



4 August 2021

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to transmit herewith, a letter from His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President-elect of the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, regarding the establishment of the *President of the General Assembly Youth Fellowship Programme*.

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

Volkan BOZKIR

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



## **ABDULLA SHAHID**

President-Elect of the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives

4 August 2021

Excellency,

It is my pleasure to inform you about a flagship initiative of the Presidency of Hope – one that is close to my heart, and for which I am confident I can count on your active support.

I am a firm believer in the importance of youth participation. Young people must have a role in shaping decisions that affect their tomorrow. It is a key priority of my Presidency. The UN75 discussions over the last year also clearly emphasised the need to invest in future generations, and the urgency to involve youth more actively in the work of the United Nations. In order to concretely invigorate multilateralism and develop the next generation of civil servants, particularly from LDC, LLDC, and SIDS, I propose to establish a *President of the General Assembly Youth Fellowship Programme*.

The Programme would bring together a small group of young professionals from the LDC, LLDC, and SIDS for a year-long fellowship in New York, giving the young diplomats/officials a unique opportunity to gain in-depth UN experience by providing a solid understanding of the role and functioning of the UN in its various components, and making them strong advocates for the multilateral system in their future careers. In addition to imparting specific training sessions on various key thematic, the young professionals would have exposure to the United Nations and the General Assembly while being anchored in their national Permanent Missions, for which they would also perform relevant duties.

In order to initiate the selection of the Fellows without delay and start the Programme at the beginning of the seventy-sixth session, I would like to request for your political and financial support for this initiative. In that respect, earmarked contributions to the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly for the Seventy-Sixth Session would be most welcome. A provisional budget for the Fellowship Programme has been developed in order to cover training, travel and a monthly stipend for the selected fellows. Details on the Fellowship Programme may be obtained by writing to my Transition Team at the email: [opga76@maldivesmission.com](mailto:opga76@maldivesmission.com).

I would like to call on the generosity of your Government, and its commitment to the building of enduring youth capacity in support of multilateralism. With the establishment of this Fellowship, I am convinced that together, we can make a difference.

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

Abdulla Shahid  
President-Elect of the 76<sup>th</sup> session of  
the UN General Assembly

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