

# Newsletter

*H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkır's First Month in Office*



## SUMMARY

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In my first month, I presided over the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly and four high-level events. I met with Member State representatives based in New York and their capitals, delivered over 30 statements, met the Chairs of the Main Committees and addressed five of them. I called for coordination meetings with the Heads of the UN principal organs.

It has been a busy and rewarding first month in Office and I thank Member States for their support.

## GENERAL DEBATE

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I presided over the first ever hybrid General Debate and four high-level events.

A record number of Heads of State addressed the General Assembly and despite the virtual nature, we had a full programme.

The fact that so many chose to address this Assembly is a testament to the power and relevance of the United Nations.

***"At this time of crisis, it is our responsibility to strengthen people's faith in multilateral cooperation and international institutions, with the UN at their center. "***

## ENGAGEMENT WITH MEMBER STATES

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In my first month in Office, I met with Member State representatives from capitals and in New York.

I had productive engagements with the Prime Minister of Italy, the Foreign Minister of Slovakia, representatives of Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Canada, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Guyana, Iceland, India, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, the European Union, and others.





# High-Level Events

## UN@75

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On 21 September, we commemorated the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and Member States adopted the UN75 Declaration - A substantive, ambitious and forward looking message of world leaders' commitment to meet the collective challenges facing us all.



## BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT

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150+ Member States participated in the UN's first ever Biodiversity Summit. We set the stage for urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development. The commitments made by Member States will help lay the foundation for COP15 in Kunming, and an ambitious, bold 2020 Biodiversity Framework.



## BEIJING+25

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At the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, more than 100 countries committed to concrete actions to advance gender equality.



## NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

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At the high-level meeting to Commemorate the International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, I underscored the need for action in nuclear disarmament to achieve a nuclear weapons-free world.



# Other Activities

## MAIN COMMITTEES AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

I met with the Chairs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly and congratulated them for their pragmatism and for organizing their programmes of work efficiently. I addressed the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th Committees and am due to brief the 5th Committee later this month.

I also chaired the first in-person meeting of the General Committee since the start of the pandemic.



## COMMEMORATIONS

At events and on social media, I marked various occasions including the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, World Food Day, International Day of Rural Women, International Day for Disaster Reduction, International Day of the Girl, World Mental Health Day, Habitat Day, International Day of Non-Violence, International Day of Older Persons, International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, World Tourism Day and Equal Pay Day.

On 13 October, the General Assembly paid tribute to the memory of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait.

## COORDINATION MEETINGS

Coordination between UN organs is key to ensure that we speak with one voice to better deliver for those we serve. I have set up coordination meetings with the Secretary-General, ECOSOC President and Security Council President.





## ELECTIONS

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The General Assembly successfully conducted in-person elections for the members of the Human Rights Council.



## MEETING WITH WOMEN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

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I convened a meeting with all of the women Permanent Representatives to the United Nations.

We discussed practical ways to accelerate the implementation of our shared priority agenda and goal of gender parity and the empowerment of women and girls.



## MEETINGS WITH KEY UN FIGURES

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I met with key UN figures including the President of the International Court of Justice Abdulqawi A. Yusuf; High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet; Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Oscar Fernandez-Taranco; Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Commemoration of the United Nations 75th Anniversary Fabrizio Hochschild; Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Mukhisa Kituyi; Executive Director of UN Office on Drugs and Crime Ghada Waly; High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Miguel Angel Moratinos.



## ADVISORY BOARDS

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I announced the establishment of a Board of Advisors on Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States. I also established an Advisory Group on Gender which will provide both normative and operational insights to enrich the mainstreaming of gender equality throughout the General Assembly.

