7 September 2021

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 27 August 2021, I have the honour to circulate herewith the final programme of the General Assembly informal commemorative meeting to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the death of former Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, to be held on Thursday, 9 September 2021, at 10 a.m., at the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, in cooperation with the Permanent Missions of Sweden and Tunisia, as well as the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation.

For further information, your office may contact Ms. Inga Kanchaveli, Senior Adviser in my office at inga.kanchaveli@un.org.

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

Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York
General Assembly Informal Commemorative Meeting to Mark the 60th Anniversary of the Death of Former Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld (1905 – 1961)

Thursday, 9 September 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at the UN General Assembly Hall

Hosted by the President of the General Assembly and co-organised by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and the Permanent Missions of Sweden and Tunisia

10.00 a.m. Opening
H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the General Assembly
H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Remarks by the co-organisers
H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden
H.E. Mr. Othman Jerandi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad

Remarks by a member of the Hammarskjöld family
Ambassador Ms. Elinor Hammarskjöld

10.30 a.m. Introductory remarks by Moderator of the Panel
Ms. Sigrid Gruener, Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

10.35 a.m. Interactive Panel: Enabling an International Civil Service for the 21st Century
Panellists:
- Ms. Fatoumata Ndiaye, Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services;
- Ms. Grete Faremo, Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director of UNOPS and Chair of the CEB’s High-Level Committee on Management;
- Mr. Toily Kurbanov, Executive Coordinator, UN Volunteers. Former UNDP Country Director in Myanmar;
- Ms. Natalie Samarasinghe, Executive Director of UNA-UK.

Guiding questions:
- What are the primary challenges and opportunities facing the International Civil Service today?
- How can member States strengthen the independence and integrity of the International Civil Service?
- How does the UN promote norm-based, principled leadership among UN personnel, including their defence of the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter?
- How can the International Civil Service play a role in promoting the importance of multilateralism in addressing global challenges?

11.10 p.m. Q&A segment with the panel: questions and/or comments from Member States and Observers are warmly welcomed.

12.00 p.m. Conclusion.
Remarks by a member of the Hammarskjöld family

Ms. Elinor Hammarskjöld
Ambassador, Director-General for Political Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ms. Hammarskjöld, born 4 November 1967 in Rome, Italy has been Director-General for Political Affairs of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs since August 2019. She is a career diplomat who has served as Director-General for Legal Affairs and as Sweden’s Ambassador to Israel. She has been the Foreign Ministry’s Human Resources Director, and also served in posts dealing with United Nations policy, security policy, international law and human rights, as well as Middle East issues. Ms. Hammarskjöld is a lawyer by training and holds Master of Laws degrees from Cambridge University and from Uppsala University.

Panel participants

Ms. Fatoumata Ndiaye
Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services

Ms. Ndiaye was appointed as Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services in 2019, having served the United Nations in various capacities since 1995, including as UNICEF’s Deputy Executive Director (Management) and Director of Internal Audit and Investigations, as well as Director of the Internal Audit Division, OIOS. She has been a member of a number of United Nations system inter-agency bodies, including the High-Level Committee on Management, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, United Nations Development Group, and High-Level Steering Group on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Ndiaye was Chief, Management Advisory Services of Coopers & Lybrand, Senegal.

Ms. Ndiaye holds a Master of Business Administration degree from l’École Supérieure de Gestion des Entreprises, Senegal, and a postgraduate degree with specialization in auditing from l’Université Paris-Dauphine, France. She is fluent in English and French.
Ms. Grete Faremo
*Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UNOPS*

Ms. Grete Faremo joined the United Nations and UNOPS as Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director in August 2014.

Before this appointment, Ms. Faremo held various senior-level positions for the government of Norway, including leading four ministries.

She has a wealth of experience from the private sector, working as the Executive Vice President for the Norwegian insurance group, Storebrand, and as Director of Law and Corporate Affairs at Microsoft Corporation’s Western European Office.

Mr. Toily Kurbanov
*Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme*

With over twenty-five years of leadership experience at the international and national level, Toily previously was the Deputy Executive Coordinator of UN Volunteers where he played an important role in positioning UNV in the context of Agenda 2030 and UN reform.

His professional expertise and leadership journey include a wide spectrum of development and management issues, including sustainable development in countries in transition and in fragile contexts, public policy, public administration and organizational transformation.

Before joining UNV as Deputy Executive Coordinator in 2016, Toily served as UNDP Country Director in Myanmar (2012-2016), UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Fiji and Pacific Island Countries (2007-2012) and in the Office of Planning and Budgeting at UNDP Headquarters (2004-2006). Prior to that, he had a distinguished career in banking, government and diplomacy in Central Asia and the South Caucasus.

Mr. Kurbanov holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration from Harvard University and in Economics from Russian Economic University. He speaks English and Russian.
Ms. Natalie Samarasinghe
Director, United Nations Association - UK

Natalie Samarasinghe is the first female Executive Director of the United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK), where she has worked since 2006. In this capacity, she has led successful campaigns on arms control, peacekeeping and UN renewal; advised governments, UN entities and NGOs on human rights and peace and security issues; and co-founded the 1 for 7 Billion campaign to transform the Secretary-General selection process, the Together First coalition on global governance reform, and the global call for a UN civil society champion.

In 2018, she won a Global Challenges Foundation award on making the UN more inclusive. In 2019-2021, she was on leave of absence at UN Headquarters in New York, serving first as speechwriter to the President of the General Assembly and then as Chief of Strategy for the UN’s 75th anniversary campaign.

Moderator:

Ms. Sigrid Gruener
Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

Sigrid Gruener is a Programme Director at the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. Previously, she worked as a practitioner, trainer and researcher in the field of development, peacebuilding and conflict transformation for International Solutions Group, Relief International, and Columbia University’s Center for International Conflict Resolution. Sigrid earned an M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.