



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 April 2021

Excellency,

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/127 of 12 December 2018, I have the honour to inform you that I will convene an Interactive Dialogue to commemorate and promote the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace on Wednesday, 5 May 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., in the General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters. This event will feature the Heads of the five principal organs of the United Nations – the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretary-General. The change of date to commemorate the International Day, which is marked on 24 April as per the aforementioned the resolution, has been made to accommodate the availability of the Heads of the UN organs. A preliminary concept note is enclosed.

This meeting will be convened under the theme of “Achievements of Multilateralism and the Future of the United Nations.” The meeting will include an opening segment, followed by an interactive dialogue with the Heads of the five principal organs of the United Nations, intergovernmental bodies and the civil society, and a closing segment. The interactive dialogue will reflect on the achievements of the multilateral system, discuss the current challenges of multilateralism and how we can ensure an effective and inclusive multilateral system in the post-COVID era, especially at a time when the principles of multilateralism have never been more important and more in need of support.

Further updates and details will be circulated in due course. For further information, you may contact the Team Leader for Peace and Security, Ms. Saada Hassan (saada.hassan@un.org) and Senior Adviser Ms. Woo-jung Han (woo-jung.han@un.org).

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Volkan Bozkir', written in a cursive style.

Volkan BOZKIR

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



**Interactive Dialogue
to commemorate and promote
the International Day of Multilateralism
and Diplomacy for Peace**



10:00-12:00 Wednesday, 5 May 2021

Concept Note

Overview

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/127, the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, constitutes a means to promote the values of the United Nations and to reaffirm the faith of our peoples in the purposes and principles enshrined in its Charter, to reaffirm the importance and relevance of multilateralism and international law and to advance the common goal of lasting and sustained peace through diplomacy.

The President of the General Assembly will convene an Interactive Dialogue on “**Achievements of Multilateralism and the Future of the United Nations**” with the Heads of the UN principal organs, intergovernmental bodies and the civil society to commemorate and promote the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace on Wednesday, 5 May 2021, in the General Assembly Hall.

Background

The United Nations came into being in 1945, following the devastation of the Second World War, with one central mission: the maintenance of international peace and security. The Charter of the United Nations states that one of the United Nations' purposes and principles is the commitment to settle disputes through peaceful means and the determination to succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

The United Nations has functioned through six principal organs throughout the past decades: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat.

Multilateral efforts centered on the United Nations since then have helped states mediate disputes, facilitate trade and economic development and create common standards. For decades, this multilateral system has helped the world avoid major wars and has made a real difference in people's lives. The stability and prosperity we enjoy today is the testament to the success and longevity of the multilateral approach.

Preserving the values of multilateralism and international cooperation, which underpin the UN Charter, is fundamental to promote and support the three pillars of the UN - peace and security, development and human rights.

Global issues such as climate change, geopolitical tensions, humanitarian and migratory crises are cross-cutting, implicating the values and interests of nations and necessitate collective attention and action. Technological advancement has also impacted the political and socio-economic landscape and inter-state relations.

The COVID-19 crisis underscored the indispensable role of international cooperation through the United Nations to overcome a shared global challenge and international cooperation that have already been witnessed well before the pandemic broke out. Multilateralism has come under tremendous stress and strain. The international community today faces questions about the effectiveness of the international system that was established in the aftermath of the Second World War.

In these critical times, the international community needs, more than ever, to muster the political will and leadership to support multilateralism and strengthen the rules-based international order. The international community needs a multilateral system that is relevant for our increasingly globalized and interconnected world: a system that is flexible and able to adapt, quick to react to multiple challenges at the same time, to be responsive to the needs of people, everywhere, ensuring that none are left behind. The multilateral system should be equipped with the right tools and expertise, and with a shared resolve to move forward and keep the 2030 Agenda alive and within reach in the post-COVID era.

Objectives

The overarching objectives of the Dialogue to commemorate and promote International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace are to **reflect on the achievements of the multilateral system, to discuss the current challenges of multilateralism and how we can ensure an effective and inclusive multilateral system in the post-COVID era**, especially at a time when the principles of multilateralism have never been more important and more in need of support.

Guiding Questions

1. (*Achievements of the UN*) What are the **key achievements of the five principal organs of the UN in advancing international law and its future in supporting multilateralism?**

- What can be seen as a model case for successful **diplomacy for peace**?
- What efforts are being made by the ICJ to facilitate the **peaceful settlement of disputes** between States, guarantee the stability necessary for international cooperation and promote the rule of law and how does this show the need to cooperate across principal organs?

- **Peacekeeping** has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN to assist countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. What collaborative efforts can be made in the area of peacekeeping to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic?
- The **UN peacebuilding architecture** continues to play an important role in building synergies and coherence of the UN's peacebuilding efforts, with the aim to further efforts on prevention over crisis response. What are the success stories of the UN peacebuilding architecture and how can collaboration across principal organs better support peacebuilding efforts?
- **ECOSOC** has served as an important node for networked multilateralism due to its coordinating functions. What are the contributions of ECOSOC in a strengthened multilateral system that is fit for addressing short and long-term global challenges?

2. *(Future of Multilateralism)* COVID-19 has shown us the necessity of strong multilateral cooperation. What are the three **key results we should look to from the multilateral system in the coming year?**

- How can this time of crisis be used as an **opportunity to reform the United Nations system?**
- What are the **biggest challenges and opportunities for multilateral action** in the coming year and how can the Member States support this?
- How can the **five organs collaborate further** with each other in strengthening multilateralism in times of crises?
- How can the United Nations **better prepare for future global crises?**

3. *(Effective and Inclusive Multilateralism)* What role can the United Nations play in forging a new international consensus in **collaborating with regional entities, civil society and other stakeholders** on rebuilding multilateralism and to ensure that multilateralism is inclusive?

- How is each principal organ engaging with regional entities or civil society on strengthening multilateralism?

Programme and Format

- **Time and Venue:** 10:00-12:00, Wednesday, 5 May 2021, General Assembly Hall

10:00-10:15	<u>Opening Segment</u>
10:15-11:55	<u>Interactive Dialogue Segment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heads of the Principal Organs of the UN • Intergovernmental Bodies / Regional Organizations / Civil Society
11:55-12:00	<u>Closing Segment</u>

Member States, observers and civil society can submit questions for the Interactive Dialogue Segment prior to the meeting. Member States present at meeting who wish ask questions during the Dialogue Segment should register beforehand. Further details on the submission of questions and registration to take the floor will be circulated in due course.

Target Audience

Participants will include Permanent Representatives to the UN, government officials, media representatives, and heads of civil society organizations, as well as academics and individuals for the field of international relations and the UN family. It will be broadcast live on UN Webtv.

Outcome

The outcome will be a summary by the President of the General Assembly, which will be circulated to all Member States, observers and relevant stakeholders.