



15 December 2020

Excellency,

We are approaching the end of the main part of the seventy-fifth session of the UN General Assembly and looking towards the resumed part of the session. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to share some of my reflections on the session thus far and provide details on engagements next year.

In retrospect:

Despite the challenges arising from the pandemic, the General Assembly has held high-level meetings, conducted elections, continued the work in Main Committees, adopted important decisions and resolutions and considered reports of the Courts, main organs or other bodies of the UN system, while following medical guidance to mitigate risks related to the pandemic. I have continued to meet with many of you both virtually and in-person.

The informal meeting of the General Assembly on 23 November 2020 provided Member States and the Secretariat a space to further discuss business continuity in the context of COVID-19. During the main part of the session, the **decision 75/510 entitled “Procedure for decision-making in the General Assembly when an in-person meeting is not possible”** was adopted. This procedure seeks to ensure the full functionality of the General Assembly at all times, but as I have expressed on several occasions, it is my sincere hope that we do not have to resort to its use. The lack of known cases of transmission at UNHQ demonstrates the commitment of delegations to successfully implement risk mitigation measures.

On 3-4 December, we held the **United Nations General Assembly special session in response to the coronavirus pandemic**. The high level of representation demonstrated the continued commitment of Member States to cooperate to end the pandemic, mitigate its immediate impacts and forge a more resilient path forward. During the General Debate, interventions illustrated the need for a comprehensive multilateral approach to combat this

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

disease and ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 tools, including vaccines. I was pleased to hear the vast majority of Member States echo this sentiment. Indeed, no one is safe until we are all safe. The interactive dialogues reminded us that there are a wide range of stakeholders working tirelessly to overcome the pandemic. In addition to UN agency heads, we heard from pioneers in the field of medical research, global health experts, and advocates from civil society. Our discussions represented a microcosm of the global efforts to fight COVID-19 pandemic, safeguard humanity, and recover better. The summary of our deliberations will be circulated in January and should serve as a useful reference and basis for our collective steps going forward.

I have **launched an initiative in support of fair and equitable access to vaccines, called #Vaccines4All** to reflect the strong expectation of the international community. The initiative aims to strengthen political and resource support for multilateral initiatives, such as the WHO-led ACT-Accelerator and its COVAX Facility, that are helping to manage the complexities of vaccine production, storage, distribution and access.

At the start of December, together with the President of ECOSOC, I conducted a joint high-level informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly and ECOSOC to **commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the World Summit on Social Development** under the theme: *“Re-setting Inclusive Social Policies for Resilience to build back better from COVID-19 crisis: Addressing Inequalities in Access to Basic Services and Infrastructure”*. The commemorative event took stock of lessons learned and options for reinventing social policy for the post COVID-19 crisis with the aim of achieving Sustainable Development Goals for all.

Following the High-Level week meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations in September, the UNGA held a **UN Day concert**, beautifully organized by the Permanent Mission of Italy and streamed from the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, followed by a meeting where the General Assembly recognized the value of the UN, and most importantly, its people. I would also like to thank the group of women Permanent Representatives for leading the initiative to recommit to the values and principles of the UN Charter. I look forward to continuing the dialogue with Member States on the follow up to the adopted UN75 Declaration.

This year, more than forty delegations, some of them speaking on behalf of groups of countries, participated in the debate on the report of the **International Court of Justice**. Speakers demonstrated strong support for the role of the Court and continued interest in the work of the ICJ, as the principal judicial organ of the UN. I warmly welcome the election of five judges to the ICJ by the General Assembly and the Security Council in a timely and organized manner for the period 2021-2030 despite the current challenges, due the mitigation measures related to COVID-19.

The First, Second, Third, Fourth and Sixth **Committees** have concluded their work and presented their reports to the General Assembly. I would like to thank the Chairs and bureaux of the Main Committees for their exceptional work, leadership and flexibility throughout this period. It is thanks to their cooperation that we were able to deliver many of

our mandates. The Committees are the engine of our work. I was pleased to coordinate closely with the Chairs and address delegates in Committee meetings. I extend my full support to Ambassador Carlos Amorin, Chair of the **Fifth Committee** (Administrative and Budgetary) and urge all delegations to seek common ground to conclude its work in a timely manner, including by adopting the 2021 budget for the organization.

I announced the **appointments of co-facilitators** for a variety of General Assembly processes, based on my consultations with the membership and respecting the geographical and gender balance. I attach an update list of co-facilitators appointed so far. I encourage Member States to engage with them in good faith as they facilitate implementation of the mandates of the General Assembly.

As advised, I have set up **two advisory groups** to support me deliver on my gender equality and my development priorities. The **Advisory Group on Gender** held its inaugural meeting on 19 November and made a number of helpful recommendations. The details of our discussions are set out in my letter dated 7 December. I am looking forward to working with this diverse group throughout my tenure to ensure a gender lens is applied to all General Assembly mandates for this session and beyond.

On 24 November 2020, I hosted the inaugural meeting of my **Board of Advisers for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS**. Discussion pertained to the overarching landscape within the work of the United Nations Development System and the General Assembly, with a view to assessing strategic moments that could be leveraged to further the support for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. The Board also endorsed the roadmap of the plan of work with the understanding that there would be opportunities to revise the roadmap as and when necessary. A summary of the first meeting will be circulated shortly.

I was also pleased to come together with the **21 Vice Presidents of General Assembly** during the 75th session on 19 November 2020, where we had a useful discussion on how to enhance the exchange of views and task-sharing for the upcoming work and activities of the General Assembly.

I have started my **Morning Dialogues**, which have been very fruitful thus far. Participants have highlighted priority areas for consideration by Member States and my Office and identified areas where my Office can deliver greater value and impact. For example, following feedback at a Morning Dialogue, I will convene a High-Level Event on Digital Cooperation, critical as we go increasingly digital, amplified by the pandemic. I have also held Morning Dialogues on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, biodiversity, and reform and revitalization. I intend to continue these meetings, health conditions-permitting, and thank all those who have contributed so far. Although I am obliged to restrict number of participants due to social distancing measures, as a measure of transparency, I will circulate my informal summary of these morning dialogues to the full membership for your information. The summaries of the first four Morning Dialogues are attached.

As many of you are aware, I am a strong advocate of **close cooperation and collaboration between the principal organs of the Organization**. I have continued to act on this commitment thanks to the amenable approach of the heads of other principal organs. Since my last update, I continued to come together in coordination with the Presidents of ECOSOC and the Security Council, as well as with the Secretary-General.

I have also continued to meet with the heads of UN Agencies, Funds, Programmes and related bodies within the UN system to ensure coordination and complementarity of our work.

Looking ahead to the resumed part of the seventy-fifth session

In the coming months, I will convene or actively engage in the preparations of a number of high-level meetings as mandated in relevant GA resolutions. A **draft calendar of events** is attached and will be uploaded to PGA 75 website and updated as dates and events are confirmed.

Member States will discuss **corruption at the special session on 2-4 June 2021**, including how to ensure full and effective implementation of the obligations of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. I am looking forward to hearing Member States' views on the challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation at the high-level supporting event to be held on the margins of the special session.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of **other high-level meetings and processes** that I will convene or engage in during the seventy-fifth session:

- A high-level meeting to promote the implementation of the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;
- A high-level meeting on middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the first quarter of 2021;
- A Joint Thematic Event on Least Developed Countries;
- A high-level event to discuss the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development in the formulation of national, regional and international development policies and international cooperation instruments;
- A high-level dialogue to assess the progress made in the fight against Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, and map the way forward in view of the end of the UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification;
- The finalization of the political declaration of the 2nd UN Ocean Conference and the conclusion of its preparatory process, in consultation with the co-hosts Portugal and Kenya;
- A high-level meeting to review the progress on the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS in June 2021.

Following the discussions and calls from Member States, I also plan to organize:

- A Thematic Debate on Digital Cooperation and Connectivity;
- A series of initiatives and strategic engagements to follow-up on the Summit on Biodiversity, that will include engagements with various Communities of Action from youth, to private sector leaders, and from PRs to Intergovernmental Organisations;
- A spotlight event on COVID-19 vaccines to follow up the initial fruitful exchange at the special session.

Excellency,

We will continue to work closely with the Secretariat, and in particular the Medical Services Division, to ensure that all measures recommended to address the challenges posed by COVID-19 continue to be in place when holding in-person meetings of the General Assembly. I am confident that the delegates will continue to comply with the physical distancing, hygiene and face covering requirements for the safe conduct of our business in the upcoming session. As informed by the Secretariat in the briefing held on November 23, I am glad that we have not had any known case of community transmission at UNHQ and that the systems in place have proven effective.

In all these endeavours, I will remain ready and continue to consult, discuss and benefit from the advice of the Member States. I am counting on your valuable support to ensure that our General Assembly continues to deliver for the people we serve.

Lastly, I would like to share herewith the second Newsletter that my Office has prepared to highlight the General Assembly's work and my activities since my last update in October.

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



Volkan BOZKIR

Enclosures:

- PGA's newsletter
- Summaries of Morning Dialogues
- Provisional calendar of the 75th session
- List of Co-chairs and Co-facilitators of the 75th session



Morning Dialogue Summary

LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS at the UN: Action for the Most Vulnerable 91



Friday, 6 November 2020

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan BOZKIR convened his first Morning Dialogue on the topic of '*LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS at the UN: Action for the Most Vulnerable 91*' on Friday, 6 November 2020. The Dialogue was attended by nine Permanent Representatives, one Permanent Observer, as well as the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States. The series of Morning Dialogues offers an opportunity to engage in informal discussions on issues of concern for Member States, and the President of the General Assembly. The discussions do not represent a formal process and will not generate any official report. They are held under Chatham House rules, with a primary objective of promoting genuine dialogue that seeks solutions and provides ideas for concrete action, without constituting a parallel track for existing processes.

Participants shared their national and group experiences, highlighted issues of global concern, and made recommendations to address them. All participants agreed that the President of the General Assembly's convening power offers an opportunity to enhance advocacy, increased visibility of the issues concerning these vulnerable countries and enhancing effectiveness and coordination between host of existing mechanisms.

The key points raised during the Dialogue are as follows:

- Accounting for nearly 50% of the globe and inherently weakest, these vulnerable countries require sustained support especially in the wake of ongoing pandemic. Absence a targeted global response, such as a stimulus package for the most vulnerable, major disruption – as much as 30% economic contraction - cannot be ruled out. The UN General Assembly can and must galvanize political will to make these countries a strategic global priority.
- Citing limited progress in implementation of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (2015-2030), the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, and the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, the participants highlighted the mixed picture of progress in the implementation of Agenda 2030 in these countries. Some participants highlighted the absence of a monitoring framework for the implementation of Summits and Conference. Collectively they recognized the critical role that the General Assembly could play in forging greater coherence across mechanisms and frameworks within and beyond the United Nations System.
- Participants highlighted the importance of placing LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS at the centre of the multilateral agenda for the session and the commonalities across issues including access to means of implementation - financing, technology, data, and capacity; as well as climate change. Some participants underscored the need for customized approaches such as, but not limited to, evolving (i) a multidimensional vulnerability index; (ii) debt

forgiveness/cancellation; (iii) a new compact for SIDs and (iv) a New Deal for the LDCs. In this regard, reference was also made for extending support to the recently established LDCs Technology Bank.

- All participants flagged the compounded impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. Heightened vulnerabilities to external shocks owing to a plethora of factors have left these countries in economic freefall. Participants recognized both the immense challenge that this presents, but also the opportunity for implementing transformative change. The latter was deemed only possible with the appropriate level of international support, including but not limited to funding through international mechanisms.
- With respect to bolstering the effectiveness, capacity, and funding of the existing mechanisms, it was recommended that involvement from the capitals of donor countries is essential in ensuring the political buy-in for the resourcing and implementation phases of development mechanisms. With increased political buy-in at the planning and mandate stage, there is an expected increase in engagement during later stages from donor Governments. In addition, participants called for urgent action on the external debt burden faced by many LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. With innovative tools on the table, such as debt-for-climate swaps, this matter requires action on the part of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, as well as by donor countries, and the international financing architecture.
- The participants welcomed the announcement of the President of the General Assembly's Board of Advisers for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS which will serve as a tool for advocacy and communication. Some proposals to take forward the issue of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, and coordination of mechanisms in the General Assembly included a high-level meeting to discuss the synergies, overlap, and gaps between frameworks. A specific example given was to increase the coherence and cooperation between the SIDS Partnerships Steering Committee, the UN Global Compact, and the SIDS Global Network.
- The issue of graduation from LDC status was raised. It was highlighted that a majority of countries were not too keen to graduate keeping in view access to concessional financing, and the concerns related to the decline in overseas development assistance, particular in the immediate period following graduation. Call for a systemwide reconsideration of the graduation process was reiterated. In this context, presence of a multidimensional vulnerability index, that looks beyond GDP, was considered an imperative that was yet to receive the requisite level of political and technical attention.
- The reporting burden on small or under-resourced administrations, as well as the high burden for accessing support from international mechanisms, were identified as areas ripe for reform and streamlining. The discussants also raised the issue of administrative burden of reporting on various donor mechanisms.
- Finally, participants recalled the various requests made to the UN system including a scoping exercise of the global financing and trade landscape to address the incoherence of financing access policies, and a monitoring framework that cuts across various mechanisms and programmes. This was recommended for discussion by the Board of Advisers on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

.....



Morning Dialogue Summary
Biodiversity and the SDGs
Friday, 13 November 2020, 8:30 am



The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan BOZKIR convened his first Morning Dialogue on the topic of '**Biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals**' Friday, 13 November 2020. The Dialogue was attended by Ambassadors from all five Regional Groups.

The series of Morning Dialogues offers an opportunity to engage in informal discussions on issues of concern for Member States, and the President of the General Assembly. The discussions do not represent a formal process and will not generate any official report. They are held under Chatham House rules, with a primary objective of promoting genuine dialogue that seeks solutions and provides ideas for concrete action, without constituting a parallel track for existing processes.

Participants shared their national and group experiences, highlighted issues of global concern, and made recommendations to address them. All participants unanimously highlighted the need for synergy across three Rio Conventions – Biodiversity, desertification and climate change. They also agreed that ambitious and effective action on biodiversity underpins the success of the post-2015 development agenda. The key points raised during the Dialogue are as follows:

- All participants commented on the success of the first United Nations Summit on Biodiversity at the level of Heads of State and Government. Participants also recognized the need to match the level of interest in the Summit with tangible actions on the ground. The participants expressed support for maintaining momentum on and visibility for the biodiversity agenda ahead of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and throughout the 75th session of the General Assembly and beyond.
- Some participants shared their national experiences including the integration of nature-based solutions in national and subnational policy planning frameworks.
- Participants noted the global impacts of COVID-19, and the relationship between biodiversity loss, and the zoonosis-induced pandemic. They called for a restoration of the balance between the natural world and human society. There was discussion on the urgent need for a circular economy and biodiversity positive actions from the cities and local authorities especially in mainstreaming considerations of supply chains, and resource management into models of economic and social development. In this context, the need for closer engagement and role of the UN Habitat was highlighted.
- The participants identified the opportunities presented by the hosting of conferences of the parties on all three Rio Conventions in the same year. The Convention to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, the Convention on Climate Change, and the

Convention on Biological Diversity share many synergies. Participants highlighted that and progress on any of the conventions, feeds into the success of the others. In light of all three conferences of the parties taking place in 2021, the participants underscored the need for the General Assembly to identify avenues and to seize on this opportunity to effectively communicate around these issues and agenda, with a view to galvanizing a whole-of-society approach towards achieving the post-2015 development agenda. A number of positive recommendations such as the General Assembly could (i) convene additional high level event (s) ; (ii) launch “Sepoys of Nature” and/or convene key global figures engaged in biodiversity, desertification and climate change protection; and (iii) hold a single event in 2021 – “a solution summit” focusing on enhancing synergies between the three Rio Conventions.

- In terms of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, participants agreed that the outcome should be ambitious, balanced and implementable. It was agreed that the framework should be the mechanism to bolster political commitment with action on the ground. Participants shared the hope that a strong framework would ease the policy process at the national level and therefore increase the amount of national political engagement with the biodiversity agenda.
- Some discussion was held around the special needs of the climate vulnerable and the Global South. It was highlighted that those furthest left behind arguably have the most to gain from well-executed nature-based solutions. It was also highlighted that Road to Glasgow and Kunming will need effective partnerships, including North-South and South-South cooperation to ensure the implementation of key policy actions. Relatedly, great impetus was placed on the sharing of solutions.
- The participants underscored the prime role of the General Assembly as a key convening platform for multi-stakeholder discussions, as well as its function as the primary interface between Member States and the United Nations Development System, and its role of mobilizing political support and raising advocacy efforts. To bring biodiversity higher on the political agenda, the Participants recognized the need for extensive consultation, and cooperation, between Member States, sectors, and within the UN system, underscoring the importance of the public opinion of youth.
- Participants also discussed the need to mobilize all arms of the international development framework including the Economic and Social Council, and the International Financing Institutions in order to sensitize them about the biodiversity agenda. In this context, the clear synergies between biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration with all the Sustainable Development Goals are essential. Participants also called for strengthening the interlinkages across sectors and issues including the upcoming Food Systems Summit and the Leaders Pledge for Nature.
- During the discussion, there was a clear focus on means of implementation, specifically on financing to support advancement of the biodiversity agenda. Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries and other developing countries standing to gain the most from effectively implement nature based solutions, particularly in light of vulnerabilities related to land degradation, desertification, drought, sea-level rise, and climate hazards. As such, they require adequate, accessible, and robust financing mechanisms to support these efforts.

.....



Morning Dialogue Summary
Digital Cooperation and Connectivity
Friday, 20 November 2020



The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan BOZKIR convened his third Morning Dialogue on the topic of ‘***Digital Cooperation and Connectivity***’ on Friday, 20 November 2020. The Dialogue was attended by nine Permanent Representatives, as well as the Under-Secretary-General on the Commemoration of the United Nations 75th Anniversary, Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild. The series of Morning Dialogues offers an opportunity to engage in informal discussions on issues of concern for Member States and the President of the General Assembly. The discussions do not represent a formal process and will not generate any official report. They are held under Chatham House rules, with a primary objective of promoting genuine dialogue that seeks solutions and provides ideas for concrete action, without constituting a parallel track for existing processes.

The third morning dialogue assumed an even greater significance in the context of COVID-19 adaptive measures that have (i) increased reliance on digital technologies; (ii) exacerbated digital divides both amongst and within nations; and (iii) resulted in enhancing pre-existing economic, social and political vulnerabilities of millions of people, especially women, minorities and children, who have been left far behind.

The key observations and messages from the Dialogue were as follows:

- All participants agreed that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the impacts of the digital divide on issues such as jobs, education and healthcare, not only between developed and developing countries, but also within countries along urban-rural dimensions. The spread of digital technologies has been unprecedented; the internet took just 25 years to spread from a small number of users to more than half of the global population. By comparison, it took more than 140 years for electricity usage to spread globally.
- All participants agreed that digital technologies have been spreading through market forces, with inadequate regulation or management by governments, resulting in both exclusion and a deficit in protecting public goods. COVID-19 has turbo charged the need for digital inclusion and overcoming existing policy gaps.
- Several participants highlighted policy and regulatory gaps requiring immediate global attention. For instance, while enhanced use of digital technology throughout the COVID-19 crisis has been beneficial for many, at the same time it has led to a commensurate rise in cybercrime, online abuse and bullying of women, minorities and children. Similarly, misinformation has also increased significantly, spreading at scale and at no cost. It is possible for governments to regulate and address these issues effectively.
- Participants noted that while some localized regulations have helped to improve upon some of the challenges listed above, digital technologies are borderless and require comprehensive global approaches, where the role of General Assembly should remain prominent.
- Participants also noted that reaping the benefits of connectivity cannot be limited to a one-dimensional focus on simply increasing internet access. Greater efforts must be placed on increasing access to lifelong digital skills and literacy, improved identification of misinformation,

and reducing the intergenerational gap in internet access and use between young and old. To this end, participants also underscored that addressing the digital divide would require also addressing the energy divide simultaneously, given the reliance on electricity to power digital technologies.

- Some participants warned that expanding digital connectivity without simultaneously addressing cybersecurity issues would put governments and their critical infrastructure at greater risk, leaving them even more vulnerable as soft targets for terrorist attacks.
- All participants recognized that, in light of its long engagement on this issue, the General Assembly has an important role to play in forging a framework for digital cooperation. In this regard, reference was made to the Secretary General's Digital Roadmap and the 75th Anniversary Declaration as key starting points for General Assembly deliberations.
- All participants underscored that, in order to succeed, a General Assembly framework on digital cooperation will require multi-stakeholder participation, particularly of the private sector.
- All participants welcomed the PGA's announcement at the Morning Dialogue of his intention to convene a high-level General Assembly meeting on digital cooperation and connectivity in Spring 2021. They agreed that bringing together member states, the UN system and stakeholders on a single platform would help to draw lessons and in accelerating global action on ending the digital divide in support of COVID-19 recovery efforts.
- Some participants offered recommendations on the scope of the PGA's proposed meeting, including: (i) *ending* the digital divide to accelerate SDG implementation and prevent multiplying inequalities; and (ii) *supporting* micro, small and medium sized enterprises' adaptations to rapidly changing digital environments, with special emphasis on LDCs and SIDS.
- Engagement of the private sector via incentives was raised as a means to share older versions of digital technologies and urgently end the digital divide. Mobilizing volunteers to help build infrastructure and networks and familiarize communities with these technologies was also suggested. In this regard, some participants also highlighted the need for making use of existing platforms such as the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum, the UN Global Compact and UN Volunteers to implement these proposals.
- Finally, South-South and Triangular Cooperation were considered useful conduits to accelerate implementation action.

.....



Morning Dialogue – Summary
Building back better: Reform and revitalization
for a more effective UNGA



11 December 2020, 8:30 am

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan BOZKIR convened his fourth Morning Dialogue on the topic of '*Building back better: Reform and revitalization for a more effective UNGA*' Friday, 11 December 2020. The Dialogue was attended by nine Ambassadors from all five Regional Groups.

The series of Morning Dialogues offers an opportunity to engage in informal discussions on issues of concern for Member States, and the President of the General Assembly. The discussions do not represent a formal process and will not generate any official report. They are held under Chatham House rules, with a primary objective of promoting genuine dialogue that seeks solutions and provides ideas for concrete action, without constituting a parallel track for existing processes.

The key points raised during the Dialogue were as follows:

- Participants agreed that the GA Revitalization process had achieved good results in previous sessions. However, it was time to take a fresh look at the General Assembly's working methods to keep the UN relevant 'to real people in the real world'. Member states could use the momentum of the 75th anniversary of the UN to achieve progress on revitalization.
- Some participants suggested that the GA revitalization and alignment process were considered as routine annual discussions. Participants agreed that greater involvement of Permanent Representatives in the processes would be highly beneficial as they were often the decision-makers in their governments on matters of UN process. The political will to make progress was there. It should not just be about updating the previous resolutions but being action-oriented and taking concrete steps. Ensuring the GA remained "relevant" was the key issue.
- Participants raised the need for the General Assembly to continue its discussion on streamlining the agenda and reducing the number and length of resolutions. It was suggested that the General Assembly's work during the pandemic had exposed what was truly necessary and provided a good opportunity to reflect. Many resolutions had been adopted as technical rollovers, which raised the question as to whether it was productive to adopt the same resolutions year after year. Resolutions also suffered from not being connected to the broader public outside the UN. Delegations had become "prisoners in a prison of their own making." A "prison break" could not be achieved by delegations working individually, but only by working together.
- Participants discussed the need to bridge the political divide in the alignment process. Finding duplications in the agenda of the GA and ECOSOC was important but addressing the gaps in

the implementation of 2030 agenda was equally important, and could create the momentum required to move forward. Regional and political groupings could be used to sensitize member states to the benefits of better alignment with the 2030 agenda.

- It was suggested that was time to take a fresh look at the General Assembly’s working methods. Several ideas were put forward as to how to progress this. One suggestion was to conduct an “external review” such as by a cross-regional panel of experts or former Permanent Representatives, convened by the President of the General Assembly, to make an objective assessment of the General Assembly’s working methods and concrete proposals for consideration by the membership.
- A further suggestion was to establish a Code of Conduct setting out guidelines for Member States when proposing a resolution. This could start as an initiative of a group of states, which could grow over time. A mechanism could also be established to triage resolutions in terms of duplication, before being proposed to the General Assembly.
- Participants agreed that the General Assembly Special Session in response to the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic was a success and demonstrated the relevance of the Assembly.

.....



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE 75TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Provisional list of events under the auspices of the
GENERAL ASSEMBLY and/or the PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

i.	Events in January 2021	Page 2
ii.	Events in February 2021	Page 2
iii.	Events in March 2021	Page 3
iv.	Events in April 2021	Page 3
v.	Events in May 2021	Page 4
vi.	Events in June 2021	Page 4
vii.	Events in July 2021	Page 5
viii.	Events in August 2021	Page 5
ix.	Events in September 2021.....	Page 5
x.	High-level Week of the 76 th session.....	Page 5



#	JANUARY 2021	EVENT
1	TBC	Briefing by the President of the General Assembly on his priorities for 2021
2	27 January	Informal Meeting of the plenary for briefing on the G20 priorities
3	28 January	Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization
4	TBC	Joint Briefing of the Presidents of the General Assembly and ECOSOC

#	FEBRUARY 2021	EVENT
1	17 and 18 February (TBC)	<i>Inter-Parliamentary Union Hearing</i>

#	MARCH 2021	EVENT
1	TBC	Midterm Review: International Decade for People of African Descent
2	TBC	High-level Meeting on Middle-Income Countries
3	18 March	High-Level Meeting on the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda
4	19 March	Commemorative Meeting on Elimination of Racial Discrimination
5	25 March	Commemorative Meeting on International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade

#	APRIL 2021	EVENT
1	TBC	High-level Debate on Urban Crime (Subject to adoption by the GA)
2	TBC	Informal Interactive Hearing with Indigenous Peoples
3	TBC	Spotlight Event on #Vaccines4All
4	22 April	High-level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought
5	26 April (TBC)	High-level Thematic Debate to mark the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace

#	MAY 2021	EVENT
1	TBC	High-level Thematic Debate on Digital Cooperation and Connectivity
2	6 May	Informal Interactive Dialogue of the Member States with the Candidate(s) for the Position of President of the General Assembly
3	21 May	High-level Event on Culture and Sustainable Development

#	JUNE 2021	EVENT
1	TBC	Special Session of the General Assembly on Challenges and Measures to Prevent and Combat Corruption and Strengthen International Cooperation
2	7 June (am)	Election of the President of the 76th session of the General Assembly
3	7 June (pm)	Election of Members of the Economic and Social Council
4	TBC	High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS
5	11 June	Election of Non-permanent Members of the Security Council
6	18 June	Joint Thematic Event on Least Developed Countries

#	JULY 2021	EVENT
1	TBC	Nelson Mandela International Day

#	AUGUST 2021	EVENT
1	TBC	High-level Meeting to Commemorate and Promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests

#	SEPTEMBER 2021	EVENT
1	TBC	High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace
2	13 September 2020	Closing of the 75 th session
HIGH-LEVEL WEEK OF THE 76 TH SESSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level Meeting to Commemorate and Promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons 		



CO-CHAIRS AND CO-FACILITATORS FOR THE PROCESSES OF THE 75TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Co-chairs and Co-facilitators as at 15 December 2020*

#	PROCESS	CO-CHAIRS AND CO-FACILITATORS
1	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	<u>Azerbaijan</u> H.E. Mr. Yashar T. Aliyev <u>Canada</u> H.E. Ms. Louise Blais
2	Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly: Alignment of the GA with the 2030 Agenda	<u>Bangladesh</u> H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima <u>Slovenia</u> H.E. Ms. Darja Bavdaž Kuret
3	Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly: Ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly	<u>El Salvador</u> H.E. Mrs. Egriselda Aracely González López <u>Slovakia</u> H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár
4	Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) on the Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council	<u>Poland</u> H.E. Ms. Joanna Wronecka <u>Qatar</u> H.E. Sheikha Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani

5	Review of the HLPF and ECOSOC: Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/290 on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, resolution 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level and resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council	<u>Austria</u> H.E. Mr. Alexander Marschi <u>Senegal</u> H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang
6	Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture	<u>New Zealand</u> H.E. Mr. Craig John Hawke <u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</u> <i>(appointed by the SC)</i> H.E. Ms. Rhonda King
7	The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review (7 th UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy Review)	<u>Spain</u> H.E. Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver <u>Oman</u> H.E. Mr. Mohamed Al Hassan
8	Process for the convening of the high-level meeting on HIV and AIDS to review progress on the commitments made in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030 (A/Res/70/266)	<u>Australia</u> H.E. Mr. Mitchell Peter Fifield <u>Namibia</u> H.E. Mr. Neville Melvin Gertze
9	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	<u>Denmark</u> H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann <u>Grenada</u> H.E. Ms. Keisha A. McGuire



10	Review of the format of the Pledging Conference for Development Activities	<u>Paraguay</u> H.E. Mr. Julio César Arriola Ramírez
11	SIDS Partnership Steering Committee	<u>Antigua and Barbuda</u> H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson <u>Malta</u> H.E. Mrs. Vanessa Frazier