of championing the cause of poverty eradication within the UN and at international forums. It will operate along the same line as the Groups of Friends performing advocacy roles on behalf of miscellaneous causes (education, food security, climate action and the like). The Alliance is expected, among other things, to follow up the implementation of UN resolutions on poverty eradication; raise general awareness about poverty and about progress or setbacks in eradicating it within and across countries and regions; serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, financing strategies, and international good practices in poverty eradication.

The Alliance will also lend support to efforts towards mobilization of resources for the eradication of poverty and the creation of wealth and jobs. It will accomplish these objectives by coming up with actionable strategies in the areas of partnerships, mobilization of resources, networking and information sharing. Based on resolution A/47/196, through which the General Assembly declared 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, the Alliance will collaborate with the Penholders on the commemoration of this important event and the implementation of the necessary follow-up activities.

Series of Colloquium/Policy Dialogues on Poverty Eradication

The Series of Colloquium/Policy Dialogues on Poverty Eradication was conceived as a high-level interactive event to be organized annually in partnership with UN agencies and hosted on a rotational basis by countries and/or interested agencies in different regions of the globe. The participants are expected to be high-level officials holding Ministerial-level positions in relevant developmental fields. The main objectives of the colloquium are to enable the participants to deliberate on

policies, strategies, planning models, and implementation processes geared towards the eradication of poverty.

The Colloquium is also expected to recommend measures that need to be instituted within and across socio-economic sectors (like education, agriculture, industry, manufacturing, and services) to facilitate accelerated poverty eradication and to track progress over time. The first in the series of policy dialogues on poverty eradication was held on 30 June 2020.

Poverty Eradication Fund

Lastly, the President of the General Assembly noted that the overall financing gap for the three core social sectors (health, education and social protection) is a clear constraint to ending extreme poverty and that underfunding has a particularly negative effect on those groups most at risk of being left behind. He therefore proposed the establishment of a Poverty Eradication Fund, a mechanism that would provide funding for the sectors ravaged by extreme poverty. The Fund is expected to be modelled after the Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDGF), though on a limited scale, since it will only address poverty eradication challenges.

It will be a pooled financing mechanism that will aim to support Member States in their efforts to accelerate the eradication of poverty in their domains. The Fund will harness resources from the public and private sectors through voluntary contributions. It will thereafter allocate the resources based on poverty eradication priorities identified by Member States or regional groupings. The Fund is also expected to contribute to the general economic and social wellbeing of developing countries as well as the living standards of their peoples. Since the Fund cannot take off without legislative authorization, further consultations with Member States are necessary to galvanize support for a draft resolution on the subject.

Inclusive Quality Education

In line with General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/25, which declared 24 January of every year as the International Day of Education, and as part of the ongoing dialogue on measures needed to scale up the attainment of SDG 4, the President of the General Assembly convened a High-Level Interactive Dialogue on the theme, “Aligning Inclusive Quality Education Policies with Sustainable Development Goals.” Policy makers, private sector operators, teachers, students and youth associations as well as civil society organizations participated in the event.

The main objectives of the event were to promote a common understanding of, and raise awareness about, the significance, benefits, and essentials of inclusive quality education and lifelong learning, as well as to highlight the progress attained and the challenges encountered in implementing inclusive quality education programmes within and across countries. Two sub-themes were discussed: “The Learning Crisis, Effectiveness of Contemporary Responses, and Pathways to Innovative Solutions,” and “Matching the Imperative of Inclusiveness with the Quest for Quality Education: Policy Choices and Action Priorities.”

The Dialogue identified the need to address the continuing decline in reading and writing skills, shortage of trained teachers; the disconnect between learning and workplace’s skill demands; funding deficits; limited inclusion and accessibility; failure to integrate positive psychology techniques in learning; and low socio-economic status, coupled with declining morale of teachers.

The Dialogue further recommended increased access to education for girls, children with disabilities and in conflict or emergency situations; allocation of 4.0 percent of GDP to education, investment in technical and vocational education; involvement of local communities in the design and implementation of inclusive quality education programmes; renewed political commitment to education; and introduction of innovative learning.

Zero Hunger

Throughout the 74th session, the PGA championed SDG 2 on Zero Hunger by advocating the intrinsic link between poverty and hunger as well as between sustainable agriculture and food security; the need for a greater focus on smallholder and women farmers; and access to finance and technology to farmers in developing countries.

Interactive Dialogue on 'Targeting Hunger: South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Transforming Agriculture'

As part of his efforts to promote international cooperation in the area of food security, the PGA on 12 February 2020 convened an interactive dialogue at the UN Headquarters on the theme 'Targeting Hunger: South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Transforming Agriculture'. The event had an opening session, two panel discussions, followed by interactive dialogues and a closing session.

The PGA presided at the opening session which also included interventions from the Director General of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNSSC). The two panels had representatives from public and private sectors, academia, UN entities and farming communities. At the end of the interactive conversation which included statements from the Member States, the PGA presided over the closing session and delivered his concluding remarks.

Based on the discussions at the event, a summary of the dialogue was circulated among the Member States, which highlighted the following key messages:

- We are not on track to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030. In fact, global hunger is on the rise for the fourth consecutive year.
- We must ensure food equity based on inclusive and efficient food systems.

- All forms of international cooperation, including South-South and Triangular Cooperation, must be leveraged to strengthen agriculture systems which underpin food security.
- We must prioritize lifelong education for farmers.
- Efforts must be directed at engaging youth in agriculture. Young people need to be informed of the available entrepreneurial opportunities in the farming profession.

Recommendation

It is important for the General Assembly to build on the momentum generated by the Dialogue and sustain engagement with the Group of Friends on Food Security and relevant entities of the UN system including FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNOSSC and DESA who work in the domain of food security. This is all the more important due to the current economic recession which threatens to increase global hunger and poverty.

Inclusion

The President of the General Assembly, in his Vision Statement, prioritized Inclusion, and in the Roadmap for the implementation of his priorities, reiterated the intention to focus on inclusion and the role and rights of women, the youth, persons with disability, and marginalized groups. On 3 December 2019, the PGA delivered a statement on the international day of persons with disabilities.

On 29 January 2020, he convened the inaugural meeting of the Steering Committee on Accessibility (SCA) at the United Nations. Also, under his leadership, the co-Chairs of the SCA, Ambassadors of Antigua and Barbuda, and the Republic of Korea convened regular meetings and maintained the situation of persons under COVID-19 as SCA's top priority. The PGA also voiced his support for persons with disabilities during the pandemic in his communications with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Although the work of the United Nations Steering Committee on Accessibility is not a mandated process, it is expected that the incoming PGA would continue with it, in view of the current pandemic and in support of the Secretary-General's call for disability-inclusive response to COVID-19 with the wide support of Member States.

Gender Equality

Promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls was a key element of the inclusion priority of the PGA. As a mark of his commitment, the PGA ensured gender balance in the staffing of his office. The 42-person team is comprised of 22 female and 20 male staff members. At the senior management level, the Chef de Cabinet, and three out of five team leaders are women. Furthermore, the President ensured gender balance in the selection of co-Chairs and co-facilitators of various processes of the United Nations for the 74th session of the General Assembly (Available on OPGA 74 website).

As an International Gender Champion, the PGA implemented the Panel Parity Pledge throughout the 74th Session and ensured that the panelists and moderators in all events organized by the Office of the President of the General Assembly were gender balanced. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls was also mainstreamed as a cross-cutting issue in his formal and informal interactions and statements, including United Nations 74th General Debate, the 43rd plenary session of the Human Rights Council, the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and International Women's Day 2020. He also engaged with women's groups and organizations, in New York and on official travels, to lend support to their activism.

Climate Action

Climate action was one of the key priorities during the 74th Session of the General Assembly and the PGA sustained the prominence which the issue enjoyed in the previous session, including the High-Level Meeting on Climate and Sustainable

Development, the review of the SDG13 in HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC and the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit. The transversal nature of climate action and the obvious interlinkages with issues related to poverty eradication, inclusion, oceans and biodiversity, were crucial to amplifying the PGA's main messages.

The focus of PGA74 on Climate Action was the promotion of a comprehensive approach to mitigation, adaptation and resilience, as well as the provision of means of implementation, in particular, climate financing. The PGA used his platform to place nature and biodiversity high on the political agenda for the 74th session and to strengthen global action to tackle climate change. The PGA focused on:

- Synergies among climate action, biodiversity, oceans, disaster risk reduction and the 2030 Agenda, particularly through an intergenerational lens;
- Engaging with a wide range of stakeholders (Governments, businesses, academia, civil society, indigenous peoples, women and youth) to champion good practices, catalyze efforts and promote an inclusive and integrated approach on a wide range of issues, including the strategic priorities of the 74th session; and
- Moving the means of implementation from agreements to action.
PGA74 action on the priority of climate action were pursued through the following opportunities:
 - The mid-term review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway on 27 September 2019;
 - The 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), hosted in Madrid, Spain in December 2019;
 - The preparations for the Summit on Biodiversity mandated by Resolution 73/234, 74/221 and 74/269 to be convened on 30 September 2020;
 - The preparatory meeting for the 2020 UN Ocean Conference and the political declaration for the Ocean Conference (Resolution 73/292);

- The 10th session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly in the United Arab Emirates in January 2020;
- A dedicated Morning Dialogue on “Fighting for Nature: A Sustainable Pathway to 2030,” on 18 February 2020; and
- Incorporation of Climate Action, statements and messages delivered during PGA’s travels, commemoration of international days, as well as his engagement in initiatives and site visits.

With 2020 dubbed as the Super Year for Nature and the first year of the Decade of Action to deliver on sustainable development, the PGA emphasized the call for urgent action to unlock the potential that nature presents, by mainstreaming environmental action throughout the development process. He also stressed that to “supercharge ideas to solutions”, nature-based solutions can catapult policy changes to have transformative impact, not just pertaining to the health of our environment, but also across economic and social dimensions.

Lessons learned and recommendations

Climate action will remain a major priority for the Decade of Action. PGA74’s messaging on the linkages among climate action, biodiversity, oceans, disaster risk reduction and the 2030 Agenda also highlighted the interconnected threats that would arise from siloed approaches that do not comprehensively address all these policy streams, such as sea level rise and mass displacement, pandemics, protracted crises and the collapse of financial systems.

Several key climate and biodiversity processes and events have also been rolled over to the 75th session due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Importantly, two thirds of the SDG targets which mature in 2020 pertain to environmental action.

The Summit on Biodiversity will provide a crucial opportunity to re-imagine and transform our relationship with nature and put biodiversity/nature at the heart of sustainable development, in particular by highlighting that the COVID-19

pandemic and all its associated impacts should be seen as a result of the long-simmering biodiversity crisis.

PGA74's engagements with Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) and the Green Climate Fund underscored the need to revisit the regulations that govern the dispersal of such funds. Using the PGA's convening power to bring together Member States and stakeholders to consider lessons learned and adopt best practices on regulations governing the dispersal of existing climate finance funds would support SDG-related implementation efforts.

Financing for Development and Partnerships

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) continues to serve as a blueprint to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by providing a global framework for financing sustainable development that aligns all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. As such, a consistent follow up of the Financing For Development framework was essential for OPGA 74, as a means that holistically facilitates the achievement of the other goals and priority areas of the Presidency.

The added value of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is its comprehensiveness. Only by addressing all of its seven action areas can the global community hope to close the financing gap to achieve the SDGs in developing countries, estimated to be between US\$ 2.5 and 3 trillion per year.

With the spread of COVID-19 and the ensuing economic and social consequences, the focus on resource mobilization has taken centre stage, and especially in hard-hit developing countries. The PGA, together with the President of ECOSOC and the Secretary-General, has given prominence to the urgency of mobilizing resources for development along the path to 2030.

The Panel on Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity

The key initiative of the PGA in the area of Financing for Development has been the High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (the FACTI Panel). The FACTI Panel is a joint initiative which was launched by the PGA and the President of ECOSOC on March 2nd 2020.

The Panel's main objective is to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by reviewing existing international institutional and legal frameworks related to financial accountability, transparency and integrity, with a view to identifying any gaps, impediments and vulnerabilities in their design and/or implementation. It is tasked with making evidence-based recommendations on how systems for financial accountability, transparency and integrity can be more comprehensive, robust, effective, and universal in approach.

The success of the Panel hinges on active consultation with Member States, civil society and institutional stakeholders. The activities and meetings of the Panel have, since its launch, been taking place online in the light of the COVID 19 restrictions. The Panel will continue consulting with Member States and stakeholders until February 2021, when it is expected to deliver its final report. (See www.factipanel.org for more info and scheduled activities.)

Peace and Security

Since its establishment in 1945, the United Nations has made the pursuit of peace among its key mandates. The attainment of the 2030 Agenda is dependent on peace and security which, in turn, is dependent on the achievement of the SDGs. Efforts to quell conflicts that have already erupted do not always guarantee peace because of the likelihood of a resurgence. The most reasonable step is therefore to prevent the eruption of conflicts.

This approach informed the PGA's focus on conflict prevention by addressing their root causes or drivers. Poverty, hunger, lack of education, effects of climate change and absence of inclusion are drivers of conflict. Tackling them effectively engenders peace and therewith security and development. When peace and security are reasonably maintained in the world, there will be marked reduction in peacekeeping expenditures; some of which can then be applied towards sustainable development.

The PGA organized a meeting on 27 November 2019 to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The meeting was organized pursuant to General Assembly resolution A/32/40B of 2 December 1977 to mark the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 181 (ii) of 29 November 1947, partitioning the state of Palestine into two states. In addition, the PGA attended a special meeting convened by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

The PGA in his address to the First Committee in early October 2019, urged Member States to re-commit to multilateralism and to work together to deliver on agreements that will safeguard the world. The PGA, through his office, made efforts in reaching out to all stakeholders so as to aid the participation of all Member States in the work of the First Committee. OPGA continued to engage with all Member States on issues relating to disarmament and international security.

General Assembly resolution 73/127 on the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, adopted in December 2018, declared 24 April as the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace and invited the President of the General Assembly to organize a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the Day with the participation of Member States and Observers, as well as the Secretary-General. In compliance with the resolution, the International Day was marked for the first time on 24 April 2019 by the President of the 73rd Session.

During the 74th session, arrangements for the commemoration of the Day were disrupted by the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease. Consequently, in a letter to Member States dated 11 March 2020, the President of the 74th Session of the UNGA informed Member states of the cancellation of the event as in-person meetings had been suspended at the United Nations, as part of the measures aimed at stemming the spread of the virus.

Although the event was not held at the UNGA as foreseen in the resolution, the PGA , on 24 April 2020, participated in a virtual event to mark the Day, convened in conjunction with the International Peace Institute (IPI) and the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI), on the topic “The Importance of Multilateralism in the Time of a Global Pandemic: Responding to COVID-19.” At the event moderated by the Hon. Kevin Rudd (former Prime Minister of Australia), the PGA delivered a keynote address on multilateralism and took questions collated before and during the event from the audience spread across the world. The event had a tremendous global reach and was well received.

The PGA participated in the 11th Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Continental Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 25 September 2019, as discussed earlier in section 2 of this report.

The United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) Review

The GA resolution 72/284 of 2018 on the review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy had mandated a review of the strategy and an examination of the Secretary General’s report on ‘Activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy’ by June 2020. To drive this process, the PGA appointed the Permanent Representative of Egypt, H. E. Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees and the Permanent Representative of Spain, Agustin Santos Maraver as co-facilitators.

The Co facilitators began their work by consulting Member States informally on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) review. They scheduled the first

informal meeting of the review process on March 16, 2020. The PGA also scheduled an informal meeting of the GA on March 25, 2020 to allow Member States to hear a briefing on the SG's report on 'Activities of the United Nations system in implementing the GCTS from USG Vladimir Voronkov from the Office of Counter Terrorism.

Both meetings (March 16 as well as March 25th) were cancelled given the health concerns resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic. The evolving situation relating to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in prolonged and unprecedented constraints on the normal operation of the United Nations and all delegations, with continued limitations for holding large in-person meetings before the end of June 2020.

Further, the PGA was approached by OIC and EU, with both noting that, given the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic, it would be best to postpone the entire review process to the 75th Session of the General Assembly. The same position was conveyed by the Co-facilitators based on their consultations with other Regional Groups and Member States. The Co-facilitators also submitted a report on their work and consultations with Member States on the GCTS review which was circulated to Member States on May 4, 2020.

In view of the emerging consensus in favour of postponement of GCTS, the PGA recommended to Member States that the 7th review of the GCTS be postponed to the seventy- fifth session of the General Assembly. In PGA's view this would enable the Assembly to conduct a thorough and substantive review through an inclusive and transparent negotiation process that will do justice to collective efforts in combating the threat of international terrorism faced by people around the world. The decision to postpone the GCTS review to the seventy- fifth session of the General Assembly was adopted on May 20, 2020.

Security Council

During the 74th Session of the General Assembly, the PGA had an Honorary Role with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). He focused on agenda items that are related directly to his priorities such as: Women, Climate Change, Sustaining Peace and Multilateralism. The PGA met routinely with the Presidents of the Security Council since he assumed office to discuss the UNSC Presidency plans and activities. The monthly meetings between the Presidents of the UNSC and the PGA facilitated closer collaboration between the two main organs. The Memoranda of PGA's joint meetings with the President of the Security Council are posted on the OPGA74 website.

Women, Peace and Security

Women's role in peace and security and the importance of women's participation at all levels of decision making in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts were at the centre of the President's efforts. The PGA, based on his priorities and through collaboration with key partners, raised awareness on this important issue, stressing the need to develop both peace and security policies, plans and programmes with a gender perspective.

The PGA sought to strengthen the dialogue with young people on their participation in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Throughout the session, the PGA remained engaged in this effort and underscored the need for economic opportunities, decent work, political participation and social services, in order to prevent conditions that lead to violence, extremism or forced migration.

He stressed the need for increasing the participation of young people in the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements, recognizing that marginalizing them is detrimental to peacebuilding. The PGA used his presidency and engagements with the Member States, UN agencies, youth groups and other

stakeholders to explore and strengthen the potential for the participation of the youth in political and peace processes in both national and multinational settings.

Nelson Mandela Prize 2020

In accordance with General Assembly resolution A/RES/69/269 entitled “Statute of the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize” adopted on 2 April 2015, the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize is awarded once every five years to two individuals: one female and one male, from different geographic regions, in recognition of their dedicated service to humanity; the promotion of reconciliation and social cohesion; and community development, guided by the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The President of the General Assembly called for nominations on 18 December 2019, and the call closed on 28 February 2020. 236 nominations in English and French for the Prize reached the UN Secretariat by the deadline of 28 February 2020. After reviewing all nominations, a total of 62 nominations were eligible (17 female and 45 male) for further consideration.

In addition, the Selection Committee received nominations of Eminent Persons from Eastern European Group of H.E. Mr. Eduard Kukan of Slovakia, from the African Group of Ms. Amina Bouayach of Morocco and from the Western European and Others Group H.E. Mr. Jorge Sampaio (a previous laureate). The Selection Committee decided that these three eminent persons shall be consulted on the selection of the 2020 laureates.

The winners were announced on 17 July 2020. They were: Ms. Marianna Vardinoyannis, of Greece and Mr. Morissana Kouyaté, of Guinea. The formal recognition of the two United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize laureates was held on 20 July 2020 at a meeting presided by the PGA. The meeting also had in attendance the Secretary-General, a representative of the city of New York, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, and Chairs of regional groups.

According to the 'Statute of the United Nations Nelson Mandela Rolihlahla Mandela Prize', the Secretary-General is mandated to handover the prize to the two laureates in-person. It is recommended that the PGA 75, on July 18, 2021 create conditions to invite the two Laureates to be present in New York to receive the prizes during the annual observance of Nelson Mandela International Day.

Comprehensive Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture

Resolutions A/70/262 (GA) and S/Res/2282 (SC) of 2016 called for a further comprehensive review of UN peacebuilding at its seventy-fourth Session. The twin resolutions did not specify timelines for the review. The timelines were, however, set out in the Terms of Reference (ToRs), arrived at through consultations of the Peace Building Commission (PBC) and Member States, which was circulated by the PGA and the UNSC President on 7 October 2019. Their letter of 31 October 2019 launched the commencement of the review.

According to the ToRs, the informal phase of the review is from the 4th quarter of 2019 till the end of the 2nd quarter of 2020. The formal phase starts with the release of the SG's report in June 2020. The work of co-facilitators to be appointed by the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council commences after the informal phase during which they would consult Member States on the SG's report, report of the Eminent Persons, etc., with a view to negotiating the resolution on the review.

However, due to disruptions occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, the PBC's request to the PGA and Security Council President for an extension of the informal phase of the review till end of August 2020 was granted. The extension is to enable the Peace Building Support Office (PBSO) complete its regional consultations, suspended in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic. By their letter of 15 July 2020, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council appointed H.E Mr. Craig John Hawke, Permanent Representative of New Zealand and H.E. Ms. Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to co-facilitate the intergovernmental consultations during the formal phase of the review. General Assembly Decision A/74/564 extended the formal segment of the review till the end of the main part of the seventy-fifth session.

International Day against Nuclear Tests

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/51 adopted on 4 December 2017, the President of the General Assembly convened a virtual informal meeting of the Assembly on 26 August 2020 at which the UNSG was represented by the USG for Disarmament Affairs. Representatives of civil society organizations, Member and Observer States, and other stakeholders also participated.

Annual Report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

Pursuant to Article 24(3) of the Charter of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly convened on 31 August 2020, a virtual informal meeting of the Assembly during which Member States considered the 2019 Annual Report of the Council (A/74/2) adopted on 14 July 2020.

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 51/241 of 22 August 1997, by which the Assembly, inter alia, decided that “The President of the General Assembly shall assess the debate on this item and consider the need for further consideration of the report of the Security Council...”, and further to suggestions and proposals from some Member States, including circulating a compilation of the statements delivered at the debate, the President of the General Assembly decided to circulate such a compilation after the meeting, and to forward a copy thereof to the President of the Security Council. The Assembly, at its plenary meetings on 3-4 September 2020, adopted an oral decision to take note of the report (A/74/2), and also took note of decisions/resolutions earlier adopted under silence procedure, pursuant to decision A/74/544.

Morning Dialogues

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/313 of 17 September 2017 on the “revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”, the President of the General Assembly continued the practice of convening Morning Dialogues to engage in informal dialogue with Permanent Representatives on issues of critical importance to the General Assembly.

During the session, four Morning Dialogues were convened on the following topics:

- “Inclusive Quality Education and Lifelong Learning”, 8 November 2019
- “Transformational Global Partnerships to Achieve the SDGs”, 3 December 2019
- “Towards a Revitalized Multilateralism”, 21 January 2020
- “Fighting for Nature: A sustainable pathway to 2030”, 18 February 2020

A decision was taken to cancel all other Morning Dialogues scheduled for the session as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Lessons learnt and recommendations

As an added element to the discussion, PGA74 introduced the inclusion of stakeholders to the Morning Dialogues to facilitate more diverse and wide-ranging perspectives and ideas. Invitations were extended to representatives from the private sector, philanthropic organizations, foundations, and academia, to lend their voices and, by so doing, enrich the Morning Dialogues.

The Morning Dialogue has become a conducive platform for the PGA to engender collegiality and support from Permanent Representatives, and for harnessing insights and contributions from other key stakeholders.

4.0 Mandated Meetings, Reviews and Processes

Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the UN

On 14 June 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 73/299 to commemorate in 2020 the 75th anniversary of the establishment of United Nations under the theme “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism.” The resolution emphasized the need to engage young people in all commemorative activities and decided to convene a youth plenary at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session and the President of the Economic and Social Council, in conjunction with the youth forum of the Council in 2020. The Youth Plenary will be an inclusive, forward-looking, youth-driven global dialogue on the theme of the 75th anniversary of the UN.

In furtherance of the mandate of A/73/299, the PGA constituted a UN75 task force within his Office composed of 9 Cabinet members, drawn from different policy clusters on the basis of geographic and gender balance.

During the period under review, the task force carried out the following processes in preparation for the commemorative events:

- intergovernmental consultations and negotiations on the declaration (on 21 February with the participation of the PGA; on 22 May under the leadership of the Permanent Representatives of Qatar and Sweden);
- Organized a virtual youth town hall on 13 May 2020 in cooperation with the Office of the Special Envoy for Youth of the Secretary General, aimed at gathering inputs for the declaration from youth organizations around the world;
- Facilitated the participation of the PGA in the UN75 People’s Forum on 14 May 2020 during which the People’s Declaration was handed over to him;

- Put in place arrangements for a virtual observance ceremony to commemorate the signing of the Charter of the UN on 26 June 2020;
- Initiated preparations, in cooperation with the Office of the SG Special Envoy for Youth, for the PGA to hold a virtual youth plenary, on 9 September 2020, through which youth representatives and civil society groups from around the world were engaged in an inclusive, forward looking global dialogue to further amplify priorities for the commemoration;
- Ensured that in all endeavours undertaken towards the commemoration, the activities of the OPGA continued to be carried out in full cooperation with the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General for UN75 and his team, to make for a coherent and inclusive approach as well as a global communications and outreach strategy.

Preparations for UN@75

Although the Celebration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations will be taking place throughout the year, the focal event will be the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on 21 September with the virtual participation of Heads of State and Government.

Following opening statements by the PGA, the SG, the UNSC President, the President of ECOSOC and the President of the International Court of Justice, as well as youth representatives (who will report on the activities of the Youth Plenary coming up ahead of the high level plenary), the meeting will receive statements from Member States throughout the day. Non-governmental organizations, with consultative status with ECOSOC, have also been invited to attend the meeting.

The theme of the 75th anniversary is **“The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism”**. The theme is intertwined with Agenda 2030 and the Decade of Action, the SDGs being the main deliverable of the United Nations for the years to come. As such, reflections

are ongoing to envisage an SDGs Moment that would be linked to the UN75 High-Level meeting.

At the High-Level meeting, Member States will adopt, by consensus, a concise, substantive, forward-looking and unifying declaration that captures the collective commitment of Member States to multilateralism and the UN and their shared vision. The intergovernmental negotiations on the declaration were concluded in June 2020, under the leadership of the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representative of Qatar, H. E. Mrs. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, and the Permanent Representative of Sweden, H. E. Ms. Anna Karin Enestrom.

The Seventy-Second Session of the International Law Commission (ILC)

On 2 April 2020, the Assembly adopted decision 74/545, in accordance with decision 74/544, to postpone the first part of the seventy-second session of the Commission and to extend by one week the second part of the session so that it would be held from 29 June to 7 August 2020. On 12 August 2020, the Assembly further adopted decision A/74/566 which stated that the 72nd session of the ILC shall meet at the United Nations Office at Geneva in 2021, and that the 73rd session of the ILC will meet at the United Nations Office at Geneva in 2022. It also encouraged the ILC and the Secretariat to explore options to enable the ILC to effectively conduct sessions remotely. Furthermore, it decided that the terms of office of the current members of the ILC would be extended by one year such that they will expire on 31 December 2022, in order to permit the current membership to complete consideration of the topics on the programme of work for the 72nd and 73rd sessions.

High-level meeting to commemorate the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The High-Level Commemorative event to mark the 30th Anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the rights of the Child (CRC@30) was organized by the President of the 74th Session of the General Assembly on 25 September 2019

during the high-level week pursuant to GA Resolution 73/301 adopted in June 2019. In addition to being a mandated event, the commemoration also reflects PGA's commitment to Inclusion as one of the priorities of his presidency.

The commemoration also highlighted children's rights within the global fundamental human rights framework, especially their rights to special protections and safeguards from those that constituted the duty-bearers in their lives and communities.

The commemorative event further presented an opportunity for reflection on measures needed to ensure that no child was left behind, and that every child was supported to reach his or her full potential in fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The one-hour event provided an opportunity for Members States to showcase how the lives of millions of children have been improved through the progressive realization of rights and fulfilment of obligations enshrined within the Convention and its Optional Protocols.

The Objectives of the event were:

- Celebration of the milestones and successes of the Convention (on the Rights of the Child) in transforming the lives of children since its ratification thirty years ago;
- Acknowledgement of the challenges posed by the 21st century to the rights of the child in the form of, inter alia, climate change, rapid urbanization, exploitation of natural resources, protracted conflict and humanitarian crises, forced displacement, digitalization and mass connectivity and enduring multi-dimensional and inter-generational poverty with a profound impact on children's' rights and well-being;
- Reaffirmation of commitment to full ratification and implementation of the Convention by Member States.

Importance of the Commemorative Event

The Commemorative Event was marked by two important activities. One was the participation of children representatives from national governments who addressed the session in official capacities. Second, was the participation of the five countries that first ratified the CRC – Ghana, Poland, Vietnam, Sweden and Russia in that order - which addressed the session on behalf of all state parties to the Convention.

The children in their various speeches raised the fundamental issues that the United Nations should give a voice to children on global matters and that state parties should ensure that national laws and policies align substantially with CRC by not only centralizing children in national development plans but paying critical attention to matters that concern their education and health care. Such participation also helped to generate calls for another GA Resolution that seeks children and youth participation in the GA plenary.

In a nutshell, partnership and commitment, including engagement and collaboration with stakeholders on a broad spectrum of matters affecting children are critical to sustaining momentum generated by the event as we embark on the decade of action and delivery for the SDGs. It is important that future Presidents will ensure that Member States recommit to the “unfinished business” of the Convention, while taking on board those vital issues that are affecting children in the light of today’s technological reality ahead of the 35th celebration in 2024.

Mid-term Review of the “Follow-up to the 2nd UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.”

The Comprehensive High-level midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action for the decade 2014-2024 for landlocked developing countries took place between 5 and 6 December 2019. The meeting, which was convened by the PGA as mandated by resolutions 72/232 and 73/243, adopted a Political Declaration negotiated and agreed to during the 73rd session, and formally documented as

resolution 74/15. The meeting reviewed the outstanding challenges to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPOA) and noted progress made on some areas since its adoption.

The occasion made it possible to clearly establish linkages between the VPOA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The PGA emphasized that the landlocked developing countries were at risk of being left behind, considering that their economic growth had declined and that they were highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In a call to action, the PGA urged stakeholders, in particular, transit countries and development partners, to contribute to a transformation to achieve land-linked countries, rather than landlocked ones.

The first day of the event consisted of an opening segment with statements by the PGA and the Secretary-General, followed by a general debate with the participation of Ministers and other Heads of Delegation. Observers of the General Assembly also delivered statements. The second day of the meeting included a high-level panel discussion on the interlinkages of the VPOA with the 2030 Agenda, followed by two panel discussions on the topics of “promoting trade, trade facilitation and structural economic transformation in LLDC’s” and on “Regional integration and infrastructure connectivity”.

International Year of Indigenous Languages

Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 73/156, the President of the General Assembly convened a High-level Event on 17 December 2019 for the Closing of the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL), and its 900 activities which took place around the world. The one-day event aimed to facilitate a global dialogue among indigenous peoples, Member States, UN-system organizations and other relevant stakeholders. The event reviewed the situation of indigenous languages worldwide and shared key conclusions and lessons learnt about the preservation, promotion and revitalization of indigenous languages.

The inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups, guided by the principle of 'leaving no one behind', had been an overarching priority throughout the mandate of the President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The IYIL celebration was an integral part of efforts by the President to advance the recognition, inclusion and promotion of the rights of the 370 million indigenous people worldwide.

The high-level event took place in the General Assembly Hall and consisted of an opening segment, a plenary segment, and a closing segment. The event benefited from interventions from 26 Member States, as well as from numerous representatives of indigenous people and civil society, including the seven Representatives of Indigenous Peoples from all socio-cultural regions and the four Co-chairs of the Steering Committee of the 2019 Year of Indigenous Languages.

Third Informal Interactive Hearing with Indigenous People

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 19th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, scheduled to take place on 13-24 April 2020, as mandated by General Assembly Resolution 71/321, was postponed until a later date, to be determined. The Co-chairs of the Quito Dialog Meeting, on behalf of the Temporary Committee for the Indigenous Coordinating Body for Enhanced Participation in the United Nations, recommended to the President of the General Assembly that the third and final informal interactive hearing, expected to hold on the margins of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, should be postponed until in-person meetings can take place, in order to allow the broadest and inclusive participation of Indigenous Peoples and Member States. The PGA's summary of the hearing will be incorporated into the UN Secretary-General's Report on Indigenous Peoples. The third informal interactive hearing is therefore scheduled to take place during the 75th session of the General Assembly.

Scope, Modalities and Organizational Arrangements for the Summit on Biodiversity

Pursuant to resolutions 73/234 and 74/221, the General Assembly decided to convene a Summit on Biodiversity at the level of Heads of State and Government, to highlight the urgency of need for action at the highest levels in support of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and places the global community on a path towards realizing the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, “Living in harmony with nature”. The President of the General Assembly appointed the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Alberto Carazo Zeledón, and the Permanent Representative of Italy, H.E. Ms. Mariangela Zappia, as co-facilitators of this process.

A process of extensive consultations ensued from January–March 2020 to fulfil the mandate of GA resolution 74/221 for the modalities of the Summit to be defined by the end of March 2020. Resolution 74/269 was adopted on 31 March as one of the first resolutions under the decision 74/544 entitled “Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly in light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Follow-Up to and Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the Sustainable Development of SIDS

In line with A/RES/70/202 and as a follow-up to the SAMOA Pathway, and the Mauritius Strategy for the implementation of the programme of action for the sustainable development of SIDS, the PGA, based on the request of the GA, appointed H. E. Walton Alfonso Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda and H. E. Vanessa Frazier, Permanent Representative of Malta as co-chairs of the Steering Committee on the partnership. The Steering Committee held the Global Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on SIDS Partnership on 10 July 2020. They

also conducted webinar series between July and September 2020 on COVID-19 and other developmental issues pertaining to SIDS.

Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly, in resolution 74/323, requested the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to organize a half-day thematic event to provide substantive input to the upcoming Fifth Conference on Least Developed Countries to be held in Doha in 2021.

The meeting was originally scheduled for 13 April 2020, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Resolution 74/232B was adopted to reschedule the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and to hold it in Doha from 23 to 27 January 2022 at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government.

The resolution also mandated the rescheduling of the meeting of the intergovernmental preparatory committee and to hold it in New York in two parts, from 24 to 28 May 2021 and from 26 to 30 July 2021. Either part was to last no longer than five working days. Furthermore, the resolution requested the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to reschedule the half-day dedicated thematic event and to hold it during the seventy-fifth session of the Assembly in order to provide substantive input to the Conference.

Question of Equitable Representation on, and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Matters Related to the Security Council.

It has long been agreed that the Security Council does not represent the geopolitical reality of the modern world. Some regions are overrepresented, while some are underrepresented, with some having no permanent seat on the Council.

In 1993, the GA began debating the issue of Security Council reform and established the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council. Since then, several models have been put forward as viable options and several countries have put themselves forward as candidates for permanent membership.

After more than a decade of the Working Group's deliberations, Member States decided, in September 2007, to move discussions to an Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) process. According to decision 62/557 of 2008, which laid out the parameters of the IGN, the five key issues under consideration in these negotiations are: categories of membership to the Security Council, i.e. permanent, non-permanent, or a third option); the question of the veto; regional representation; size of an enlarged Council; working methods; and the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly.

The PGA appointed H. E. Ms. Joanna Wronecka, Permanent Representative of Poland and H. E. Ms. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the U A E as co-Chairs of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) on the question of the equitable representation on, and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council.

In a letter dated 8 May 2020, the co-Chairs informed the membership of the decision to postpone all scheduled meetings of the IGN process until further notice, after consultations with interest Groups and Member states. Assembly decision A/74/569 to roll over discussions on the item was adopted on 31st August by silence procedure and later taken note of in plenary on 3rd September 2020.

Review of the Economic and Social Council and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 entitled "Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable

development”, 70/299 of 29 July 2016 entitled “Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level”, as well as 72/305 of 23 July 2018 entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, the PGA appointed H.E. Mr. Jean- Claude do Rego, Permanent Representative of Benin and H.E. Mr. Kaha Imnadze, Permanent Representative of Georgia to co-facilitate the intergovernmental negotiations related to these important processes.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the risks associated with holding in-person meetings in UNHQ, the General Assembly, by its Resolution 74/298 decided to conduct the reviews of the ECOSOC and the HLPF during its seventy-fifth session after the most acute aspects of the pandemic are addressed and the United Nations resumes its normal activities.

The General Assembly decided also that the theme for 2021 session of ECOSOC and the HLPF will be “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. Additionally, it was decided that the set of SDGs to be reviewed during 2021 HLPF be Goals 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17 in depth.

In accordance to the aforementioned resolutions, by which the General Assembly decided to adopt one main theme for the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Economic and Social Council, the PGA appointed H.E. Mr. Craig John Hawke, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to facilitate the process related to the identification of the theme for the ECOSOC and HLPF for 2020. It is worth noting that the facilitator successfully conducted his task. The General Assembly thereafter decided that the main theme for the high-level political forum on sustainable development for the year 2020 holding under the auspices of ECOSOC will be: “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.”

Review of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies

General Assembly resolution 68/268 entitled “Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system” was adopted on 9 April 2014. In paragraph 41, the Assembly: “Decides to consider the state of the human rights treaty body system no later than six years from the date of adoption of the present resolution, to review the effectiveness of the measures taken in order to ensure their sustainability, and, if appropriate, to decide on further action to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system.”

In view of the above, the PGA appointed H. E Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations and H.E. Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations, as co-facilitators for this process, to undertake an open, transparent and inclusive informal consultations, at the moment to be organized virtually, and when the circumstances allow, in person, with Member States in both New York and Geneva, with contributions, as appropriate, from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, treaty bodies, and other relevant stakeholders.

The co-facilitators held virtual informal consultations/meetings with Member States in New York and Geneva, as well as a hybrid meeting with Member States and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Geneva on 28 August 2020 and a virtual wrap-up meeting in New York on 11 September 2020. The co-facilitators of the informal consultations were requested to send their summary and recommendations to the PGA before the close of the 74th session.

Informal Interactive Dialogue of the Member States with the Candidate(s) for the Position of President of the General Assembly

A virtual interactive dialogue between the then candidate for the position of President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly (75th session PGA), H. E. Mr. Volkan BOZKIR, and Member States of the United Nations was held on 15th

May 2020. The Dialogue was convened and moderated by the PGA, H. E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande. In his opening remarks, the PGA recalled that the candidate's Vision Statement for the 75th session had been circulated to Member States through a letter dated 1st April 2020, with reference A/74/777. He introduced the PGA-candidate and outlined administrative arrangements for the Dialogue before inviting the candidate to speak to Member States.

The PGA candidate noted that conducting informal interactive dialogues with the candidates for this position, greatly contributes to the transparency and inclusivity of the process. He expressed pleasure that despite existing challenges, the Dialogue was made possible. He therefore thanked the PGA, as well as the Secretariat, Member States and other stakeholders who made it possible. He confirmed that his Vision Statement had been published as an official UN document and translated into all UN official languages.

He presented his resume, which had been published on the OPGA website and affirmed that his country, Turkey, had announced his candidature for the position since 12 September 2019, leading to his unanimous endorsement by the WEOG Group. He pledged to, if elected, discharge the responsibility of PGA with utmost responsibility, especially given that the nature of the role of PGA has expanded and taken on a more political character.

The PGA candidate pledged to be the guardian of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, ensure the efficient management of its sessions, as well as the smooth implementation of its agenda. He stressed the need for the main organs of the UN, the General Assembly, the Security Council, ECOSOC and the Secretariat to work in harmony. He promised to establish channels of communication, with all Chairs of the Main Committees, and to work closely with the President of the ECOSOC, as its agenda often complements and sometimes overlaps with the GA agenda.

He disclosed that his vision was drawn in a way that would complement the agenda and priorities of the Secretary General and vowed to work towards

building trust and cohesion among Member States, major groups and other international organizations. The PGA candidate pledged not to start new initiatives, except there is a real need to do so, and to continue with the work of the previous PGA with improvements where necessary.

He disclosed that his core efforts would be expended on consensus building, using the moral authority and soft power of the Office; ensuring closer coordination among UN decision-making bodies to plug gaps, and duplications and to build a team based on professionalism, expertise, as well as regional and gender balance. The PGA candidate remarked that as the UN prepares to commemorate its 75th anniversary, there was need to recognize that Multilateralism and a rules-based international system, were essential to fulfill the core mandates of the UN Charter, and to underline the irreplaceable nature of the rules-based international system, as well as the imperative to consolidate it. He stressed the need to uphold the UN Charter and restore people's faith in international institutions, in particular the UN, which now bore extra responsibilities for providing humanitarian assistance in increased number of conflict situations, most of them with longer duration.

He pledged to ensure that the most vulnerable had a voice at the General Assembly, while countries in special situations, such as LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS required continued attention. He further pledged to give deserved attention to the African Union agenda 2063. He also promised to prioritize the issue of gender equality and women empowerment and ensure that the UN played an important role towards its achievement. He specifically vowed to ensure gender parity in the composition of his Team, to complement the Secretary-General's objective of achieving gender parity at all levels at the UN.

He commented on the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19, with social, political and economic consequences and human rights repercussions. He underscored the need for a holistic approach to the COVID-19 pandemic, stating that "In an interconnected world, none of us is safe, unless all of us are safe." He noted that

the disease was a stark reminder of the importance of effective multilateralism and the role of the UN and its agencies.

The PGA candidate stressed that the fundamental principles of human rights and related principles must be upheld in the fight against the disease. He suggested that “Build Back Better” should be the motto of extensive public and social recovery effort from the disease. He commended the prompt measures taken by the incumbent PGA, the Secretary-General and the President of ECOSOC, following the pandemic.

The PGA candidate noted how the pandemic had already affected the GA agenda with many meetings already cancelled or postponed. He stated that the list of priorities and activities for the 75th session needed to be streamlined with necessary modifications. As an example, he mentioned the proposed HLPF theme of 2021, namely “Human well-being and the SDGs: Recovering after the COVID-19 crisis.”

The PGA candidate stated that an additional dimension to the 2030 agenda might be needed to highlight the cross-cutting element in the implementation of the SDGs because effective response means development and resilience. He singled out poverty eradication as one of the initiatives he would continue to support. He underlined the need to understand and act on lessons learned from the pandemic, once it was over, in order to effectively address similar challenges in the future. An interactive session with Member States followed his statement. Most delegations expressed appreciation of the PGA-elect’s Vision Statement, his outreach efforts, despite apparent constraints, as well as his pledge to promote multilateralism.

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Mandate for the 74th Session

By resolution 73/341 of 16 September 2019, the General Assembly decided to establish at its 74th session an *ad hoc* working group on the revitalization of the

work of the General Assembly (AHWG), open to all Member States, to identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on the progress achieved in past sessions as well as on previous resolutions, including evaluating the status of their implementation; and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-fourth session.

Appointment of Co-Facilitators

In this regard, the President, on 7th November 2019, appointed the Permanent Representative of Slovakia, H. E. Michal Mlynar and the Permanent Representative of Ghana, H. E. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee as co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. The Group held a total of four meetings between November 2019 and April 2020. They include one General Debate and two thematic debates and several rounds of consultations with Member States.

Thematic Areas of the Revitalization Process

The resolution (73/341) called for improvements in four main thematic areas, namely, Role and Authority of the General Assembly; Working Methods; Selection and Appointment of the Secretary-General and other Executive Heads; and Strengthening the Accountability, Transparency and Institutional Memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. There are specific mandates addressed to the PGA by resolutions of the General Assembly on revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. These mandates are annexed to this report as “Mandates Addressed to the PGA by Resolutions on revitalization.”

Activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG)

The AHWG held a general debate held on 2nd March 2020. It also held its first two AHWG thematic debates (on working methods and on GA role and authority) on 12th March 2020. The AHWG saw value in taking advantage of the diversity

and representativeness of the membership of the General Committee and considers consultations with the General Committee as a key deliverable during the 74th session. Such consultations prior to the suspension of in-person meetings at the UN premises were welcomed by many delegations.

An informal dialogue between Permanent Missions and the UN Secretariat, including on operational support, management strategy, policy & compliance, safety & security, use of UN premises, as well as a session on the effects of COVID-19 on the work of the General Assembly could not hold due to challenges of convening in-person meetings, following the pandemic.

The Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly held a virtual thematic debate on 9th June 2020 on “Strengthening the Accountability, Transparency and Institutional Memory of the General Assembly”. It further convened a virtual thematic debate, open to all Member States, on 16th June 2020 to consider the “Selection and Appointment of the Secretary-General and other Executive Heads” of the United Nations. The meeting was briefed by ASG Martha Helena Lopez of the Human Resources department.

During its work, the AHWG co-Chairs identified 10 key potential areas of interest and key deliverables in the session’s work, which are included as annexes to this report. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the work of the group, the co-Chairs submitted a draft resolution which passed silence procedure on 31 August 2020. The full resolution on revitalization of the work of the General Assembly was therefore tabled before the plenary, along with the input from the Alignment process and was adopted on 4 September 2020 as A/RES/74/303.

Alignment of the GA agenda with the 2030 Agenda

General Assembly resolution 73/341 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (notably paragraphs 12, 27 and 28), which was adopted on 16 September 2019, requested consultations with a view to enhance synergies and

coherence by addressing gaps, overlaps and duplication where they are found to exist in the agendas of the General Assembly, especially of its Second and Third Committees, and the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In line with this resolution, the PGA appointed H.E. Mrs. Milica Pejanović Đurišić, Permanent Representative of Montenegro and H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, Permanent Representative of Botswana as co-facilitators to lead the intergovernmental consultations on this alignment process.

They convened the first informal consultative meeting of the Alignment Process on 17th February 2020 with the participation of the PGA. Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the co-facilitators adopted a technical rollover of the previous year's resolution without any change to the existing text, which was incorporated into the resolution on revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

Ocean Conference

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/292, on 4-5 February 2020, the President of the General Assembly convened the 2020 UN Ocean Conference Preparatory Meeting, alongside the Permanent Representative of Palau, H. E. Ms Ngedikes Olai Uludong and the Permanent Representative of Denmark, H. E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann, the co-facilitators of the preparatory process for the Conference, appointed by the President to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on the Conference's declaration. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/292, this preparatory meeting's purpose was to decide the themes of the Conference's 8 interactive dialogues, as well as determine elements for the Conference's declaration.

On 13 April 2020, due to the pandemic, Assembly decision 74/548 regarding the postponement of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference and its preparatory process to a later date to be set by the General Assembly; was adopted. On 29 April 2020, the two co-facilitators circulated a revised draft of the declaration incorporating

Member States' submitted inputs. The Ocean Conference co-hosts, Portugal and Kenya, in consultation with the incoming President of the General Assembly, would be expected to propose new dates and timelines for the Conference and its preparatory process. The co-hosts informally indicated their proposal for the Conference to be held sometime after June 2021, to coincide with end of Portugal's rotation of the EU presidency.

High-level thematic debate on Rapid Technological Change and its impact on the SDG Goals and Targets

General Assembly resolution 73/17 invited the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level thematic debate on Rapid Technological Change and its impact in the sustainable development goals and targets. Originally scheduled for 11 May, the debate was postponed to 11 June due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting featured the presentation by the Secretary General of his Roadmap on Digital Cooperation (A/74/821) and statements from the Heads of UNCTAD, ITU, OECD, DESA and the President of Microsoft.

During the general debate Member States highlighted the role of new technologies in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the challenges and potential dangers that rapid technological change might bring to our societies. Emphasis was placed on the need for international cooperation to address the negative impacts, including a growing digital divide. The event also included statements from representatives from the youth and civil society.

Meetings to be convened at the beginning of the 75th session for which preparations have already started in the 74th Session

Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations (UN@75)

This is discussed earlier in section 5 of this report

Summit on Biodiversity

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/269, the Summit on Biodiversity will be convened under the theme “Urgent Action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development” from Tuesday 22 September 2020, 3:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. to Wednesday, 23 September 2020, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

It will consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, two Leaders’ Dialogues and a closing segment. The Leaders’ Dialogues will be held under the following themes: “Addressing biodiversity loss and mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable development” (Dialogue 1) and “Harnessing science, technology and innovation, capacity-building, access and benefit-sharing, financing and partnerships for biodiversity” (Dialogue 2).

The Summit on Biodiversity provides a crucial opportunity to re-imagine and transform our relationship with nature and put biodiversity/nature at the heart of sustainable development. The President of the General Assembly has been mandated to prepare a factual summary of the Summit to be shared with Member States, prior to the 15th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Beijing+25

In accordance with resolution 73/340 of 12 September 2019 and General Assembly decision 74/562 of 22 July 2020, the high-level meeting on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women will be held on Thursday, 1 October 2020, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). The President supports the preparatory process in accordance with the mandate given to him by the Assembly.

The numerous reports of national-level review of implementation fed into the report of the Secretary-General on the Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly submitted to the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women which will guide the acceleration of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly.

The President and his team engaged with the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women and conveyed his full support to the process both informally and in addressing 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The President was due to participate in the Generation Equality Forum events, convened by UN Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico, with the leadership and partnership of civil society. The Forum was due to kick-off in Mexico City, Mexico, on 7-8 May 2020 and culminate in Paris, France, on 7-10 July 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted these plans. The President had hoped that these dialogues would build momentum in the lead up to the Multi-Stakeholder Hearing in preparation for the High-Level meeting on the 25th anniversary of the Fourth -World Conference on Women.

High Level NAM Virtual Summit on COVID-19

Sequel to the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) high-level contact group on the COVID-19 pandemic, and in order to galvanize regional efforts towards addressing the effects of the pandemic, President Ilham Aliyev of the Republic of Azerbaijan requested the PGA for an urgent summit of the leaders of NAM prior to the 75th summit. The PGA therefore, on 4 May 2020, hosted a High-level virtual summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement on the COVID-19 pandemic. The summit was attended by almost all the Heads of State and Government of NAM, as well as H.E Antonio

Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations and Dr. Mahmat Ali Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC).

The level of attendance of the meeting and the various national commitments unfolded by various leaders in their response to the crises, largely underscored the importance attached to the meeting by NAM leaders. The NAM leaders were unanimous in stressing the importance of continued multilateral engagement and need to mitigate the crisis through sustainable international collaboration that align strategically with commitments to delivering on the SDGs.

The PGA's call for development of priorities that placed emphasis on addressing poverty, hunger, discrimination and illicit financial flows were well taken. So was the call by the UNSG for ceasefire in crisis zones. International financing that delivers on the promises of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and adherence to commitments under other international frameworks for disaster management were outlined as important for addressing the challenges created by the pandemic. NAM leaders agreed on strengthening collaboration and support for the World Health Organization (WHO) in its delivery efforts while also encouraging partnerships across a broad range of stakeholders such as national governments, international Organizations and civil society groups.

Some of the key messages from the meeting included:

- Call for the holding of a Special Session of the GA on COVID-19;
- Development of accessible medicines and vaccines;
- Continued international cooperation to fight the pandemic;
- Strengthening the leverage of multilateral institutions to address the need of refugees and other vulnerable groups;
- Development of innovative funding mechanisms to address the challenges posed by the pandemic;
- Reinforcement of technological capacity of members to confront the challenges;
- Support for the UNSG's call for ceasefire in conflicts zones;

- Broad support for the Global fund for COVID -19;
- Leveraging the energy of the youth to fight the pandemic;
- Donation of US\$60 million to the Global fund on COVID-19 and additional US\$40 million to the NAM COVID-19 response plan by Kuwait;
- Swift and coordinated action for Debt Relief Agenda;
- Establishment of US\$60 billion AU COVID-19 Response plan by the AU;
- Establishment of the NAM COVID-19 Task Force with the aim of compiling the humanitarian needs of members for possible assistance of International Organizations and Development Agencies; and
- Adoption of a Political Declaration

NAM leaders adopted a 2-page political declaration on COVID-19. The declaration detailed NAM perspectives and insights on the response plan and recovery efforts on COVID-19. It also endorsed two GA Resolutions on COVID-19, namely, (A/RES/74/270 on global solidarity to fight COVID-19 and A/RES/74/2743 on international cooperation to ensure access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment); support to SG initiatives on fighting COVID-19, including recognition of the central role of the WHO and its leadership; solidarity with members; Addressing impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods; addressing the impact on vulnerable groups, support for multilateralism; creation of NAM Task Force; commiseration with families of victims of COVID-19; and recognition for health and frontline workers.

An important outcome of the 4th May NAM Summit was the call for the holding of a special session of UNGA on COVID-19. Following the call, both the OPGA and the Secretariat commenced series of complementary discussions and arrangements which culminated in the SG's letter to UN Member States in June 2020 informing that consensus has been reached on the organization of the summit. Nigeria subsequently assumed the temporary presidency of the summit and prepared a draft decision on the organizational procedures which was adopted by Member States. The summit is expected to take place during the 75th session.

Meetings and processes rolled over to the 75th session

Harmony with Nature

As per General Assembly resolution 74/224 of 19 December 2019, the President of the General Assembly was requested to convene, at its seventy-fourth session, an interactive dialogue, to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 22 April 2020. Owing to the COVID19 situation, and the guidance on having meetings, the General Assembly adopted a decision (74/547) to cancel the 74th Session's celebration of International Mother Earth Day and the interactive dialogue. Nonetheless, the President of the General Assembly published a message online to mark the Day.

The General Assembly resolution A/RES/74/220 invited the PGA to convene, with the support of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), a high-level dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD). In pursuance of this mandate, the PGA informed the Member States that the high-level dialogue would be convened on 9th June 2020 at the UN Headquarters. A concept note was also shared with the Membership.

As the OPGA in liaison with the UNCCD Secretariat prepared for the event, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, leading the General Assembly to adopt decision A/74/551 to postpone the High-Level event to its seventy-fifth session.

Interactive Dialogue On Commodities Markets

The President was, in resolution 74/204 of 19 December 2019, invited to hold a one-off one-day informal interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on commodity markets at its seventy-fourth session. Given the situation concerning the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in 2020, the interactive dialogue scheduled to take place during the seventy fourth session of the General Assembly was cancelled.

Commemoration of the Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade

Pursuant to Resolution 70/7 of 4 November 2015, successive PGAs held annual events to commemorate International Day for the Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic slave trade. The 2020 commemoration was slated to hold on 24 March 2020 under the theme “Confronting slavery’s legacy of racism together.” The event was later to be postponed to 75th Session due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Third Informal Interactive Hearing with Indigenous People

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 19th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, scheduled to take place on 13-24 April 2020, as mandated by General Assembly Resolution 71/321, was postponed until a later date, to be determined. The Co-chairs of the Quito Dialog Meeting, on behalf of the Temporary Committee for the Indigenous Coordinating Body for Enhanced Participation in the United Nations, recommended to the President of the General Assembly that the third and final informal interactive hearing, expected to hold on the margins of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, should be postponed until in-person meetings can take place, in order to allow the broadest and inclusive participation of Indigenous Peoples and Member States. The PGA’s summary of the hearing will be incorporated into the UN Secretary-General’s Report on Indigenous Peoples. The third informal interactive hearing is therefore scheduled to take place during the 75th session of the General Assembly.

High level Debate on Urban Crime

Pursuant to GA resolution 74/177 of December 2019 on “Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity”, the PGA was mandated to organize a high-level debate on urban security during the 74th session. The inclusion of the mandate to hold this high-level debate in past resolutions has fostered the endorsement of

the debate by an informal grouping of a core group of Member States, led by Italy and including the United States, Russia, Japan, Mexico and Colombia. This group has been actively engaged in finalizing the Concept Note for the debates, proposing speakers, and encouraging high-level participation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the debate had to be postponed till the 75th Session.

Special Briefing on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar

On 14 August 2020 and in accordance with resolution 74/246 of 20206, the PGA facilitated the briefing of member states on situation of human rights in Myanmar by the Special Envoy on Myanmar, Ms. Christine Schraner. The briefing was to apprise the GA of developments in the country since 2019, and provided opportunity for engagement between Member States and the Special Envoy on issues such as continued human rights violations in Rohingya, ICJ rulings and remaining issues of citizenships, return of refugees from Bangladesh, and democracy and governance. The resolution mandates the Special Envoy to hold interactive discussion with the GA at least twice a year and it is anticipated that a similar briefing would take place during the 75th session.

Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Genocide at Srebrenica in 1995

On 10 July 2020, the PGA organized the Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Genocide at Srebrenica in 1995 under the sponsorship of the Permanent Missions of Germany, Belgium, Estonia, France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ireland and the United Kingdom and the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations. The event provided opportunity for Member States to express solidarity and share their best practices to achieve reconciliation. It also provided opportunities for Member States to look at how UN peacekeeping missions could help prevent future atrocities.

International Day of Friendship

The 2020 edition of the International Day of Friendship was organized on 28 July with sponsorship by the Mission of Paraguay, to strengthen commitment to friendship even in face of COVID-19 protocol. PGA's involvement in the event was to drive the fact that friendships founded upon intercultural and interfaith dialogue helps to promote cooperation that transcends boundaries, religion, cultural divides and that sows seeds of harmony between and among communities. These connections have the capacity to advance inclusion, tolerance and understanding and lay the foundation for lasting peace. The event is an annual activity that is expected to enjoy PGA's participation during the 75th session.

Briefing on Humanitarian Situation in Lebanon

On 10 August 2020, the PGA participated in an emergency briefing on the devastating consequences of multiple explosions in Beirut, the capital of Lebanon on 4 August, 2020. The explosion killed a total of 226 people and PGA responded by calling for immediate and sustained humanitarian assistance to the country. While making the call for immediate assistance, PGA mentioned that Lebanon had faced multiple challenges in recent times, among which were economic hardship and the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the tragic incident only worsened an already difficult situation. The briefing was a follow up to the leaders' summit on Lebanon that was held on 9 August and packaged by President Macron of France. It was organized by OCHA and aimed at mobilizing UN and global assistance to enable the country wade

Open-ended ad hoc Intergovernmental Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes (Organizational session)

Through its resolution 74/247, adopted on 27 December 2019, the General Assembly decided to establish an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental

committee of experts, representative of all regions, to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes. The General Assembly also decided that the ad hoc committee shall convene a three-day organizational session in August 2020, in New York, in order to agree on an outline and modalities for its further activities, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session for its consideration and approval.

Due to situation arising out of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Assembly adopted resolution 74/567 by silence procedure on 14 August 2020 to postpone the ad hoc meeting to a date no later than 1 March 2021.

5.0 Other meetings convened during the session

Interaction Between the United Nations, National Parliaments and the IPU

Over the years, a succession of UN General Assembly resolutions (59/19, 61/6, 65/123, 66/261) on “interaction between the United Nations, national Parliaments and the IPU” formally established the Hearing as a joint UN-IPU event designed to input into major UN processes. The 2020 edition of the annual parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations was jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office of the President of the United Nations General Assembly from 17-18 February 2020. The event was an opportunity to discuss how education could serve as a tool for promoting peace and sustainable development, and to share ideas about best practices for advancing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, which calls for inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all.

The President of the General Assembly at its 74th session, stressed the importance of SDG 4 as a stand-alone and cross-cutting goal for peace and prosperity. He praised Parliamentarians who have conducted voluntary national reviews on its progress and developed plans to implement the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development. He, nonetheless, stressed that funding was needed to guarantee success for those efforts. At least one in four countries did not meet the 2015 benchmarks calling for at least 4 per cent of GDP and at least 15 per cent of expenditures to be allocated to education.

The PGA called on Parliamentarians to invest in teacher training and prepare young people for the Fourth Industrial Revolution by equipping them with the skills needed to succeed in a changing world. He stressed that with fewer girls attending school than boys, and women accounting for only 34 per cent of students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), countries must eliminate the gender bias and make their curricula gender-responsive. Effective curricula can promote peace and tolerance and allow young people to navigate challenges in an increasingly connected world. Vocational and lifelong learning is needed to help everyone reach their full potential. Above all, education works as a great equalizer.

The Parliamentary Hearing underscored the growing strategic partnership between the UN and the IPU. More information about the meeting can be found at: <https://www.ipu.org/event/2020-annual-parliamentary-hearing-un>.

UN75 Youth Plenary

General Assembly Resolution 73/299 emphasized the need to engage young people in all commemorative activities of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, and decided to convene a Youth Plenary at the UN Headquarters in New York, under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council, in conjunction with the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth.

Empowering young people was one of the major strategies for implementing the priorities of the PGA. This entails ensuring effective participation of youth in political decision-making and giving them voice on global issues such as quality education, decent work and climate action, among many others.

As part of the process to meaningfully engage the youth in the work of the UN and the 75th Anniversary global dialogue, the PGA organized a virtual Youth Townhall on 13 May 2020, in collaboration with the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and the 2 co-facilitators of the UN 75th anniversary commemoration, namely, the Permanent Representative of Qatar, H. E. Mrs. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, and the Permanent Representative of Sweden, H. E. Ms. Anna Karin Enestrom. The virtual Townhall served as a platform for youth organizations and networks from all regions of the world to provide input into the zero-draft resolution of the UN 75th Anniversary, based on the findings of a global youth survey.

Among the eleven topics listed in the Elements Paper, the youth prioritized building resilient systems and society after the COVID-19 crisis; promoting peace and security; and addressing climate change, oceans and sustainable consumption. The 2,000 youth participants in the virtual Town Hall also called on Member States to scale up their policy efforts to meet young peoples' rights and aspirations, emphasizing the importance of providing quality education and decent job opportunities, promoting gender equality and ensuring meaningful participation of young people in political processes at all levels.

The UN75 Youth Plenary took place on 9 September 2020 as an inclusive, forward-looking, youth-driven global dialogue on the key issues covered in the UN75 Declaration. The Plenary also served as a platform to select representatives for the youth address at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the UN 75th Anniversary on 21 September 2020, and share their perspectives on the Decade of Action and the future of multilateralism.

6.0 The COVID-19 PANDEMIC and its lessons learned

When reports of a novel Coronavirus first emerged in December 2019, no one could have predicted that just a few months later, a pandemic outbreak would devastate nations across the globe and bring the world to a standstill. By March

2020, New York City, just like many other cities, was in the middle of an unprecedented global health crisis, leading to an imposed lockdown and social distancing measures to control transmission. Telecommuting arrangements were instituted for NYC-based personnel to reduce physical presence at UN Headquarters. UN Headquarters remained closed to all but essential personnel.

Not surprisingly, the COVID-19 pandemic derailed previous planning and ongoing activities. Neither the preparations and scheduling for the 74th session, nor the rules and procedures underpinning the work of the UN General Assembly foresaw Member States and the United Nations operating during a global emergency without in-person meetings. With the international community simultaneously trying to manage the immediate crisis as well as its longer-term social and economic fall-outs, the pandemic threw existing intergovernmental processes, previous workstreams and substantive priorities of the PGA into disarray. However, the UN main deliberative body had to adapt to sudden and unanticipated limitations on in-person meetings and the working methods of the General Assembly had to be redefined to ensure business continuity.

This posed several procedural, technical, logistical and legal challenges. Among them were the following: ensuring universal participation, transparency and broad consultations of the membership; finding solutions for taking critical decisions, particularly on budgets, without relying on voting; resort to virtual meetings for the conduct of some mandated informal activities; holding key elections in compliance with relevant legal requirements; and ensuring that Member States are equipped to formulate a strong and comprehensive response that would meet the magnitude of this threat.

Due to the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the PGA and his Office adopted a phased approach in addressing the multitude of challenges while taking leadership in maintaining business continuity of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies. The PGA became a strong voice for international solidarity and cooperation in combatting COVID-19, while condemning widespread stigma and misinformation. OPGA assigned a designated focal point on COVID-19 as of

January 2020 and monitored closely the evolving situation. In early March, with a global outbreak in sight, especially at the UN Headquarters, OPGA established an internal COVID-19 Task Force to tackle any matters related to the pandemic. More OPGA resources were freed up and made available to support the international community's response to the pandemic than for any other workstream.

Further to the meeting among PGA, President of ECOSOC and UNSG, OPGA also launched a coordination mechanism with the Offices of the ECOSOC President, EOSG, DGACM, DGC, Medical Office, OLA, OICT of the Secretariat. The group met regularly right from its inauguration. This COVID-19 coordination mechanism served as an anchor for business continuity since then, especially after the UNHQ started telecommuting as of March 14. Furthermore, on March 27, for the first time in history, the Presidents of the General Assembly, Security Council and ECOSOC came together with the UNSG to virtually brief Member States on maintaining business continuity while mitigating the impact of the pandemic.

Second, the PGA continued to rely on the General Committee of the General Assembly to serve as a sounding board as to the path forward on many issues. The restriction on holding plenary meetings obliged the President of the General Assembly, supported by the General Committee, to find alternatives. This led to the Assembly decision 74/544 of 27 March 2020 entitled "Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic." This was slightly expanded by decision 74/555 of 15 May 2020 and further extended by decision 74/558 of 18 June 2020 and by decision 74/561 of 21 July 2020.

Notwithstanding some of the challenges of functioning via silence procedure, it is this methodology that enabled the Assembly to successfully adopt more than seventy resolutions and decisions. It allowed the Assembly to postpone or cancel scheduled meetings, move forward clean slate elections, and two COVID-19-related resolutions. The procedure developed in the General Assembly also served as an inspiration for the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the

Main Committees in following an innovative path to business continuity. Throughout these processes and considerations of paths to guarantee continuity, the Secretariat provided invaluable support.

Third, the GA also was not able to adopt electronic voting arrangements for resolutions. As the coronavirus spread across the metropolis, it was deemed unsafe to assemble hundreds of diplomats in the building to cast their votes on important decisions/resolutions. Alternative and pragmatic arrangements had to be made for important UN business that could not be cancelled or delayed such as elections for the President of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, members of the ECOSOC, and the non-permanent members of the UN Security Council. Given social distancing requirements, a staggered voting mechanism was set in place to separate voters by time and space through decision 74/557 entitled “Procedure for holding elections by secret ballot without a plenary meeting during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”

Fourth, the PGA appointed Coordinators on GA COVID-19-related initiatives to solicit and coordinate views of Member States towards an omnibus resolution of comprehensive nature. The Coordinators were the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, H. E. Adela Raz and the Permanent Representative of Croatia, H. E. Ivan Simonovic. On 11th September 2020, at the 64th plenary meeting, the United Nations General Assembly voted to adopt the Omnibus Resolution on the “Comprehensive and Coordinated Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic” that recognized the coronavirus as one of the greatest challenges in the world and endorsed the role of World Health Organization (WHO) in handling the pandemic.

The resolution also reaffirmed the commitment of countries to multilateral cooperation and solidarity as the only way to respond to the pandemic. The resolution further expressed support for the Secretary-General’s call for an immediate global ceasefire, including to help create windows for the diplomacy of dialogue. It urged political and religious figures to promote inclusion and unity and to take action against hate speech, discrimination, xenophobia, racism and violence.

Fifth, the PGA encouraged co-facilitators of GA processes to take tailored approaches toward their respective mandates and to explore the way forward. It is important to note that various virtual platforms were created, including virtual briefings, Town Hall meetings and informal consultations.

Sixth, the extraordinary circumstances created by the pandemic are foreseen as having repercussions on the activities of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session. The restrictions for delegates to meet in-person will continue during the High-Level week, as reflected in General Assembly decision 74/562 entitled “High-level meetings of the General Assembly in September 2020.”

While the GA found ways to continue to informally operate throughout the pandemic with the help of modern technology, this achievement comes at a price. The distant virtual working environment will never replace the true value of human interaction which defines the nature of diplomacy and multilateralism. It must be acknowledged that the lack of direct contact and personal trust- and confidence building among Member States stripped diplomacy of its most effective tools for reaching consensus.

In the face of an unprecedented common threat and with the PGA’s leadership, the membership showed adaptability and resolve to operate in new ways and work towards a unified global response with the United Nations firmly at its core. Undoubtedly, these efforts will need to continue under the President of the 75th Session of the General Assembly. An honest and realistic as well as forward-looking review of how to, as quickly as possible, transit to in person meetings is a priority. In the global village of nations, solidarity, compassion, and evidence-based interventions need to be the cornerstones of how the international community deals with the long-term consequences of this pandemic. With the current crisis comes an opportunity to reinvigorate multilateralism and rebuild better.

7.0 Other lessons learned during the 74th session

An important lesson in the 74th session is not to get too comfortable when all seems to be going well. We must learn to anticipate unforeseen challenges and prepare well ahead to address such challenges and prevent future shocks. Our experience in the COVID-19 era exposed the inadequacies in the UN IT infrastructure. Regular upgrades and training are obligatory. We should streamline and make our procedures less cumbersome. We need to devise modalities for taking decisions when it becomes unsafe or difficult to meet in person, and to accept that such measures and the ensuing decisions become part of our official records.

The important role played by the General Committee in the COVID-19 era is indicative of the committee's potential use in the work of the GA. It will always be the collective responsibility of Member States to ensure that the work of the General Assembly continues, and every PGA should mobilize opinion towards this goal. In the 74th session, the GA had to innovate, and sometimes go round existing mechanisms, albeit temporarily, to avoid letting down the people who place their hopes in the UN.

8.0 Organization and Management of the Office

The OPGA and UN Secretariat

The OPGA Front Office consists of highly skilled and dedicated staff from diverse backgrounds and regions. They worked harmoniously with professionalism, a high sense of duty and commitment to the goals of the Office. The invaluable support and guidance of the UN Secretariat, in general, and the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management, in particular, deserve to be acknowledged. DGACM and other Departments provided the technical backstopping that proved most helpful at critical stages in the OPGA operations. The staff of these Departments and Offices worked quietly but diligently to

ensure the success of the 74th Presidency. The milestones achieved within a short period and amidst a major public health emergency would have proved elusive without the support and collaboration of UN personnel.

Finance

The Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) is financed through two main sources: the regular budget allocation; and voluntary contributions (pledges) to the OPGA Trust Fund. During the 74th session, approximately \$312,000.00 was allocated for the regular budget and this amount was grossly insufficient to finance the work of the Office. The meagre regular budget allocation to the OPGA, has remained relatively unchanged over the years. Indeed, the budget does not correspond to the increasing responsibilities of the Office, particularly in relation to the number of mandates being addressed to the President. This situation is worrisome, as the ability of the OPGA to effectively implement mandates, cover official travels and other expenditures relating to official responsibilities, may rely on a President's capacity for fundraising.

It is instructive to note that the General Assembly via its resolution 73/341, entitled, " Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly," observed the heavy reliance of the OPGA on voluntary contributions to deliver on a growing number of mandates entrusted to it by the Assembly. Therefore, there is a need for Member States to urgently address the procedure for funding the OPGA in order to strengthen the office, as well as preserve its independence.

As in previous sessions, the voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund of the Office was the main source of funding during the 74th session. The regular budget provided only about 6 % of the overall funds available to the Office, while the Trust Fund made up 94 % of the funding. The total amount of contributions to the Trust Fund to support the 74th session was \$ 4,612,900.00 (excluding rollover funds from previous sessions). Roll-over funds from previous sessions were directly allocated to support the President of the 75th session. The countries that

contributed to the Trust Fund can be found in the annexes to this report and the President deeply appreciates the support of Member States to the 74th session.

Staffing

The PGA relied on the support of 42 staff members from 29 countries cutting across all regions of the world. I am particularly pleased to note that 22 of them – over 52% – are women. There is need to retain more members of the OPGA permanently under the budget of the United Nations to improve the institutional memory of the Office and ensure continuity across General Assembly sessions, as well as smooth transitions between one presidency and another.

Renovations at the Office of the PGA

As part of his contribution to the improvement of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the PGA began a project to renovate the offices in the Office of the PGA as a legacy to the United Nations. The workspace assigned to OPGA staff was converted to a modern, flexible workspace in order to best serve the needs of the Office. The refurbishment was financed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and will serve not only the 75th session of the General Assembly, but will provide an environment which is conducive to productivity and efficiency for future sessions. The PGA performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the newly refurbished OPGA Office space on Thursday 10 September 2020.

Transparency and Accountability

The PGA, following practices established by his predecessors, transparently disclosed relevant information on the Office's staffing, activities and travels, all posted to the OPGA74 website. In the appointment of facilitators for General Assembly processes, he also gave due consideration to gender equality and regional balance. The PGA also held regular consultations with the Executive office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), Member States, regional groups and other organs of the United Nations, as needed.

9.0 Civil Society Outreach

Over the course of the 74th Session, the Office of the PGA (OPGA) actively ensured inclusivity through meaningful participation of civil society and non-governmental organizations in its various endeavors. The PGA was also personally involved in strategic engagements with civil society and private sector stakeholders, who were properly vetted with the assistance of the Outreach Division of the Department of Global Communications.

The series of actions that are initiated for civil society registration for participation in events include:

- ❖ Placement of an Announcement on the Events webpage of the PGA, DGC and NGO Branch websites which are visited by NGOs, civil societies (as well as others);
- ❖ Announcement by NGO Branch OISC as a mass mailed message to 5,600+ NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC to ensure that they are informed of the upcoming event; DGC send the announcements through its networks that include specially-accredited NGOs and civil society;
- ❖ Preparation of a planning calendar for the roll-out of activities;
- ❖ Review of GA resolution and modalities for the Conference (to facilitate familiarity with the substance, requirements, expectations and format of the Conference, among other issues; and
- ❖ Organization of regular Team meetings with the Secretariat of the Conference and other UN focal points to discuss and determine the expectations for the outcome of the Conference to:
 - a. Establish the parameters for setting up the registration website on *Indico*;
 - b. Discuss and agree on the criteria for vetting of relevant NGOs (by collecting the required information in the registration form);
 - c. Discuss the format of the Conference, particularly the modalities for the participation of civil society (as stated in the resolution(s) for the conference);
 - d. Discuss issues related to logistical requirements of conference venues such as seating arrangements, access points to the room, arrangements for participants

- with disabilities, duration and deadline for the registration process, deadline for the approval process, etc.;
- e. Review and vet the list of registered participants to ensure that the participation of NGOs fulfills several criteria.;
 - f. Respond to and guide NGOs on their registration problems and issues;
 - g. Select and propose relevant panelists/speakers for the Conference to the Conference Secretariat (when required);
 - h. Establish a process for managing the submission of statements or written contributions by NGOs (when required);
 - i. Coordinate with and discuss logistics and security arrangements for registration, travel and participation of NGOs with relevant Department focal points including the Conference Secretariat, DSS, DGACM, Protocol and DGC;
 - j. Maintain confidentiality of personal data collected through the registration process with due regard to the Secretary-General's bulletin on *Information sensitivity, classification and handling*;
 - k. Compile lists of approved participants for DSS with the required information for the issuance of Special Event Tickets (SETs);
 - l. Arrange for the distribution of SETs to approved participants before the event. In distributing SETs, voluntary participation of OPGA team members is useful.

Coordination between UN Inter-Agency Civil Society Focal Points

The Office of the PGA participated in UN Inter-agency Civil Society Focal Points Meetings held regularly with participations of various UN Departments, Offices and Funds (e.g. UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOP, UNDESA, UNODA, OSAA, UNDEF, UN Women and DGC). The purpose of these regular meetings is to coordinate necessary preparations of events organized by the PGA, which will involve and require substantive as well as administrative support from those various inter-agencies. The coordination meeting is particularly crucial in ensuring that all stakeholders are updated about the changing of calendars of events, and necessary sharing of substantive and organizational experience to the process, as well as institutional knowledge that helps organizing offices to ensure successful participation of multi-stakeholder groups in the events, from start to completion.

Highlights of Civil Society and NGO Outreach by the PGA

One-on-One Forum with Civil Society, Trusteeship Council Chamber, 18 November 2019

The “one-on-one forum with the PGA” was a collaborative event organized by the Office of the PGA and the Department of Global Communications, with the purpose of providing a strategic interaction opportunity between the PGA and civil society and to give the PGA a venue to communicate his vision to the broader audience of stakeholders other than UN member and Observer states. The PGA also used the forum to receive inputs from civil society.

Positioned in an informal setting and moderated by the Under-Secretary General for Global Communications, Melissa Fleming, the Forum was attended by 515 participants including students. The session was also telecast live on UN Webcast (webtv.un.org) to reach a broader audience. This programme is a form of acknowledgement that civil society plays an important role as partners on the ground in helping international community implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Informal Meeting between 3rd Committee Member States and Civil Society

On 3 February 2020, the PGA participated in the first-ever Informal Meeting between 3rd Committee Member States and Civil Society, held in Conference Room 3 of the UN Headquarters. This programme was initiated by the Chair of the 3rd Committee, to provide a venue for dialogue between UN Member States and civil society and NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, and to discuss the link between the Agenda 2030 and the work of the Committee. The participation of the PGA in this event was an acknowledgement of the important role of civil society as key partners in advancing the work on the issues related to the 3rd Committee.

UN 75 People's Forum, 14 May 2020

UN 75 People's Forum for the UN was a 2 days online event (14-15 May 2020) co-organized by two Civil society organizations (UN2020 and Together First) to mobilize support of various stakeholders to the principles expressed in the Charter of the UN and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ahead of the Forum, stakeholders participating in this process engaged in online discussions to examine global risks, trends, and develop a global plan of action to address them.

PGA's involvement in this Forum was to enhance a positive signal to promote UN inclusivity and acknowledgement to the vital role of civil society in attaining the UN goals. The PGA received the outcomes of this Forum, which was handed to Permanent Representatives of Qatar and Sweden in their capacity as co-facilitators of the UN 75th Anniversary Declaration negotiation process.

Strategic Engagement with civil society, non-governmental organizations, academia, private sectors

As part of efforts of making the UN more inclusive, over the course of the 74th session, the Office of the PGA ensured participations of civil society, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector in its events. In his overseas travels, the PGA also made sure to incorporate into his official programmes engagement with civil society, including meetings with the academia and local NGOs.

10.0 Communications

The Communications Team focused on keeping Member States, the public, civil society, the media and the UN system informed about the work of the General Assembly. Throughout the session, the team worked to give visibility, mobilize support and raise awareness on PGA's priorities for the session. Communication initiatives were also used as opportunities to shape perceptions of the UN and the

General Assembly across the media, the general public and Member States. When the coronavirus pandemic struck, the team devised creative new ways and opportunities to communicate and inform about the work of the GA and the implementation of the PGA's priorities.

Media

The Communications team organized over 90 press interviews for the PGA, published in major media outlets all over the world, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Al-Jazeera, Al-Arabiya, Bloomberg and others. The Team also organized interviews for the PGA with journalists from developing countries in order to support the youth and make sure the PGA's voice reaches audiences everywhere.

The Spokesperson's Noon Briefings provided an important platform to promote the PGA's messages and inform the press about his activities and to answer journalists' questions. The Spokesperson maintained strong relationships with the media - both with the UN press corps as well as outside UNHQ- by being available to provide information through official briefings, emails or phone calls.

This relationship and cooperation grew stronger during the COVID-19 pandemic as journalists relied on the Spokesperson for information about the work of the GA and the new ways developed by OPGA to ensure business continuity. Press coverage resulting from this cooperation, helped amplify the messages of the PGA during that crucial time.

During COVID-19, the Spokesperson's press briefings were held using virtual platforms. The Spokesperson also sent regular updates via email to more than 1000 contacts including journalists, UN Information Centres (UNICS) around the world and UN Meetings Coverage. The updates were posted as well on the PGA's website under "Media" to make the information easier to access by website visitors and for online search results.

Website and Social Media

The team managed the OPGA website and all its content, as one of the Cabinet's most important tools in keeping relevant parties informed in a transparent and timely manner. The website content was regularly updated with letters, statements and all official communications, as well as detailed information about PGA's activities, High-level events, travels and expenses. The team restructured the website to make it more user friendly and accessible to Member States, the Press and the Public.

The team also managed to add the PGA's website on a dedicated tab in a new UN website created to provide information on the coronavirus: un.org/coronavirus. These efforts resulted in a big increase in pageviews and new website users. For example in the month of June, when the General Assembly organized important events, including the elections of PGA75, non-permanent members of the Security Council and members of the Economic and Social Council, it got around 111,000 pageviews, which is an increase of more than 109% over the same time in 2019.

On average, since the start of the new working arrangements related to COVID-19, the pageviews grew steadily by around 65% which shows the success of the team in fulfilling the need of information and making the website more user friendly.

The communications team relied heavily on social media platforms (Twitter and Instagram) to inform about and promote the various activities and messages of the Session and to increase awareness on the priorities of the President. The team used different multimedia elements to broaden the reach of the message and make the posts more engaging.

The use of Twitter particularly was maximized to serve as a vehicle for communication and to engage directly with civil society and youth. The President's twitter account increased by over 30,000 followers until August 2020.

The team also strategically utilized social media to build momentum around PGA convened meetings and initiatives, in order to mobilize stakeholders in new and engaging ways. Two such initiatives worth highlighting are: the virtual Town Hall meeting to gather youth's input to the Elements Paper and the UN75 Declaration, and the Member State #SG4 pledge during the International Day of Education. In addition to the PGA's official social media accounts, the team had access to post PGA's videos on the official UN YouTube account.

Speeches and Statements/Multilingualism

By the middle of the session, the team engaged three full-time speechwriters who prepared more than 200 statements, speeches and video scripts in collaboration with thematic focal points and substantive experts. Considerable effort was made to develop a speech-writing workflow and process to ensure speeches were submitted in a timely fashion whilst maintaining flexibility for requests for statements at short notice. The team also ensured PGA statements were accessible to Member States, media and the general public, by uploading them to the PGA website upon delivery, and regularly circulating to the press via emails from the Spokesperson.

The team also coordinated the translation of 15 major speeches written in English into the 5 other UN official languages. The speeches were posted on the PGA's language websites by the Web Services Section (DGC).

Support to PGA's Travels

PGA's travels presented key opportunities to further communicate the work of the General Assembly, generate content and promote PGA's messages on his priorities outside the conference rooms as well as put a human face on the work of the UN. One member of the communications team accompanied the PGA on all official travels to secure high-media profile coverage and interviews, social media presence and civil society engagement. Content generated throughout visits was widely disseminated through digital and traditional platforms.

During the official trips, the team contributed in organizing visits for the PGA, for example in schools and universities in collaboration with UN agencies on the ground to ensure engagement with youth and to highlight issues connected to the PGA's priorities. Social media coverage during the PGA's visits was dynamic. It provided opportunity, platform and voice for the people he met during those visits.

Support to High-Level Meetings And Events

The team worked closely with designated focal points, partners and stakeholders to provide communication support for all High-level meetings and events, as well as the preparations for High-Level Week for the 75th session. The full spectrum of support for each event included design of specific visual identities; timely production of all branded materials such as banners and signage; designated pages on the PGA website; curated and coordinated social media content; the production and dissemination of media advisories, statements and speeches. The team worked closely with implementing partners to amplify communication efforts and ensure key messages were communicated clearly, broadly and effectively to both internal and external audiences.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic drastically affected every area of the UN's work. Communications across the board was likewise affected, and coordination mechanisms were swiftly established at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, with OPGA taking part in the UN COVID-19 Communications Group, co-chaired by DGC and WHO, and reporting to the UN Crisis Management Team. Through participation in this group, the Communications team made sure all PGA's activities were widely shared with the UN system for information and planning purposes.

11.0 PGA's Official Travels

COP25, Madrid, Spain (9-11 Dec. 2019)

PGA74 participated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) from 9-11 December 2019, to call for political will and ambition in the highly critical negotiations of the 25th meeting of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25). Through his engagement with Spanish authorities, Youth climate activists, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Green Climate Fund and national delegations, the PGA underscored the urgency of action at global and national levels and highlighted the central role of the General Assembly in the climate agenda and its link to sustainable development.

Visit to Kuwait City (12-13 Dec. 2019)

The President of the General Assembly undertook an official visit to Kuwait City, Kuwait, on 12-13 December 2019, on the invitation of the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah. During the visit, the PGA held bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister of Kuwait, the Assistant Foreign Minister of Kuwait, H.E. Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayn, and the diplomatic community in Kuwait.

The PGA also visited the UN Country Team, the Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences, a non-profit organization that works towards helping persons with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and learning difficulties, as well as the Bareec Alnowair, an educational program that trains teachers to implement interactive positivity exercises.

He also delivered a lecture at Saud Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute, Kuwait City, Kuwait, where he elaborated the priorities of the 74th session of the General Assembly, especially inclusion and quality education for young people and persons with disabilities; as well as the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. He also canvassed for partnerships towards advancing the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Republic of Fiji: (5-8 March 2020)

The PGA engaged in meetings with various government officials, including the President of Fiji, and the Acting Prime Minister of Fiji. He also visited projects that demonstrated the collaborative work of the Government of Fiji and the UN system, including UNICEF, UN Women, and UN Habitat. The PGA also conducted a UN75 dialogue at the University of the South Pacific. The key focus areas of the trip were climate change, oceans, sustainable development, and poverty eradication. The trip was supported by the OPGA Trust Fund.

PGA's trip to Qatar (14-15 Dec. 2019)

H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande undertook a visit to Qatar upon the invitation of the Government of Qatar to participate in the Doha Forum (14th -15th December 2019) under the theme "Reimagining Governance in a Multipolar World." The PGA engaged in bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, H. E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H. E. Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. The PGA also delivered a statement at the opening of Doha Forum 2019 along with H.H. the Emir of the State of Qatar and H.E. the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The PGA addressed the Forum's session to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations with the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon and a number of UN officials. The PGA met with the UN directors' offices in Qatar. He also met youth students during a lecture at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU). The key focuses of the trip were Quality Education, Youth and inclusion. The trip was supported by the government of Qatar.

PGA's Visit to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (7-11 Feb. 2020)

H.E. Prof Tijjani Muhammad-Bande undertook an official visit to the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 7th to 11th February 2020. His delegation comprised of three officers, who travelled as Advanced Party, and five others who arrived with him to the venue of the summit.

The PGA visited the Institute for Peace and Security Studies of Addis Ababa University where he delivered Keynote Remarks at a Panel Discussion on “Prioritizing Prevention as the Most Logical Choice for Silencing the Guns”

The PGA participated in a meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) on the Situation in Libya and the Sahel as a Special Guest on 8th February 2020. He also attended the Opening session of the African Union summit of Heads of State and Government, as a Special Guest on 9th February 2020.

The PGA also attended a breakfast roundtable discussion on sustaining peace and economic security, organized by the Embassy of Canada at the Ball Room of Hyatt Regency Hotel, Addis Ababa.

The PGA also visited the Model UN School, Ardinet International School, run in collaboration with UNDP to engage with students on the themes: Youth, UN at 75; and Education.

The PGA and his delegation also visited the Kebebe Tsehay Orphanage Center where various utility materials such as toiletries, cleaning materials, food items and cereals were presented using voluntary contributions from members of the delegation.

The PGA had bilateral meetings with the President of Ethiopia and Prime Minister of Norway. He also enjoyed some courtesy events while in Addis Ababa. These include:

- Lunch at the Embassy of Nigeria, hosted by Nigeria's Permanent Representative, H. E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, on Monday 10th February 2020;
- Official Dinner hosted by the Ethiopian Prime Minister, H. E. Abiy Ahmed at the Ethiopian Grand Palace on Sunday 9th February, 2020; and
- Official Dinner hosted by the Ethiopian President, Ambassador Sahlework Zewde, at the Ethiopian Grand Palace on Monday 10th February, 2020.

The PGA's visit to Addis was given good visibility by the media through press interviews and social media reportage. These included:

- Interview with Ethiopian News Agency;
- Interview with a Chinese news agency (Xinhua);
- Media Interview with CGTN TV;
- Media Interview with Al-Ahram Newspaper; and
- Media Interview with the Nigerian television Authority (NTA).

Republic of Ireland, 27 – 30 November 2019

The PGA undertook a visit to Ireland upon the invitation of the Government of Ireland to participate in the *Peacekeeping Perspectives* Conference and *Peacebuilding Progress and Prospects* Seminar from 27 to 30 November 2019. During the visit, the PGA engaged with a wide range of audiences, including youth representatives. He also visited the UN Training school and the Maynooth University, where he delivered a lecture on youth and multilateralism to students of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for Conflict Resolution.

The PGA attended the Peacebuilding Progress and Prospects Seminar, where he delivered closing remarks; as well as the National Youth Council of Ireland Climate Action Event, where he engaged in an informal small group discussion with the

youth on climate action. The event had in attendance the Irish Youth Delegates to the United Nations, the Irish Girl Guides and the Youth Council. He also visited Keelings Farm where he canvassed action on his priority area of Zero Hunger. He also held bilateral meetings with H.E. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland; H.E. Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland; and Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Simon Coveney. The visit was well covered on local TV and newspapers.

Geneva, 24-25 February 2020

The PGA participated in the 43rd session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, from 24 -25 February 2020, at the invitation of Ms. Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, President of the Human Rights Council. Also in attendance were the High Commissioner for Human rights, Michelle Bachelet; H.E. Milo Djukanović, President of Montenegro; H.E. Faiez Mustafa Serraj, President of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord of Libya; H.E. Simon Coveney, Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland; and H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations. In total, four Heads of State, 64 Ministers, 25 Deputy Ministers, and eight other senior officials.

The PGA held bilateral meetings with the following dignitaries:

- Ms. Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights, focusing primarily on the review of the United Nations human rights treaty body system in accordance with resolution 68/268, the review of the peacebuilding architecture and modalities for review of the high-level political forum;
- HE. Ms. Elisabeth Tichy- Fisslberger, President, HRC, with discussions on the timetable for the review of the Human Rights Council, which is to take place between 2021 and 2026; and on the links between poverty eradication and decent work, as it relates to youth and opportunities in the context of UN@75;

- Guy Ryder, Director-General of the ILO on lifelong learning, teacher training and the shared determination to promote workers' protection as contained in ILO Convention C190 on violence and harassment in the workplace;
- Mr Eamon Gilmore, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights on EU-UN partnership as key to the promotion of multilateralism, the shrinking space for civil society and the need to maintain inclusivity and transparency in the UN; and
- Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on the collective approach to the implementation of the SDGs, the effectiveness of national policy formulation and innovation to address topical issues and UNCTAD's agenda for action on education, poverty eradication and human rights.

Baku, Azerbaijan, 23-27 October 2019

The PGA undertook a visit to Baku, Azerbaijan, to participate in the 18th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non Aligned Movement NAM on 23 – 27 October 2019, alongside other world leaders. During the visit, he held bilateral meetings with the President of the Republic, H.E. Ilham Aliyev, Deputy Prime Minister, Ali Ahmadov and Chair of the 2030 Agenda, Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov.

The meetings dwelt extensively on wide ranging international issues such as peace and security in the region, Azerbaijan's progress in the implementation of the SDGs, importance of multilateralism and solidarity with the PGA's priorities for the 74th session, as well as Azerbaijan's ascendancy to the Chairmanship of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM). He also undertook working visits to Sungyait Industrial park, and the Azerbaijan One-Stop-Investment Shop.

Abuja Nigeria, 20 – 22 November, 2019

The President of the 74th Session of the UNGA also visited Nigeria from 20-22 November 2019 to participate in the 2nd African Conference on Ageing (SGAA 2nd

African Conference on Ageing). At the African Regional Conference on the Rights of Older Persons organized by coalition of African Non-Governmental Organization and Civil Society Groups, the PGA stressed the need to mainstream human rights of older persons into both global and national development frameworks. He acknowledged the importance of elevating discussions on Ageing especially as transitions occurring in social and economic landscape has called for devotion of adequate attention on those factors that are capable of improving the human rights of older persons, facilitating respect for their rights and protecting their integrity.

The PGA paid a courtesy call on H.E. President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria, and both leaders exchanged views and called for dialogue, understanding and cooperation in resolving major international problems such as terrorism, climate change, poverty, conflicts and current challenges to multilateralism. The PGA also had bilateral discussions with the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, H.E. Geoffrey Onyeama. The meeting was followed by a joint press conference where both officials reiterated commitment to international peace and security, fight against terrorism and collaboration towards achieving the Sustainable development goals.

As part of the activities to round up the visit, the PGA engaged in an interactive session with a coalition of Nigeria Women at the National Women Development Centre in Abuja. He highlighted his priorities for the 74th session, including his focus on the inclusion of women in all process, as well those international events at the United Nations with direct linkage to gender issues, such as the event of CSW and Beijing + 25. He emphasized the importance of implementing national policies on women in accordance with the principles of equality, both in public and private life. The PGA had a series of press interviews with local and international media.

PGA Trip to the United Arab Emirates (8-13 January 2020)

The PGA visited the UAE from 8 to 13 January 2020 to participate in the tenth session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly. He delivered a statement in the opening session of the Assembly and participated in the first "IRENA Youth Forum" which was convened under the theme "Renewables beyond 2030: The Key Role of Youth in the Global Energy Transformation." The Emirates Diplomatic Academy (EDA) hosted the PGA in an interactive discussion with the junior diplomats on the "Challenges and Opportunities for Multilateral Diplomacy. The PGA also paid a visit to the Zayed Higher Organization for the People of Determination (ZHO) and toured the organization's facilities which aims to improve the daily lives of people living with disabilities.

The PGA held bilateral meetings with many U.A.E officials, including H. E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces; H. E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the U.A.E.; and H. E. Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, the Minister of Cabinet Affairs of the U.A.E., amongst others. The PGA's visit was widely covered in many social media and official media outlets. The PGA also visited the Khawala Bint Al Azwar Military School in Abu Dhabi who partnered with UN-Women to provide a peacekeeping training program for more than 100 female Peacekeepers from 23 countries, in recognition of the PGA's support for the vital role women play in maintaining international peace and security.

Paris, France (11-13 November 2019)

The PGA participated in the Second edition of the Paris Peace Forum at the invitation of President Emmanuel Macron. He attended the soft opening of the Forum together with the UN Secretary General and visited several grassroots project stands, on themes related to his priorities (education, women

empowerment, SDGs). He also acted as a panelist with other Heads of State on UN75, as well as with youth delegates on African Union-European Union relations.

At the UNESCO headquarters, the PGA participated in the General Conference as a speaker on the High-Level Panel on Youth Perspectives on Multilateralism. He also addressed the Ministerial Steering Committee on SDG-Education 2030 with a programmatic speech presenting his priorities and vision on the matter for the year ahead. At the OECD headquarters, the PGA attended a special session of the Council of Ambassadors. He also participated as a guest speaker in the opening of a business Leaders' conference on inclusive globalization. Finally, the PGA attended an official dinner at the Élysée palace.

ANNEXES

SDG TARGETS WITH 2020 MATURITY

2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly

3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO OPGA 74 TRUST FUND

PLEDGE DATE/RECEIVED LETTER DATE	CONTRIBUTOR	PROJECT	COMMITMENT
June 2019	Ireland	General administrative, logistical and management support.	143,403.00 USD
July 2019	India	General administrative, logistical and management support.	100,000.00 USD
August 2019	China	General administrative, logistical and management support.	300,000.00 USD
August 2019	Hungary	General administrative, logistical and management support.	65,000.00 USD
September 2019	Qatar	General administrative, logistical and management support.	350,000.00 USD
September 2019	Morocco	General administrative, logistical and management support.	50,000.00 USD
September 2019	UAE	General administrative, logistical and management support.	300,000.00 USD
September 2019	Libya	General administrative, logistical and management support.	10,000.00 USD

October 2019	Algeria	General administrative, logistical and management support.	25,000.00 USD
November 2019	Nigeria	General administrative, logistical and management support. \$300,000.00 earmarked to refurbish the Office Space of OPGA staff	3,000,000.00 USD
November 2019	Cyprus	General administrative, logistical and management support.	5,550.00 USD (5,000.00 EUR)
November 2019	Turkey	General administrative, logistical and management support.	70,000.00 USD
January 2020	Portugal	General administrative, logistical and management support.	11,169.00 USD (10,000.00 EUR)
January 2020	Kuwait	General administrative, logistical and management support.	150,000.00 USD
February 2020	Japan	Support activities related to the agenda of the General Assembly, particularly Sustaining Peace and SDGs. General administrative,	32,800.00 USD

		logistical and management support	
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Specific Mandates Addressed to the President on the Revitalization of the Work of the GA

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In particular, a number of specific mandates were addressed to the President, namely:

OP10. Welcomes the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to reinforce synergy, coherence and complementarity between the agendas of the Assembly and its Committees, and the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and encourages regular interaction between the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council in this regard;

OP14. Stresses the need to limit the number of high-level events in the margins of the general debate;

OP15. Underlines the urgent need to preserve the primacy of the general debate of the General Assembly and for Member States and the United Nations system to singly and collectively limit the number of side events held in parallel with or in the margins of the general debate;

OP16. Recognizes the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, calls for the rationalizing of such debates to ensure high-level attendance, and calls upon the President of the General Assembly to be mindful of the regular agenda of the Assembly when organizing such debates;

OP17. Requests the President of the General Assembly to reconsider the timing of the plenary meetings of the Assembly on the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization and on the report of the Security Council, in close coordination with the Secretary-General and the President of the Security

Council, so that discussions of these important reports are not conducted in a perfunctory manner;

OP27. Reiterates its request to the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session to identify proposals, in a timely manner, through consultations with all Member States, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the General Committee, within their respective mandates, aimed at addressing gaps, overlaps and duplication where they are found to exist in the agenda of the Assembly as they relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole, and reaffirms the respective mandates of the Main Committees of the Assembly, and on that basis, calls upon all of them to continue their consideration of addressing gaps, overlaps and duplication in their respective agendas as they relate to the 2030 Agenda as a whole, and in this regard requests them to make proposals available for discussion during the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly;

OP28. Takes note with appreciation of the updated mapping assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals coverage developed during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly as an evolving reference document for the consideration of Member States during the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly, and also takes note of the initial efforts made during the seventy-third session of the Assembly to develop possible criteria to identify overlaps and duplication where they are found to exist, with a view to continuing the work on agenda alignment with the aim of focusing the work of the Assembly more effectively and efficiently on the timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

OP41. Encourages future Presidents of the General Assembly to actively contribute to the implementation of provisions guiding the selection and appointment of the ninth Secretary-General, as contained in all relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 69/321 and 70/305, and stresses the need for the selection and appointment process of the Secretary-General and other executive heads to be guided by the principles of transparency and inclusiveness;

OP52. Invites Member States to equally consider women as candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly, and encourages Presidents-elect to

continue to strive for both gender and geographical balance within the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

OP59. Requests the Secretariat to issue, within existing resources, in coordination with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, a compendium of best practices of past Presidents that could serve to contribute to strengthening the institutional memory of the Office;

OP61. Calls upon the President of the General Assembly to organize the informal interactive dialogue of the Member States with the candidate(s) for the position of President of the General Assembly pursuant to resolution 71/323 as a question and answer session with targeted and relevant questions, that serves as a follow-up to the vision statement of the candidate(s) and draws on the plans and priorities of each candidate for his or her term, and emphasizes the need to provide enough time so that all participants would have the opportunity to put forward questions;

OP62. Encourages the Office of the President of the General Assembly to expedite the posting of all relevant documents, including the President's speeches, letters, travels, activities, decisions and press releases, on the relevant websites of the United Nations.

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OP24. Requests the President-elect of the General Assembly to continue with the practice of meeting informally with the incoming members of the General Committee before the beginning of the regular session in order to review the proposed programme of work of the Main Committees, with a view to increasing their efficiency, improving complementarity and avoiding overlap of meetings of the Main Committees to the extent possible, in order to allow for wider participation by Member States;

OP45. Requests the President of the General Assembly, in order to enhance transparency, to continue to attach the list of speakers at high-level thematic debates organized by the President to the summary of those events;

OP83. Commends the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session for strengthening the transparency and inclusivity of his Office, including

through continuing the practices outlined in paragraph 66 of resolution 71/323, and for voluntarily presenting the summary of his personal financial disclosure, and requests future Presidents of the Assembly to follow these good practices;

OP84. Encourages the President of the General Assembly to continue the practice of periodically briefing Member States on his or her activities, including official travel;

OP87. Stresses the importance of continuing with the practice of providing a handover report from the President of the General Assembly to their successors and all Member States, as well as of further efforts to improve archiving and record-keeping by the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

OP90. Highly commends the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session for introducing the morning dialogues, envisaged as informal discussions among Permanent Representatives on the substantive and practical aspects of work of the Assembly, and strongly encourages the continuation of the valuable practice of regular meetings between the President and the Permanent Representatives;

10 Potential Key Areas Of Interest And Key Deliverables Identified By The Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Committee on Revitalization of the Work of the GA

- Streamlining and rationalizing the UNGA agenda and the interactive nature of discussions during the meetings
- Streamlining and rationalizing the number of side events, mainly during the high-level week
- Streamlining and rationalizing the number of high-level events
- Enhancing the role of the General Committee, including on trends and challenges in the UNGA work during its regular session
- Achieving greater coherence and coordination in the work of the six main committees, including on cross-cutting issues and in their own revitalization efforts, while taking better advantage of the lessons learned

- Revisiting the issue of changing the opening date of the new session of UNGA and moving it forward by at least one week, without changing the dates of the high-level week
- Wider use of electronic technology in elections; further enhancing equity, collective parameters and benchmarks, as well as wider use of interactive dialogues in competitive elections
- Selection process and appointment of the UN Secretary-General, including how it applies to an incumbent Secretary-General seeking re-election
- Further strengthening the independence, capacities, resources and institutional memory of the PGA Office
- Taking better advantage of the informal dialogue between the Member States and the Secretariat, including on issues such as crisis management, resilience, health, safety and security, e-meeting technology availability, ensuring equity and predictability in the access to services and facilities, understanding all applicable security, administrative and financial conditions and regulations, etc.

**CO-FACILITATORS, CO-CHAIRS AND CO-COORDINATORS FOR THE PROCESSES OF THE
74TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#	PROCESS	CO-CHAIRS, CO-FACILITATORS & CO-COORDINATORS
1	Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea	<p><u>Monaco</u> H.E. Ms. Isabelle F. Picco</p> <p><u>Trinidad & Tobago</u> H.E. Ms. Pennelope Althea Beckles</p>
2	2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	<p><u>Denmark</u> H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann</p> <p><u>Palau</u> H.E. Ms. Ngedikes Olai Uludong</p>
3	Steering Committee for Partnerships for Small Island Developing States: "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Actions (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States"	<p><u>Antigua & Barbuda</u> H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson</p> <p><u>Malta</u> H.E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier</p>
4	Theme for HLPF and ECOSOC	<p><u>New Zealand</u> H.E. Mr. Craig John Hawke</p>
5	Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly: Alignment of the GA with the 2030 Agenda	<p><u>Montenegro</u> H.E. Mrs. Milica Pejanović Đurišić</p>

		<p><u>Botswana</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile</p>
6	<p>Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly: Ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly</p>	<p><u>Ghana</u></p> <p>H.E. Mrs. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee</p> <p><u>Slovakia</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár</p>
7	<p>Review of the HLPF and ECOSOC: 70/299 “Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level”</p>	<p><u>Georgia</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Georgi Velikov Panayotov</p> <p><u>Benin</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Jean-Claude do Reg</p>
8	<p>“Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council”</p>	<p><u>UAE</u></p> <p>H.E. Mrs. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh</p> <p><u>Poland</u></p> <p>H.E. Ms. Joanna Wronecka</p>
9	<p>Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture</p>	<p><u>New Zealand</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Craig John Hawke</p> <p><u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines (appointed by the SC)</u></p>

		H.E. Ms. Rhonda King
10	Steering Committee on Accessibility	<u>Antigua & Barbuda</u> H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson <u>Republic of Korea</u> H.E. Mr. Park Chull-Joo
11	“The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review” (7 th UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy)	<u>Spain</u> H.E. Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver <u>Egypt</u> H.E. Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees
12	Commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations	<u>Qatar</u> H.E. Sheikha Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani <u>Sweden</u> H.E. Ms. Rakel Anna Karin Eneström
13	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development	<u>Italy</u> H.E. Ms. Maria Angela Zappia <u>Costa Rica</u>

		H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Alberto Carazo Zeledón
14	Review of the Human Rights Treaty Body System	<p><u>Morocco</u></p> <p>H. E Mr. Omar Hilale</p> <p><u>Switzerland</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber</p> <p>Replaced in July 2020 by:</p> <p>H.E. Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl</p>
15	Co-coordinators for COVID-19-related Initiatives of the General Assembly	<p><u>Afghanistan</u></p> <p>H.E. Mrs. Adela Raz</p> <p><u>Croatia</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Ivan Šimonović</p>
16	Intergovernmental consultations on E-voting Process	<p><u>Jamaica</u></p> <p>H. E. Mr. Courtenay Rattray</p>
17	Discussions on recommendations outlined in the letter of the Chair of the seventy-first session of the International Law Commission and the Chair-designate of the seventy-second session of the International Law Commission (“the Commission”)	<p><u>Slovakia</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár</p>

18	Intergovernmental consultations on the modalities for the organization of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic	<p><u>Azerbaijan</u></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Yashar T. Aliyev</p> <p><u>Canada</u></p> <p>H.E. Ms. Louise Blais,</p>