



14 September 2021

Excellency,

In line with resolution 72/313 of 17 September 2018 on the “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”, I have the honour to share with you a handover report, which I transmitted to H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President-elect of the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

This handover report is a contribution to strengthening of the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and supports a smooth transition from the seventy-fifth to the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions for engagement, commitment and support throughout the session to advance the work of the General Assembly

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

Volkan BOZKIR

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

HANDOVER REPORT

From

H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir
President of the General Assembly
during the seventy-fifth session

To his successor,

H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid
President of the General Assembly
during the seventy-sixth session

New York, 14 September 2021

**The Future We Want, the United Nations We Need: Reaffirming our
Collective Commitment to multilateralism – Preface by President
Volkan Bozkir**

“There is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the United Nations. No other global organization gives hope to so many people for a better world and can deliver the future we want. The urgency for all countries to come together, to fulfil the promise of the nations united, has rarely been greater...”

United Nations General Assembly, A/RES/75/1, 21 September 2020

The seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly – and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations – will forever be tied to the COVID-19 pandemic that tested both the United Nations and the multilateral system as a whole.

As President of the General Assembly, the weight of this knowledge was humbling. At no time since the founding of the UN was the General Assembly as needed; at no time since the founding of the UN was the General Assembly as constrained by the very global developments for which it was designed to respond to.

It was this knowledge and this understanding that drove my every action and decision during the 75th session. For the UN, and the multilateral system for which it represents, to remain ubiquitous with global cooperation, to remain true to the principles for which it was founded, then the UN would have to reopen and work to deliver on behalf of the people it served.

This was not only my view, but the view of Member States. From the UN75 celebration, to the first UN Biodiversity Summit, to the recognition of 25-years since the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action, and the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, the Membership of the UN General Assembly was unequivocal in voicing its support for a UN that was ready, able and willing to tackle the challenges facing our world. This, as I heard time and again, is why the UN was created.

I was personally encouraged by the unprecedented participation of world leaders during the High-Level Week in September 2020, and in particular the UN75 commemoration, which included a pledge from the entire UNGA membership to take forward 12 commitments that will affect the sustainability of our planet as well as the welfare of generations for decades to come.

I am proud to say that, during the very earliest moments of the 75th session, through the darkest days of the winter and until the end of the term, my Office has been vigilant in pushing for ever more in-person presence, to ensure the nuance and delicacy of diplomacy, all the while adhering to safety protocols. Through a combination of in-person meetings and online, hybrid attendance, we have not only completed all

mandated events during the 75th session, but many of those postponed from the 74th as well. For this, I am grateful to the Membership, Secretariat and my Office.

Amongst the **highlights of the 75th session** were:

The commemoration of the UN Day through a beautiful concert sponsored by Italy, as well as a ceremony of symbolic recommitment to the preamble of the UN Charter, signed by Member States, Observer States and the EU, as well as the Secretary-General and myself. The signed Preamble now stands at the entrance to the GA Hall. I thank the Group of Women PRs for their leadership in this area.

The UN Summit on Biodiversity, which set the stage for a year-long focus on environmental issues. Through the course of the session, we returned, time and again, to this issue, raising it at the High-Level meetings on ‘water’, on ‘oceans’, and on ‘land degradation, desertification and drought’. At each opportunity, I underscored the triple planetary crises facing our society and the interlinkages between these agenda items. I am pleased that we were able to raise political ambition ahead of the three COP-level events to ensue in the coming months.

A firm and unwavering commitment to gender equality. Through the establishment of a **Gender Advisory Group**, I have ensured that gender issues have been mainstreamed throughout the entirety of the session. Through each event – and each trip abroad – I have underscored the need to empower women and girls, and to use the opportunity provided by the pandemic recovery to reignite progress in this area. I was pleased to host the Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, under the theme “Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”, and have the opportunity to attend the Commission on the Status of Women.

On a similar note, and recognizing early on that Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States were likely to suffer disproportionately during the pandemic and to struggle with vaccine acquisition and socio-economic recovery, I established a **Board of Advisors on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS** to help mainstream these issues. Through high-level meetings focused on ‘digital connectivity’ and ‘culture for sustainable development’, amongst many more, I have implored Member States to leverage the resources at hand to accelerate SDG progress and support those countries most in need, not least of which through debt relief and access to financing. These same messages have been extended, albeit with differing nuance, to Middle-Income Countries, for which I was honoured to champion their needs and capacities.

As President of the General Assembly, and for the General Assembly as a whole, we cannot turn a blind eye to the troubles facing the world, nor leave this exclusively to the will of the Security Council or others. We have a responsibility to step up. I am pleased that during the 75th session the Assembly directly addressed **the situations on the ground in Myanmar, and in the Syrian Arab Republic**. I am deeply

proud that, amidst the worst violence in years in Gaza, the General Assembly held an exceptional **meeting on the Situation in the Middle East and Question of Palestine** appealing for peace and soliciting a ceasefire. This was a natural and expected role for the General Assembly, allowing Member States to voice their principled and strong views on a subject that has been with the UN for as long as the organization has existed. For the people of the State of Palestine, this was undoubtedly a welcome sign that their plight was not being ignored.

Finally, and exceptionally, I am pleased that I had the opportunity during my presidency to preside over **two special sessions of the UNGA**.

The 31st special session of the UN General Assembly on the COVID-19 pandemic, was an historic gathering and a test of multilateralism in the face of a global challenge, allowing Member States to take stock of the UN response and show people around the world that we are working together to beat the pandemic. We heard from pioneers in the field of medical research, global health experts, heads of UN entities and advocates from civil society. The discussions were thoughtful, informative and engaging, providing impetus for all stakeholders to recommit to the multilateral response and mobilize access to COVID-19 tools, including #Vaccines4All, a principle which I championed from the earliest moments of my Presidency.

The 32nd special session of the UNGA focused on corruption - a topical and necessary conversation for Member States struggling with illicit financial flows, with resource availability, and with the corrosion of democracy in light of public perceptions built on the normalization of corruption. I was encouraged by the show of support from Member States in taking action on this critical issue.

These are but a handful of the many plenary, high-level, and other meetings and events held during the 75th session, they highlight a common and recurring theme: a need to focus on those most vulnerable, to empower women and girls, to fight COVID-19 and to use it as an opportunity to do better, and the need, above all else, to strengthen a cooperative, multilateral approach to solving our common problems. I thank Member States, as well as all of the co-facilitators during the session, who have helped make this a success.

Mandates aside, I am pleased that we continued implementing important mandates during the 75th session, including **morning dialogues with Permanent Representatives; joint briefings with the President of ECOSOC; regular meetings with both the Secretary General and President of the Security Council; and elections for the next PGA and the re-appointment of the Secretary-General**. I am also pleased that, in our continued effort to 'bring the UN back', we have held numerous discussions around COVID-19 related business continuity issues and General Assembly decision 75/510 entitled "Procedure for decision-making in the General Assembly when an in-person meeting is not possible" ensures better preparedness and the full functionality of the General Assembly at all times in the future. I am also proud to say that we have worked with relevant offices to

increase the number of attending delegates in the General Assembly Hall, allowing for a 76th session and a High-Level Week that is yet further along in the process of normalization.

In closing, allow me to note that **my vision of the United Nations includes first and foremost a strong General Assembly, that does not shy away from discussing the most pressing political, human rights, humanitarian, development, or peace and security issues.**

This was the message I carried with me in my travels around the world. From the Caribbean, to Africa, to Central Asia, to streets of Cox's Bazaar, I carried with me the flag of the United Nations and the message that we are working on behalf of the people we serve, to support them in whatever situation they may be in.

As I leave office, with so much attention focused (by others) on legacy, I will say that **my hope is that the 75th session is remembered for its perseverance and its commitment to multilateralism.** During a year of profound challenges, of global and personal strife for so many, the UN General Assembly began the hard process of re-openings its doors, of showing the world that it remained committed to the principles of the Charter and vigilant in its promise to leave no one behind.

I thank you.

Select highlights and achievements:

- Re-opening the General Assembly Hall to regular in-person meetings while adhering to medical guidance.
- Implementing all mandates for the session, as well as many postponed from the 74th session.
- Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.
- The special session of the General Assembly in response to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic (UNGASS-31).
- The special session of the General Assembly against Corruption (UNGASS-32).
- Decision on proper procedure for decision-making in the General Assembly when in-person meetings are not possible.
- The joint debate on the situation in the Middle East and question of Palestine, as well as briefings and resolutions on Myanmar and the Syrian Arab Republic.
- Appointment of Secretary-General António Guterres for a new term 2022 – 2026.
- First-ever UN Summit on Biodiversity.
- Conclusion of the 2020 United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture Review by unanimously adopting twin resolutions 75/201 and 2558 (2020) of the General Assembly and the Security Council respectively.
- Conclusion of the seventh biannual review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS).
- Establishment of the Gender Advisory Group, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment into the General Assembly's work.
- Establishment of a Board of Advisors on Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States.
- Election of all-female bureau members of one of the Main Committees - the Second Committee - for the 76th session, as well as achieving gender balance in election of the Chairpersons of the Main Committees.
- Increasing transparency and accountability by publishing detailed newsletters of trips abroad, as well as the regular accounts of the work of the General Assembly.
- Promoting enhanced interactions and coordination with the other principal organs of the United Nations. This included joint briefings and events with the President of ECOSOC; monthly meetings with the Secretary-General, President of the Security Council and a bi-monthly trilateral meeting with President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General.
- Main Committees of the General Assembly successfully concluded their work using hybrid working methods:
 - The **First Committee (Disarmament and International Security)** sent a total of 72 draft resolutions and decisions to the General Assembly related to disarmament, global challenges, and threats to peace.
 - The **Second Committee (Economic and Financial)** prioritized the negotiations of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of operational

activities for development of the United Nations system (QCPR) and the modalities for the Mid-term comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028, as well as the technical rollover of resolutions. A major achievement was the consensus achieved on cross-cutting language on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for inclusion in future resolutions. The QCPR resolution gives direction to further reforms of the UN development system and provides guidance for country level programming for the upcoming four years to implement the 2030 Agenda and the response to COVID-19.

- **The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues)** adopted 51 draft proposals, including 50 resolutions and the draft programme for the 76th session. Among other proposals, the Committee adopted two new resolutions concerning the particular impact of the pandemic on women and girls, and the need for policy responses to address it. The Committee also recommended the Assembly to proclaim 31 August as International Day for People of African Descent.

- **The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization)** held a joint general debate on all 11 substantive agenda items and approved 34 draft resolutions and three draft decisions. The Committee also approved a resolution endorsing the latest report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations — including a draft of recommendations related to mandates, protection and peacekeeper conduct and safety.

- **The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary)** conducted all its informal consultations virtually and concluded its work during the main session on 30 December 2020, one of the longest session in the history of the organization, due to a lack of face-to-face negotiations and its impact on achieving consensus timely. The Committee recommended the Assembly to allocate \$3.21 billion for the 2021 regular budget, up from the previous year allocation (\$3.07 billion). This was the second time that an annual budget was considered and approved by the Assembly. One delegation called for a vote resulting in the budget being approved on the last day of the main session by 151 votes in favor, 2 against and 1 abstention. The decision to include financing for the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria (IIIM) in the regular budget was also subjected to a vote. During the first resumed session, which concluded on 26 March 2021, three draft resolutions and one draft decision, deferring questions where agreement was not possible, were adopted. Finally, on the second resumed session, the Committee adopted 19 draft resolutions and 1 draft decision authorizing an annual peacekeeping budget of \$6.37 billion for 12 peacekeeping missions from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. All draft resolutions were adopted without a vote, with the exception of the draft related to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

- **The Sixth Committee (Legal)** kept its tradition of consensus - the Committee successfully adopted 15 draft resolutions, 4 requests for observer status and 10 draft decisions in November 2020. The Committee also virtually marked International Law Day, allowing legal advisers from all over the world to participate. “The UN @75: International law and the future we want” was devoted to commemorating 75 years of the UN and its contribution to the development of international law.

Lessons learned – challenges and opportunities

- **The need for strengthening multilateralism.** The challenge posed by a global crisis underscores more than ever the need for a global, cooperative response. In the Declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the UN – A/RES/75/1, Member States reaffirmed that “Multilateralism is not an option but a necessity as we build back better for a more equal, more resilient and more sustainable world. The United Nations must be at the centre of our efforts”.
- **The need for reinvigorated cooperation in the GA.** This year we’ve witnessed an increasing trend of voted initiatives, including on texts submitted by the PGA on behalf of the entire membership. Increased challenges to consensus building and finding a compromise is a key observation of the recent situation at the UN, which needs to be addressed.
- **The value of face-to-face diplomacy.** Challenges during negotiation processes have been attributed in part to the overall difficulty of exercising multilateral diplomacy in virtual formats during the COVID-19 era and the inability to reach consensus on critical positions, which would have benefited from face-to-face interaction among delegations.
 - As a case in point: intense consultations on the process on the ECOSOC and HLPF review spanned 6-months from January to June 2021, primarily in a virtual format. The draft resolutions underwent three rounds of silence procedure, which was a reflection of the divergent positions among delegations. While silence was unbroken in the final round, the Group of 77 and China submitted amendments to the draft on ECOSOC ([A/RES/75/290 A](#)), which resulted in a round of voting by the General Assembly. While the resolution on the HLPF ([A/RES/75/290 B](#)) was adopted by consensus, a lack of in-person interaction and coordination during negotiations led to uncertainty and pushed the decisions on the final text directly at the formal plenary meeting. Conversely, in-person meetings enabled successful conclusion of Global Counter-terrorism Strategy (GCTS) review this session, following the postponement of the review in 2020 when in-person negotiations were not possible.
 - However, it needs to be noted that hybrid-meetings provided opportunities for higher level and broader participation. Maintaining this practice going forward for informal meetings of the Assembly could be helpful to engage relevant actors from the field, similar to UNSC briefings and interaction with field offices.
- **Support services for functioning of the General Assembly.** Member States should know that a considerable amount of the OPGA budget is spent on servicing

General Assembly meetings, including mandated meetings, interpretation/translation of mandated PGA summaries as outcome documents, as well as webcast costs. This session, when high-level or informal meetings were held using entitlements of the General Assembly, in a virtual or hybrid format rather than in an in-person format, OPGA was asked to adjust the respective programme to two hours per morning meeting and two hours per afternoon meeting taking into consideration that remote simultaneous interpretation was available only for two hours. Otherwise, additional cost implications had to be covered from the Trust Fund.

- **The pandemic underscored issues of accessibility.** Due to limitations in place for Observers and other stakeholders to attend in-person meetings, OPGA had to take specific decisions to ensure Observers' participation in high-level meetings of the General Assembly during this session. Likewise, accessibility of virtual platforms has been an issue for indigenous people, civil society in remote areas, and other stakeholders, and in-person attendance has been severely impaired for these stakeholders.
 - The HLM on digital cooperation revealed that COVID-19 has increased reliance on digital technologies, widened digital divides both amongst and within nations, and exacerbated vulnerabilities of millions of people, especially women, minorities and children. Digitalization and support for universal access to technology and connectivity must be leveraged to ensure accessibility and to accelerate the SDGs.
- **Institutionalizing the PGA position and his/her Office.** At the end of my presidency, I urge Member States to consider further institutionalizing and enhancing the position of the PGA and his/her Office, including by putting forward proposals for consideration, including in the Fifth Committee, to provide PGAs with i) health insurance policies; ii) housing – PGA residence, iii) increasing the number of OPGA positions funded by regular budget from 5 to 10; and (iv) upgrading the level of Chef de Cabinet of the President to the level of the Under-Secretary-General. In this regard, I welcome the decision of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly to request the Secretariat to provide, during the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, a written update with recommendations, and a briefing on the functioning of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

Contents

The Future We Want, the United Nations We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to multilateralism – <i>Preface by President Volkan Bozkir</i>	2
Select highlights and achievements:.....	6
Lessons learned – challenges and opportunities.....	8
Introduction	11
Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of Assembly and the GA response	11
MAJOR INITIATIVES REALIZED DURING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE 75TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY	12
1.1. Snapshot of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.....	12
1.2. General Debate.....	13
1.3. Advancing the main theme and priorities of the 75th session, including through PGA’s initiatives.....	13
1.4. General Assembly meetings convened during the seventy-fifth session, highlights and key results.....	21
ONGOING PROCESSES AND MEETINGS INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT OF THE 76TH SESSION	37
1.5. Meetings to be convened during the 76 th session of the Assembly for which preparation has started during the 75th session.....	37
1.6. Other meetings and processes.....	39
1.7. List of mandates for the 76 th session of the General Assembly.....	48
PRACTICAL LESSONS LEARNED	48
1.8. Organization and management of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.....	48
1.9. Planning and preparation of Meetings.....	51
1.10. Informal processes and appointment of facilitators.....	51
1.11. Relationship with Member States and other organs.....	52
1.12. Boards of Advisors.....	53
1.13. Interaction with EOSG and the UN system.....	54
1.14. Outreach to civil society.....	54
1.15. Communications and media relations.....	56
1.16. Official Travel.....	58
Conclusion by the President of the General Assembly	59

Introduction

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/305 dated 13 September 2016 and subsequent resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (GA), this handover report is presented to support a smooth transition from the 75th to the 76th session of the General Assembly.

Providing a brief account of the work of the Assembly during the 75th session, the report also serves to further strengthen the institutional memory of both the General Assembly and the Office of its President (OPGA). Outlining major outcomes of the 75th session, the report covers ongoing processes and mandates that require follow-up action by the President of the General Assembly (PGA) during the 76th session. It also outlines best practices and lessons learned from the current session. The report includes a number of annexes containing detailed information on PGA's travel, support provided by Member States and the Secretariat to OPGA, as well as a list of mandates for next session(s).

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of Assembly and the GA response

At the onset of the 75th session, access to the GA Hall and UNHQ was severely restricted, with the United Nations Headquarters closed for all but essential employees. There was limited opportunity for Member State in-person engagement or dialogue and all official discussions and negotiations had been shifted to virtual platforms.

Despite those challenges, the President of the General Assembly convened all formal plenary meetings of the Assembly in person and in compliance with COVID-19 related risk mitigation measures. He oversaw the implementation of all mandates allocated by the General Assembly for the 75th session, as well as numerous mandates and meetings postponed from the 74th session due to the pandemic. The possibility for pre-recorded statements allowed for the highest level of engagement in the meetings and processes taking place in the General Assembly Hall. Virtual and hybrid formats further allowed multi-stakeholder to participate live participation from around the world.

Working closely with the Secretariat, in particular the Medical Services Division, the PGA began the process of reopening the General Assembly Hall in a limited format. This included a 1+1 delegate allowance, as well as a shift to hybrid-format events, allowing for both some in-person attendance and expanded audiences online. All medical advice and safety protocols were adhered to and there were no reported transmissions of COVID-19 within the General Assembly.

The General Assembly hosted the first delegations from capitals since the start of the pandemic, in May 2021, when Ministers of Foreign Affairs travelled to participate in the plenary meeting of the Assembly on the Situation in the Middle East and the Question of Palestine.

The PGA convened five informal meetings of the General Assembly on COVID-19 related business continuity issues this session, which provided a platform for regular exchanges among Member States, the Secretariat and Host Country representatives on the use of UN Headquarters, the format of upcoming high-level meetings and issues of participation.

The PGA began preparations for an in-person high-level week of the 76th session, with proposed attendance in 1+3 format in the GA Hall. As an alternative, leaders may still submit a pre-recorded statement during the General Debate, to be introduced by their representative physically present in the Assembly Hall.

Further reopening of the United Nations General Assembly, including institutionalizing a ‘new way of working’ that affords flexibility while maintaining in-person attendance and expanding online participation from all stakeholders should be prioritized in the 76th session. Furthermore, inequitable access to vaccines, combined with perceived ‘acceptable’ vs. ‘unacceptable’ vaccines, may prove to be an obstacle to those Member States who wish to attend the General Assembly meetings. Discussions should continue with relevant authorities to find appropriate solutions and accommodations.

MAJOR INITIATIVES REALIZED DURING THE PRESIDENCY OF THE 75TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1.1. Snapshot of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly

The seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly was held from 15 September 2020 to 14 September 2021 and had 183 items on its agenda.

This session of the UN General Assembly has demonstrated that, even under the most difficult circumstances, the United Nations can deliver on behalf and for the people it serves.

The Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations was the first resolution adopted by the General Assembly in September 2020 and it set the tone for the entire session. A total of 328 resolutions and more than 120 decisions followed, addressing issues as diverse as the situation in Myanmar; the responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity; Global Media and Information Literacy Week, the International Day of Women Judges; a vision for accelerating action to achieve the SDGs, as well as the Trust Fund for the Judicial Fellowship Programme of the International Court of Justice.

President Bozkir convened a total of 105 formal plenary meetings of the General Assembly, 16 High-level Meetings and a further 22 informal plenary meetings, hearings and thematic debates. In addition, 116 intergovernmental consultations and informal meetings were held related to mandated negotiation processes.

In line with relevant resolutions and decisions by the Assembly, 22 mandated intergovernmental negotiation processes on behalf of the President of the

General Assembly, the highest in recent years, took place during the session, for which 42 co-facilitators or co-chairs were appointed by the PGA (see Annex 1).

In total, the PGA delivered more than 195 statements at the UN and beyond, together with more than 100 video messages with primary focus on multilateralism, COVID-19 response, access to vaccines, the role of the UN General Assembly, vulnerable people, gender equality and building back better.

In addition, President Bozkir convened and presided over two special sessions of the General Assembly: UNGASS-31 in response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic at the request of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in its capacity as the Chair of Non-Aligned Movement, and UNGASS-32 against corruption at the request of the General Assembly.

1.2. General Debate

Amidst the global pandemic, the High-level segment of the 75th session of the General Assembly went ahead successfully, with Member States' representatives attending in the General Assembly Hall presenting pre-recorded statements from their Heads of State or Government or other high-level dignitaries or making statements in-person.

A record number of world leaders chose to address the Assembly, which was a testament to the power and relevance of the United Nations. The General Debate continued for 12 plenary meetings, during which the President of the General Assembly, 190 Member States (102 Heads of State, 1 Vice-President, 55 Heads of Government, 1 Deputy Prime Minister, 26 ministers and 5 chairs of delegation) and 3 observers– The Holy See, The State of Palestine and the European Union - took the floor. The longest speech of the general debate lasted 48 minutes, and the shortest - 6 minutes. Of these 193 speakers, only 9 were women – a reflection of the critical under-representation of women in politics and policy-making roles around the world.

1.3. Advancing the main theme and priorities of the 75th session, including through PGA's initiatives

1.3.1. Fighting COVID-19 together

President Bozkir convened the Special Session of the Assembly in response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on 3-4 December 2020, at the level of Heads of State and Government, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/4. A total of 147 Member States, 1 Observer, and 3 civil society organizations participated in the General Debate, including pre-recorded video statements from over 70 Heads of State and Government and 48 Ministers.

The Special Session demonstrated support for a multilateral, coordinated approach to pandemic response. The call for equitable access to, and distribution of, COVID-19 tools, especially life-saving vaccines, and an economic recovery that could put the world back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, was overwhelming. Despite the formidable challenges, the international community pledged

to turn the COVID-19 crisis around and recover better, guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The first day of the Session on 3 December consisted of an opening segment followed by a general debate focused on the experiences of Member States in addressing the impacts of the pandemic. Member States highlighted that COVID-19 had exposed and exacerbated existing challenges, with many also acknowledging that the pandemic offered opportunities to introduce innovative solutions to address the disease and its impacts.

The interactive dialogue on 4 December included three moderated panels covering key aspects of the impact of, and response to, the COVID-19 pandemic: (i) The UN System Response to COVID-19, (ii) The Road to a COVID-19 Vaccine – A Global Public Good, and (iii) Resilience and Recovering Better from COVID-19. Pioneers in the field of medical research, global health experts, heads of UN entities and advocates from civil society participated in the panels.

[A summary](#) of the special session, pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 75/4, was circulated to the Membership, highlighting the calls for a resilient recovery with a focus on preparedness and prevention measures that address underlying inequalities and vulnerabilities, especially of the most marginalized and vulnerable population. Calls for strengthening of national health systems, promoting universal and free access to basic medical services and guarantees towards equitable distribution of vital resources also featured prominently.

Throughout his presidency, President Bozkir has advocated for fair and equitable access to vaccines, calling on all Member States to support multilateral efforts in this regard. The PGA's **#Vaccines4All initiative** aimed at strengthening political and resource support for multilateral initiatives, such as the WHO-led ACT-Accelerator and its COVAX Facility, to better manage the complexities of vaccine production, storage, distribution and access. President Bozkir hailed the "Political Declaration on Equitable Global Access to COVID-19 Vaccines", signed by 181 countries, as a bold and principled support to solidarity, and to a truly multilateral approach to vaccine equity. On 26 March 2021, he organized an informal plenary meeting of the Assembly dedicated to this initiative of Member States and urged the UN membership to take up this call for action and implement those commitments to see vaccines for all become a reality.

1.3.2. Seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations

Building on the [Declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations](#) (UN75 Declaration), President Bozkir convened several meetings of the General Assembly with the active participation of the Secretary-General, to facilitate the consultations of the so-called Member States track of Our Common Agenda. At the first such meeting on 15 December 2020, Member States presented their thoughts and reflections to the SG as to how he should best implement the ambitious UN75 Declaration adopted three months before.

In parallel to the Member States track, the SG launched three other tracks centered around different stakeholders: great thinkers, civil society and youth to feed actively into his recommendations delivered by the end of the session. MS

On 8 July 2021, another informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly took place with the participation of the Secretary-General in order to take stock of the prolific and fruitful discussions held among Member States over the previous six months. The meeting mirrored the December one and once again demonstrated the centrality of the General Assembly in providing Member States' input to the implementation of the UN75 process.

The PGA convened the final meeting of the General Assembly related to the process at the end of the 75th session on 10 September 2021. The Secretary-General reported back to the Assembly and presented his recommendations to advance **Our Common Agenda** and to respond to current and future challenges, as mandated by the UN75 Declaration. This in turn is the beginning of a more consistent process of follow-up and implementation, which is due to continue during the 76th session and beyond.

1.3.3. Recommitting to and Strengthening multilateralism

In his Vision Statement, President Bozkir called for a United Nations that is fit for purpose, efficient and effective in its operations, and delivering for the people. He stated that this is needed now more than ever, to bolster confidence in multilateralism when it is needed the most in the face of compounding challenges, and to ensure the UN's relevance for another 75 years.

The 75th anniversary year presented a moment of reflection for the entire Membership. President Bozkir often reminded delegations that the United Nations came into existence at a time of crisis, similar to that which we are currently navigating. As such, he orchestrated a 're-signing' of the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations, as a physical gesture of re-commitment to, and strengthening of, multilateralism. The poster of symbolic signatures will remain on display at the entrance of the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters in New York as a reminder of our collective commitment to the pillars and principles of the UN Charter.

Morning Dialogues

President Bozkir continued the practice which began during the 72nd session of hosting **Morning Dialogues** – These dialogues provided a critical space for Ambassadors to convene safely in a small group and engage in frank exchanges on issues of concern to the membership and included discussions on biodiversity; needs and priority issues for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS; digital cooperation; UN reform and revitalization; the SG's high-level meeting on energy; and the risk of famine.

To increase transparency and share the value of these discussions with the full membership, the PGA circulated informal summaries of the morning dialogues, highlighting key takeaways and follow up actions. Indeed, the decision to convene a

High-Level Dialogue on Digital Cooperation and Connectivity was following feedback from one of the Morning Dialogues and based on the recommendation the PGA received from participating Ambassadors.

It is highly recommended that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/313 on the “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”, PGA76 continues to convene a series of Morning Dialogues. Topics chosen for Morning Dialogues have the capacity to encourage interest and engagement amongst membership and thus concretely contribute to multilateral implementation efforts, including by building momentum for, or following up on, meetings and processes of global significance as mandated by General Assembly resolutions.

General Assembly Special Sessions

During his term of Office, President Bozkir convened and presided over the United Nations General Assembly special sessions, which were two significant occasions demonstrating the value of multilateral efforts to cope with global crises. The UNGASS in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, in particular, highlighted the need for public-private cooperation as a core tenet of the multilateral response to international crises. In addition, the UNGASS Against Corruption demonstrated the interconnectedness of the issues at hand as many Member States referenced the need to prioritise anti-corruption measures at times of crisis.

PGA’s advocacy for strengthening multilateralism

It is a rare occasion for the PGA to brief the Security Council. At United Nations Security Council High-level Briefing “Maintenance of international peace and security: Upholding multilateralism and the United Nations-centred international system” on 7 May 2021, President Bozkir urged the Council to strengthen implementation of the UN Charter. The PGA stated:

“I urge all Member States of the United Nations, – including the Members of this Council-, to strengthen implementation of the Charter, to formulate rules and processes that expedite justice when it comes to human rights abusers and those who violate international humanitarian law. These actions should be the baseline for the rules-based international order. The lack of accountability for serious crimes signifies our collective failure to enable all mechanisms and tools of the multilateral system to prevent violations from occurring and re-occurring.”

He also made reference in this statement to his *Vaccines4All* campaign which he tied to the protection of civilians. Throughout his term, President Bozkir noted that equal access to vaccines for the people, wherever they may be, would both require multilateral action and demonstrate the commitment of the world to multilateralism.

Toward the end of his term, in an address to the National Defence University, Islamabad, President Bozkir reflected,

“... if I had to sum it up in one sentence, I would have to say this: I truly believe that the future of multilateralism lies in an agile, effective and

responsive General Assembly, that is underpinned by political will, to uphold the rights of everyone, everywhere.”

This vision of the General Assembly shaped the presidency of Volkan Bozkir and the work of the Membership throughout the 75th session.

1.3.4. Advancing the humanitarian agenda, with a focus on the most vulnerable

In addition to disrupting the day-to-day work of the UN Headquarters and worldwide, the COVID-19 pandemic compounded and drastically increased the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable communities. Throughout the session President Bozkir was focused on humanitarian priorities, using the convening power of the General Assembly and his official visits to advocate for humanitarian causes, including support to internally displaced persons and refugees, women and girls, and the hundreds of millions who have borne the brunt of socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are only as safe as the most vulnerable among us”, - advocated the President throughout the session to promote global, multilateral efforts to achieve fair and equitable access to vaccines. The President launched a digital #Vaccines4All campaign to further amplify the message.

Drawing attention to the extremely important and pressing humanitarian priority of addressing hunger, on 10 March 2021, the President convened a Morning Dialogue discussion with Permanent Representatives on “The Risk of Famine”. The President invited H.E. Mark Lowcock, former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator to participate in the discussion, which focused on highlighting the complex relationship between hunger, climate, conflict, socio-economic disruptions, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants discussed how the UN system, its Member States and partners can better take action to prevent the onset of multiple famines, respond to immediate needs and provide humanitarian relief to the most at-risk people, regions or countries. The discussion was timely, taking place the day before the Security Council debate on conflict and hunger, helping further amplify messages on this urgent humanitarian priority.

Throughout his term, the President has sought to draw links between the issues on the agenda of the General Assembly and how they impact the most vulnerable people the United Nations serves, including during his official visits. With this purpose President Bozkir visited the Turkish-Syrian border, where he met with Syrian refugees. He also visited the UN trans-shipment hub in Reyhanli, where OCHA representatives demonstrated the aid delivery process, and its monitoring mechanism. The commitment of the President demonstrated through on-the-ground interaction with one of the most vulnerable of our times was interlinked with relevant meetings of the General Assembly, namely, the High-level Panel on the Human Rights Situation in Syria pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 74/169; the briefing by the Secretary-General on the Situation in Syria; and the meeting to consider the report of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic (IIIM). The President’s efforts,

complementing other partners on the ground and at the UN Headquarters, helped ensure that the mandate of the UN cross-border humanitarian mechanism was extended by the Security Council in July 2021 – the result of effective multilateral cooperation and advocacy by the UN, Member States, and many other partners.

Amidst rising violence and increased civilian casualties in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and following the silence and deadlock in the Security Council, in May 2021 President Bozkir convened the General Assembly to hold a joint debate on the Situation in the Middle East and the Question of Palestine, in response to a joint request from the Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Chair of the Arab Group. In doing so, the President ensured the General Assembly assumed its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations and met to address the grave situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The announcement of a ceasefire, during the joint debate, was a significant development. As emphasized in the President’s “Appeal for Peace” released on the same day, the debate showed that, when the General Assembly takes the lead and Member States speak up together, it leads to results. It is also significant to note that this was the first in-person meeting at UNHQ, attended by Ministers since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020.

The President convened two meetings of the General Assembly plenary on the situation in Myanmar, and visited Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh, which hosts over one million displaced Rohingya.

In July 2021, the President travelled to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and embarked on a mission drive to the orange/red zone of La Soufrière Volcano Eruption. President Bozkir also visited the National Emergency Management Organization Hub and met with World Food Program (WFP) representatives, who briefed the PGA on the operation to meet the needs of 20,000 displaced Vincentians, 6,000 of whom were at that time living in shelters.

President Bozkir joined the collective call for global solidarity for immediate humanitarian relief and recovery action to assist the Government and people of Haiti to build back better in the aftermath of the 2021 earthquake and the added destruction of Tropical Storm Grace.

Advancing the humanitarian agenda, with the focus on most vulnerable should be a priority of not one session or Presidency, but a constant element of the work of the General Assembly to help alleviate the suffering of people in need.

1.3.5. Taking action to achieve the 2030 Agenda and SDGs

The 75th session directly addressed the impact of COVID-19 on sustainable development, in particular, on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Financing for Development discussions during the 75th Session took place in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant social and economic crisis. The PGA supported existing initiatives to create an enabling long-term investment environment, engaged in the launch of the High-Level panel on International Financial

Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (FACTI) report, the 2021 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and hosted a G-20 Sherpa Briefing to Member States.

Throughout the session, the PGA utilized every opportunity to underscore the challenges faced by Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States, as well as Middle-Income Countries and countries in special situations, in achieving the SDGs under the shadow of COVID-19. This included calls to action on debt reform and the need to harness SDG ‘accelerators’, such as for energy and digital access.

The focus on this priority was bolstered by the work of the **Board of Advisers on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS**, and the implementation of mandates on Middle-Income Countries and LDCs. The Membership comprised of:

- 1) Chair of the Least Developed Countries;
- 2) Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States;
- 3) Chair of Landlocked Developing Countries;
- 4) UN Development Programme Administrator;
- 5) Under-Secretary General for the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs;
- 6) High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS;
- 7) Chief of the New York Office of the UN Conference on Trade and Development;
- 8) Chief of the New York Office for the UN Office on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- 9) Vice President of the UN Foundation.

The President ensured that the perspectives and priorities of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS were mainstreamed throughout the work of the session. The PGA utilized his engagements to focus political attention and champion entry points and transformative pathways to unlock the potential of these countries.

1.3.6. Promoting Gender Equality

As an **International Gender Champion**, the PGA amplified the issues of women and girls throughout his daily work and became an advocate for gender equality due to his initiatives and the continued references and calls made in his remarks.

At the outset of the 75th session, President Bozkir convened the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 73/294 and 73/340 and decision 74/562. The theme of the high-level meeting was “Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls” (more details in section 1.4.1.3)

Thereafter, the President met with the Group of Friends on Gender Parity and henceforth his approach to gender equality was characterized by partnership with women across the United Nations system and civil society.

The key achievement of the PGA during the 75th session was the establishment of a **Gender Advisory Group** to guide and advise on the PGA’s work in mainstreaming gender equality throughout the General Assembly.

The Advisory Group comprised:

- 1) President of the Bureau of the UN Women Executive Board, H.E. Mr. Jukka Salovaara, Permanent Representative of Finland (November 2020 – February 2020) / H.E. Mr. Alie Kabba, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone (February 2021 - present);
- 2) CEO & Executive Director, UN Global Compact, Ms. Sanda Ojiambo;
- 3) Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences, Dr. Dubravka Simonovic;
- 4) Senior Gender Adviser of the Secretary-General, Ms. Nahla Valji;
- 5) NGO CSW, Principal Investigator, Dr. Soon Young-Yoon;
- 6) Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to the UN, Ms. Patricia Ann Torsney.

The structure of the Advisory Group was informal and met on an ad hoc, as needed basis. The Gender Advisory Group held three meetings during the session. The themes of the meetings were informed by the challenges plaguing the gender equality agenda, particularly the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions focused on addressing violence against women, leadership and decision-making, political representation, economic opportunities, health, education, and digital technology.

Specific recommendations made by the Advisory Group in guiding the PGA's gender initiatives were implemented as necessary and feasible. In further support to the PGA's gender equality agenda, the Gender Advisory Group members contributed to distributing the gender equality message across thematic meetings and events and providing a wider platform for advancing the relevant agenda. They provided gender-focused inputs to the series of high-level meetings and events held during the 75th session.

In their assessment of the group's function during the 75th session, the Gender Advisory Group members provided important recommendations, which were circulated to membership by President Bozkir to ensure high visibility and continued impact on the relevant work of the Assembly.

The PGA called for bold actions to make possible, what some may deem 'impossible' and become Generation Equality in his opening remarks at the 65th session of the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**. Upon the advice of the Gender Advisory Group, he also convened a signature event on 23 March 2021, on "Political Leadership and Violence Against Women and Girls: Prevention First". The special event addressed the barriers to women's political leadership, particularly as it pertained to violence against women. The panel discussions centered on how women's leadership can make a difference in times of crises and the importance of prioritizing prevention of violence against women and gender-based violence.

Based on the work of the current session, incoming PGAs are encouraged to maintain the Gender Advisory Group not only as a valuable contribution to the work of the PGA, but most importantly, to send a message throughout the system that gender equality is a high priority of multilateralism.

1.4. General Assembly meetings convened during the seventy-fifth session, highlights and key results

1.4.1. High-level meetings of the General Assembly convened during the 75th session

1.4.1.1. High-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, 21 September 2020

The High-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations (UN75), was held on 21 September 2020, and resulted in the adoption of GA resolution A/RES/75/1, entitled “Declaration on the seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations”.

In an ambitious document facilitated by the Permanent Representatives of Qatar and Sweden, Member States collectively committed to a renewed and revived multilateralism. This included strengthening their efforts, mobilizing resources, and showing unprecedented political will to ensure the future we want and the United Nations we need, guided by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Throughout the session UN75 related events and activities kept the spirit of the UN75 Declaration alive, with a view to the recommendations that the Secretary-General was requested to present before the end of the session.

The High-level meeting on 21 September was characterized by overwhelming participation: 181 Member States and a good number of permanent observers registered for the floor, and mostly at the highest level. Statements were delivered during a full day and a spill over session took place on 26 October to accommodate the many speaking requests.

The theme of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism”, informed the work of the Assembly throughout the 75th session.

1.4.1.2. Summit on Biodiversity, 30 September 2020

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/269 and decision 74/562, the PGA convened the Summit on Biodiversity at the level of Heads of State and Government on 30 September 2020. The theme of the Summit was ‘Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development’.

The Summit consisted of an opening segment, a plenary segment, two leaders’ dialogues on ‘Addressing biodiversity loss and mainstreaming biodiversity for sustainable development’ and ‘Harnessing science, technology and innovation, capacity-building, access and benefit-sharing, financing and partnerships for biodiversity’ and a brief closing segment. Two spill-over meetings were organized in order to accommodate statements of Member States. As an initiative of the PGA, the summit also provided an online platform ‘Voices for Nature’ which featured statements, messages and commitments from a wider range of stakeholders.

The summit raised momentum for urgent action at the highest levels in support of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that contributes to implementation of the 2030 Agenda and places the global community on a path towards making a reality of the goal of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, “Living in harmony with nature”.

1.4.1.3. High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1 October 2020

President Bozkir convened the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 73/294 and 73/340 and decision 74/562. The theme of the high-level meeting was “Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”, and it built upon the multi-stakeholder hearing of 21 July 2020.

The high-level meeting consisted of an opening segment, a plenary segment, and a brief closing segment. Heads of State and Government, Ministers, representatives of intergovernmental organizations, representatives of the UN system, and stakeholder representatives engaged in the summit via pre-recorded statements, livestream or in-person presentations. Member States pledged at the highest political level to create a more equal, just, and safer world to accelerate the realization of the rights of women and girls. Leaders presented concrete actions and commitments to make gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls a reality by 2030, including in support of the role of civil society organizations and youth.

A President’s summary, including key messages and takeaways, was released following the event.

1.4.1.4. High-level Plenary Meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, 2 October 2020

The annual High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, was held on 2 October 2020, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/54 and decision 74/562. The High-level Meeting served to raise awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination.

The meeting was held in the General Assembly hall in person, with pre-recorded statements from Leaders. 96 Member States, 5 Observers and Agencies and 2 representatives of civil society took part in the meeting. Throughout the meeting, Heads of State and Government and senior officials shared their views on the state of the global disarmament regime 75 years after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with non-nuclear-weapon States calling for commitments from those possessing nuclear arsenals.

1.4.1.5. Joint informal high-level meeting of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, 1 December 2020

The Joint Informal High-level Meeting of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD + 25) was held on 1 December 2020 in line with General Assembly resolution 74/122. The Meeting was devoted to 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 meeting highlighted that, despite enormous progress made towards the objectives of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) over the past 25 years, progress has been uneven, and gaps and challenges remain. This has been only further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the main outcomes of the meeting was a general agreement on the need to strengthen international solidarity, multilateral cooperation, and genuine partnerships among all stakeholders, to recover better from the COVID-19 crisis, end poverty, combat inequalities, ensure equal access to basic services including quality education, and universal health coverage, and achieve the objectives of the WSSD and the 2030 Agenda.

1.4.1.6. High-level meeting on implementation of the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, 18 March 2021

The PGA convened a [High-level Meeting on the “Implementation of the Water-related Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda”](#) on 18 March 2021, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/226.

The Meeting consisted of opening and closing segments, a high-level plenary and two panels on “Data and information and governance” and “Financing, innovation and capacity building”. In total, seven Heads of State and Government, 48 Ministers, and more than 100 representatives from intergovernmental organizations, the UN system, and stakeholders engaged in the meeting via pre-recorded statements, livestream and limited in-person attendance.

The meeting demonstrated clear political support for tackling water challenges and acknowledged the significant role of [the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework](#) in supporting implementation. The meeting contributed to the preparation of the 2023 Conference on the Midterm Review of the Water Action Decade. A special feature of the meeting was a CSO Spotlight in each Panel in which NGOs, activists, scientists, youth champions, and representatives from the private sector made urgent calls for actions and shared their experiences, views, and innovative methods for addressing water and sanitation issues.

A [joint statement](#) issued by a plurality of Member States ahead of the high-level meeting provided impetus to the discussion. The [summary](#) of the meeting was circulated to Member States.

1.4.1.7. High-Level debate on Urban Safety, Security and Good Governance: Making Crime Prevention a Priority for All, 22 April 2021

On 22 April 2021, the PGA convened the '[High-level Debate on Urban Safety, Security and Good Governance: Making Crime Prevention a Priority for All](#)', pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/196.

The high-level debate consisted of an opening segment followed by a general debate and an interactive panel discussion on “Addressing risks and challenges to city safety, security and good governance: the role of innovative practices and crime prevention strategies in building resilience in the urban environment”.

The high-level debate offered policy recommendations on practical and sustainable solutions to effective and just crime prevention and criminal justice responses. [A summary](#) of the discussion was transmitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to all Member States.

1.4.1.8. High-Level thematic debate on Digital Cooperation and Connectivity, 27 April 2021

On 27 April 2021, the PGA convened the General Assembly’s first “[High-Level Thematic Debate on Digital Cooperation and Connectivity](#)”, under the theme “Whole-of-Society Approaches to End the Digital Divide”, in response to calls from Member States and pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 72/313. To inform the preparations and priority areas of this thematic debate, the PGA held a Morning Dialogue on Digital Cooperation and Connectivity on 20 November 2020.

The thematic debate highlighted the importance of political commitment to address the digital divide during COVID-19 adaptation, response, and recovery efforts, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. It also aimed to mobilize the international community to strengthen initiatives and partnerships, including the Secretary General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.

A joint multi-stakeholder statement “[Leave No One Behind: A People-Centered Approach to Achieve Meaningful Connectivity](#)” was announced during the Debate, endorsed by thought leaders from industry, civil society and international organizations, including the International Chamber of Commerce, which committed to [mobilizing its global network of private sector representatives](#) to implement the statement’s goals.

In light of digital connectivity’s importance to long-term development goals, it is recommended to maintain the momentum generated by the Debate via following up with (1) the UN Technology Envoy’s Office on the SG’s Roadmap; (2) the ITU on the Finance2Connect initiative, to finance universal connectivity by 2030; (3) UNCTAD on

representative digital governance and equitable e-Trade; (4) UNEP on sustainable digitalization.

1.4.1.9. High-level Interactive Dialogue on Antimicrobial Resistance, 29 April 2021

The PGA convened [a High-level Interactive Dialogue on Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\)](#) on 29 April 2021, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/2. Originally scheduled for April 2020, this High-Level Interactive Dialogue was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. The High-level Dialogue – which was the highest-level meeting on AMR since the 2016 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance – focused on mobilization of political commitment and acceleration of actions to combat AMR, particularly through a One Health Approach, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and recover better from COVID-19.

The programme consisted of an opening segment, four interactive panels, and a Call to Action phase in which the Group of Friends on AMR launched a joint initiative - [Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\)](#). The panels focused on four key areas: evaluating AMR in the context of COVID-19 and the SDGs; taking stock of global progress and the vision of the recently launched One Health Global Leaders Group on AMR; tackling AMR at country-level, including implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs); and exploring sustainable financing, R&D, and innovation for delivering life-saving solutions and accelerating action against AMR.

The [summary](#) of the meeting was circulated to Member States.

The 76th session could continue to highlight the importance of UHC and AMR through ongoing engagement with WHO and related bodies. Additionally, PGA76 could also leverage international days, such as World Health Day (7 April), International Universal Health Coverage Day (12 December), International Day of Epidemic Preparedness (27 December) to continue advocating in this regard.

1.4.1.10. High-level Event on Culture and Sustainable Development, 21 May 2021

On 21 May 2021, the PGA convened the High-level Event on “[Culture and Sustainable Development](#)”, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/320, under the theme “Building back better: towards a more resilient and impactful culture sector, throughout COVID-19 and the Decade of Action”.¹

The event highlighted the best practices and policy adaptations needed to ensure the cultural and creative industries’ contributions to COVID-19 relief and recovery, and to fully realize culture’s transformational potential as an underutilized accelerator for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Given the designation of 2021 as the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development by General Assembly resolution 74/198, the event also emphasized the development of creative sectors globally to support job creation and economic growth.

The participation of 48 Member States in the event made this the largest mobilization for culture in the General Assembly's history and demonstrated rising momentum for incorporating culture into SDG implementation efforts. The [summary](#) of the meeting was circulated to Member States.

To build on the momentum generated during the 75th session, it is recommended for PGA76 to establish a session-long strategy to identify high-level outreach opportunities for key sectors. The UN inter-agency task force on culture has been created to support the goals of the aforementioned International Year and may provide the PGA-elect with strategic guidance in this regard.

1.4.1.11. High-level thematic debate on the ocean and Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water, 1 June 2021

Given the postponement of the Second UN Ocean Conference from June 2020, the PGA, with the support of the Governments of Portugal and Kenya, as well as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Ocean, hosted the '[High-Level Thematic Debate on the Ocean and Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water](#)' on 1 June 2021. The meeting provided the Membership with a progress update on implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

The meeting was prepared with inputs from an extensive working group which included the Special Envoy on Oceans, DESA, FAO, UNEP, UNESCO-IOC, UNGC, and others. The event consisted of an opening segment, four interactive multi-stakeholder panels, and a call-to-action segment. An informal [Presidential summary](#) of the meeting was circulated to the membership.

In September 2021, the General Assembly adopted decision 75/578 regarding the new dates for the high-level 2022 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, which will be convened in Lisbon, from 27 June to 1 July 2022.

1.4.1.12. High-level meeting on HIV/AIDS, 8-10 June 2021

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/260, [a high-level meeting \(HLM\) on HIV/AIDS](#) was convened from 8 to 10 June 2021. The HLM undertook a comprehensive review of progress on the commitments made in the 2016 Political Declaration towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, and how the response contributes to progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the Opening Segment, Member States adopted a new [Political Declaration](#) which provides recommendations to guide and monitor the HIV/AIDS

response beyond 2021, including new concrete commitments to accelerate action to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

As part of the preparatory process for the meeting, the PGA organized an **informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing** on 23 April 2021, with support from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and with the participation of people living with, at risk of, and affected by HIV. To support broad and inclusive participation from a wide range of stakeholders in the processes leading up to the high-level meeting, UNAIDS formed a multi-stakeholder task force comprising civil society and private-sector representatives from all regions of the world, members of key population groups, young people, people living with disabilities, indigenous people and people living with HIV.

1.4.1.13. High-level dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, 14 June 2021

On 14 June 2021, the PGA convened the “[High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought](#)” (DLDD), pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 75/218. This was the first High-level General Assembly meeting convened on DLDD since 2011, with a mandate 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 Dialogue helped to generate momentum and raise ambition for using land restoration as a key entry point within COVID-19 recovery strategies to build back better, particularly along the path to the CBD COP15, UNFCCC COP26, UNCCD COP15, and the 2021 Food Systems Summit. Member States were encouraged to adopt and implement Land Degradation Neutrality targets and National Drought plans, in line with implementing the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and as part of their Nationally Determined Contributions and future commitments under the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to safeguard global food security, and guard against future systemic health or environmental risks and cascading hazards. The [summary](#) of the meeting was circulated to Member States.

Continuously highlighting the interlinkages between the three Rio Conventions on land, climate and biodiversity, and calling for coordinated action and interagency and multi-stakeholder cooperation in that regard is recommended during the 76th session.

1.4.1.14. High-level Meeting on Middle-Income Countries, 17 June and 2 July 2021

[The High-level Meeting on Middle-Income Countries](#) was mandated by the General Assembly resolutions A/RES/72/230 and 74/231 on “Development cooperation with middle-income countries”. This meeting was a follow-up to the first High-level Meeting on Middle-income Countries organized in December 2018, which focused on south-south and triangular cooperation. The meeting took stock of the current landscape, the structural gaps, and the support of the UN Development System

and the international finance system for middle-income countries, particularly in the context of a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PGA organized the event in close collaboration and consultation with the like-minded group of countries of middle-income countries (chaired by Guatemala), UNDESA, UNCTAD and DCO. The High-level meeting took place in a hybrid format. Participants of the high-level opening and representatives from Member States were physically present in the General Assembly Hall, while the stocktaking segment, interactive dialogues, and plenary segment were organized in virtual format. The discussions facilitated exchanges with graduated countries, multilateral development banks, regional commissions, private sector, international financial institutions and the UN System.

The [summary](#) of the meeting was circulated to Member States. It will also inform the SG's report on Middle-Income Countries.

1.4.1.15. High-level Forum on Culture of Peace, 7 September 2021

[The High-level Forum on The Culture of Peace](#) was mandated by the General Assembly resolution 75/25. This year's high-level forum was held in-person at the General Assembly Hall on 7 September 2021 and offered an opportunity to Member States and Observers and other stakeholders to renew their commitments to the full and effective implementation of the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, with particular emphasis on tackling the multidimensional impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and towards a resilient and inclusive recovery.

This year's theme for the 2021 High-level Forum was "Transformative Role of The Culture of Peace: Promoting Resilience and Inclusion in Post-Covid Recovery".

The meeting provided a platform to explore and discuss multiple ways and means for empowering all segments of the society, towards a resilient recovery, including by ensuring vaccine equity, bridging the digital divide, ensuring equality and empowerment of women and harnessing the power of youth, among others. The [summary](#) of the meeting was circulated to Member States.

1.4.1.16. High-level Plenary Meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests, 8 September 2021

Pursuant General Assembly resolution 72/51, the President of the General Assembly convened a [high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests](#), on Wednesday, 8 September 2021. Representatives of Members and Observers States, civil society organisations and other stakeholders also participated. The meeting focused on enhancing public awareness and education about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

1.4.2. Commemorative and other meetings, as well as various processes of the General Assembly

1.4.2.1. UN Day, 26 October 2020

The 2020 UN Day concert was organized by the Permanent Mission of Italy and streamed from the Teatro alla Scala in Milan. This was complemented by a commemorative event, organized by the PGA, to recognize the value of the United Nations and its people.

During the event, opening statements were interspersed with video and live testimonials from the field, most notably, in the interactive panel segment. A virtual presentation by the US Youth Poet Laureate, filmed at the Herbst Theater in San Francisco, completed the picture. The event included the presentation of a poster of the Preamble of the UN Charter in all six languages of the UN, signed by representatives of Member and Observer States and the European Union, as well as the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, symbolically recommitting to the UN Charter, at an initiative by the group of women Ambassadors. The President made the necessary arrangements so that the poster now hangs outside of the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, New York.

1.4.2.2. The 2020 United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture Review

In 2016, the General Assembly and the Security Council formally concluded the second review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture by adopting resolutions A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282, respectively, and called for a comprehensive review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to be conducted at the 74th session of the General Assembly. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly, through its decision 74/564 of 12 August 2020, decided to extend the review of the peacebuilding architecture to the end of the main part of the 75th session.

In October 2020, the Permanent Representatives of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and New Zealand were re-appointed and co-facilitated and finalized the intergovernmental consultations.

On 21 December 2021, the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted the substantively identical resolutions - A/RES/75/201 and S/RES/2558, respectively, on the 2020 peacebuilding architecture review. In these resolutions, the GA and SC welcomed the work that has been done since 2016 to advance peacebuilding by Member States and by the entire United Nations system, in particular, at the field level through the work of peacekeeping operations, special political missions and United Nations country teams. They encouraged further action by the system to advance coherence in peacebuilding efforts. The resolutions called for a further comprehensive review of United Nations peacebuilding in 2025, requesting the Secretary-General to present interim reports in 2022 and 2024 ahead of that review, as well as reports every two years

following that review on system-wide efforts to implement resolutions on sustaining peace and reforming the United Nations to better pursue that purpose.

PGA76 has also received a mandate to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at the seventy-sixth session to advance, explore and consider options for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.

1.4.2.3. Joint briefing by the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, 27 January 2021

The PGA and the President of ECOSOC continued the practice of convening joint briefings of the General Assembly and ECOSOC. The objective of this is to maximize impact, complement priorities, strengthen efforts to address overlapping mandates, and improve efficiency, content and quality of work.

The Joint briefing on 27 January 2021 underscored the commitment of the two Presidents to ensure the work of the two bodies was mutually reinforcing and supported the acceleration of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements.

The briefing focused on several mandates and priorities that required strong coordination and coherence, including: Financing for Development; Countries in special situations, particularly LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS; Vaccines for All; Sustainable Infrastructure; Alignment; and the review of ECOSOC and HLPF.

It is highly recommended to continue the practice of joint briefings in the future sessions.

1.4.2.4. Informal meetings of the plenary to hear briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, 26 February and 18 June 2021

On 26 February and 18 June 2021, in accordance with resolution 75/238 and following a request from a group of Member States, the PGA facilitated briefings on the situation of human rights in Myanmar by the Special Envoy on Myanmar, Ms. Christine Schraner-Burgener.

The briefings appraised the GA of developments in the country since the coup d'état on 1 February 2021. It also provided an opportunity for engagement between Member States and the Special Envoy on issues such as humanitarian access, the importance of granting the Special Envoy access to Myanmar to assess the situation first-hand, and the situation of human rights violations of the Rohingya. In her first briefing, the Special Envoy strongly condemned the military coup of February 2021 and criticized the undermining of democratic processes, violation of the constitution, reversal of reforms, and arrests of government leaders and politicians, peaceful protesters, civil society representatives and members of the media.

The second briefing took place after the adoption of resolution 75/287 on the situation in Myanmar by the General Assembly on 18 June 2021. The Special Envoy

underlined the risk of a large-scale civil war in Myanmar and stressed that the opportunity to reverse the military takeover was narrowing and regional threats were increasing. The Special Envoy called for a return to democracy and an end to violence.

The Special Envoy is mandated to report to Member States every six months, or as warranted by the situation on the ground and it is anticipated that similar briefings to the Assembly will continue during the 76th session.

1.4.2.5. High-level panel discussion to brief on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, 2 March 2021

The President of the General Assembly convened an informal meeting on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic on 2 March 2021. This meeting allowed the high-level panel to brief the General Assembly pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/169.

The high-level panel included a presentation from OHCHR on its role in ensuring documentation, accountability, and engagement with key counterparts in Syria.

In addition to briefing on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, the meeting included panellists from the Commission of Inquiry (COI), as well as civil society groups, who focused on violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, including those that may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes.

1.4.2.6. Commemorative meeting of the Assembly for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 19 March 2021

In accordance with A/RES/75/237, PGA convened a formal plenary meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 19 March 2021. This meeting included a focus on the midterm review of the International Decade for People of African Descent. This theme was originally chosen for the 2020 commemoration, which had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a keynote speech was delivered in-person by Dr. Uzodinma Iweala, author, medical doctor, CEO of The Africa Center, and eminent person active in the struggle against racial discrimination. Member States made regional group statements, as well as a limited number of individual statements. The meeting featured powerful calls against racial discrimination ahead of the meetings on the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the mid-term review of the International Decade for People of African Descent, as well as the establishment of the Permanent Forum of People of African descent.

1.4.2.7. Commemorative meeting of the General Assembly to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 25 March 2021

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/345, the PGA held on 25 March 2021 a formal plenary meeting of the Assembly to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, under the theme “Ending Slavery’s Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice”.

The meeting featured the participation of the Secretary-General and Dr. Lisa M. Coleman, Senior Vice President for Global Inclusion, Diversity and Strategic Innovation, and Chief Diversity Officer at the New York University, as a keynote speaker appointed by the Member States Steering Committee. Member State statements were delivered by the Chairs of the regional groups.

The meeting called for the need to address and tackle racism, injustice and inequality, which are persistent consequences of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

1.4.2.8. Informal meeting of the plenary to hear a briefing by the Secretary-General on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including the developments on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) on the humanitarian situation and on human rights, 30 March 2021

On 30 March 2021, the Secretary-General briefed the General Assembly on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including developments on the implementation of resolution 2254 (2015), on the humanitarian situation and on human rights, pursuant to Resolution A/RES/75/193. The Secretary-General elaborated on the growing humanitarian needs, the continuing violence in parts of Syria, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the already dire living conditions.

In his [remarks](#), the PGA called upon members of the Security Council to authorize the extension of the UN humanitarian mechanism in July 2021. The Secretary-General was joined by Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in New York, and Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham, Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator. Over 30 Member States intervened.

1.4.2.9. General Assembly joint debate on the situation in the Middle East [item 37] and Question of Palestine [item 38], 20 May 2021

On 20 May 2021 President Bozkir convened a formal plenary meeting of the General Assembly on Palestine and the Middle East in the General Assembly Hall. It was a debate under the agenda items on “The situation in the Middle East” and “Question of Palestine”.

The President convened the meeting at the request of the Arab Group and the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) following the concerning situation in Gaza and the occupied East Jerusalem in May 2021.

This was the first meeting with Ministerial attendance of the General Assembly following the pandemic. 103 Member States, Observer States and Observers intervened at the meeting including 12 Ministers.

Following the meeting, the President released an [Appeal for Peace](#) to encourage all Member States to commit to peace. He summarised the key points arising from the General Assembly meeting, including the urgent need for a ceasefire, respect for international human rights and humanitarian law, humanitarian support and the need for intensified diplomatic efforts to achieve lasting peace in the region.

1.4.2.10. Interactive dialogue to commemorate and promote the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, 5 May 2021

President Bozkir convened an [Interactive Dialogue on “Achievements of Multilateralism and the Future of the United Nations”](#) to commemorate and promote the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, established by General Assembly resolution 73/127.

The meeting took place on 5 May 2021 and featured an interactive dialogue with the participation of Member States, as well as representatives of intergovernmental bodies and the civil society, and for the first time in recent history a dialogue between 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 (live virtual) and the Secretary-General. The dialogue was moderated by Ms. Elizabeth Cousens, President and CEO of UN Foundation.

Participants reflected on the achievements of the multilateral system and the current challenges to multilateralism. They stressed that, in order to succeed, we need to re-commit to multilateralism and diplomacy for peace through a United Nations that is fit for purpose. The [President’s summary](#) of the discussion, including on how to ensure an effective and inclusive multilateral system in the post-COVID era, was circulated to Member States and other stakeholders.

1.4.2.11. Informal meeting of the plenary to hear a briefing on the G20 Summit, 1 April 2021

On 1 April 2021, the PGA hosted a virtual briefing for Member States by the G20 Sherpa for Italy, Ambassador Luigi Mattiolo. The briefing was organized with reference to General Assembly resolution 71/327, entitled “The United Nations in Global Economic Governance”.

The G20 Sherpa elaborated on the G20’s ongoing work, including on COVID-19, vaccines, climate change, women’s rights and the 2030 Agenda. He said that the G20

program under Italy's presidency rests on three main pillars – People, Planet, Prosperity. The PGA called upon the G20 to continue to demonstrate leadership and to provide support to multilateral initiatives that enable vaccines for all. Furthermore, the PGA called for the establishment of a debt restructuring mechanism and the need to cancel debt in some cases as this would be especially important for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Given the role of the G20 in supporting and enabling recovery from COVID-19, as well as progress on the SDGs, it is recommended that the PGA⁷⁶ continue the practice of G-20 briefings for the UN membership.

1.4.2.12. Joint Thematic Event of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council “Diversifying the Financing Toolbox to Enhance Investment in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)”, 18 June 2021

As part of the preparatory process toward LDC5, the General Assembly, in resolution 74/232A and B, requested the Presidents of both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to organize a thematic event to provide substantive input to the Conference.

[The joint event](#) was held under the theme “Diversifying the Financing Toolbox to Enhance Investment in Least Developed Countries” and consisted of an opening segment, a fireside chat segment, and a high-level plenary. It took place on 18 June, with a spill over segment on 2 July 2021. The event focused on building common ground on strengthening national and global financing mechanisms to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in LDCs, while building back better from the pandemic and resilience against future crises. A detailed [summary](#) of the meeting was circulated to the Membership.

1.4.2.13. Seventh biannual review of Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS)

In May 2020 the General Assembly decided ([decision 74/556](#)) to postpone the seventh biennial review of the Strategy to its seventy-fifth session. This year's review thus coincided with the fifteenth anniversary of the Strategy, and the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which established the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The PGA convened formal plenary meetings on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review on 30 June, as well as on 6-7 July 2021. This followed the adoption by consensus of General Assembly [resolution 75/291](#) entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: seventh review”.

During the seventh review, the General Assembly, inter alia, highlighted the need for appropriate measures from Member States to address new and emerging threats posed by the rise in terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms

of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief. The next review of the Strategy will take place in 2023, during the 77th session of the Assembly.

1.4.2.14. Mid-term review of People of African Descent, 21 July 2021

In its resolution 68/237, the General Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent, from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2024, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”.

[The Midterm Review of the International Decade for People of African Descent](#), originally scheduled for the 74th session under Resolution 69/16, took place on 22 July 2021, in the General Assembly Hall. The full-day event convened by PGA Bozkir comprised of an opening segment with the participation of the PGA, the Secretary-General, the Vice President of Costa Rica, Ms. Epsy Campbell Barr as eminent speaker, and a youth SDG advocate. Three interactive panel discussions followed and addressed the themes of the decade: Recognition, Justice and Development. The event provided an opportunity for Member States, civil society representatives, and stakeholders from the private sector, academia, and the media to take stock of the progress made and decide on further actions required for the International Decade for People of African Descent.

1.4.2.15. Selection and Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

During the 75th session, the Assembly reappointed António Guterres for a second five-year term.

Mr. Guterres was first appointed in October 2016. This was the culmination of a new, transparent, open, and inclusive process based on resolution 69/321. For the first time, there was a clearly defined nomination procedure. Candidates were invited to provide a vision statement and participated in informal dialogues with the General Assembly. Unlike in previous years, civil society and the wider global public were able to engage with the candidates.

It was unclear how such a process would be applied to an incumbent candidate, with the General Assembly deciding in resolution 73/341 “to explore the possibility for the incumbent Secretary-General to present a vision statement for the next term and to brief the Member States on its content”. However, the Assembly did not get the chance to discuss this issue during the 74th session, as expected, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As required by said resolution 69/321, on 5 February 2021, the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council issued a joint letter starting the process of soliciting candidates for the position of Secretary-General. On 26 February 2021, Portugal presented the incumbent Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, for re-appointment to the position of Secretary-General.

An additional 10 applications from individuals, not submitted by a Member State, were received by the PGA, who in turn shared those applications with the Presidents of the Security Council for the pertaining months. While resolution 69/321 is silent on this issue, there was no agreement to circulate those individuals as candidates. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in resolution 75/325 has clarified that all candidates for the post of the Secretary-General must be presented by at least one Member State.

The General Assembly held an informal interactive dialogue with Mr. Guterres on 7 May 2021, in the General Assembly Hall. Mr. Guterres took questions for three hours, with remaining questions submitted in writing and posted online. Civil society representatives and individuals were invited, via an online form, to submit their questions for the interactive dialogue. Of these, six questions were randomly chosen and answered. Two of those video questions were played during the dialogue, while the remaining four were answered as part of the overflow/online response.

The Security Council took up the issue of selection of the Secretary-General in June 2021, adopting by acclamation resolution 2580 (2021), recommending to the General Assembly that Mr. António Guterres be appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations for a second term of office. On 18 June 2021, the General Assembly adopted resolution 75/286 appointing Mr. António Guterres as Secretary-General for a second term of office from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2026. The President of the General Assembly administered the oath of office.

1.4.3. Events convened at PGA's own initiative or at the request of Member States or the UN system

1. Special solemn meeting in commemoration of all victims of the Second World War, 1 December 2020;
2. Informal meetings of the plenary on the follow-up to the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, 15 December 2020 and 10 July 2021;
3. President's Briefing to Member States on priorities for resumed part of the 75th session, 21 January 2021;
4. Briefing by the Secretary-General on his priorities for 2021, 28 January 2021;
5. Briefing by the Secretary-General on the Call to Action for Human Rights, 24 February 2021;
6. Special commemorative meeting of the Assembly in observance of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe, 26 April 2021;
7. Informal plenary meeting of the Assembly in support of the International Year of Health and Care Workers, 22 June 2021;
8. Informal plenary meeting of the Assembly in observance of the Nelson Mandela International Day, 21 July 2021;
9. Informal meeting of the plenary to hear a briefing by Co-Chairs of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR), 28 July 2021;
10. General Assembly Informal Commemorative Meeting to mark the 60th anniversary from the death of former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag

Hammarskjöld, 9 September 2021, in cooperation with Permanent Missions of Sweden and Tunisia, as well as Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation.

1.4.4. 32-nd Special Session of the General Assembly on Challenges and Measures to Prevent and Combat Corruption and Strengthen International Cooperation, 2-4 June 2021

The special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation was held from 2 to 4 June 2021, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 73/191 and 74/276, as well as decisions 74/568 and 75/562 entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”.

In accordance with resolution 73/191, the preparatory process for the special session was led by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, with the substantive expertise and technical support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 2 June, at the opening segment of the special session, a Political Declaration was adopted by consensus. This landmark text reflects Member States’ readiness to more effectively address corruption and illicit financial flows through a comprehensive set of commitments in the areas of prevention, criminalization, international cooperation, asset recovery and technical assistance.

The special session concluded following interventions from more than 120 speakers at the highest political level including eight Heads of State, two Heads of Government, three Deputy Prime Ministers, and twenty-one Ministers. In addition, five intergovernmental organizations and six civil society representatives also made statements.

On 3 June 2021, on the margins of the special session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/276, the PGA’s high-level supporting event was held virtually on the theme “Addressing corruption in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic”. The event featured [a panel discussion](#), with the participation of experts from international organizations and civil society involved in assessing and mitigating corruption risks during the fight against, and recovery responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ONGOING PROCESSES AND MEETINGS INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT OF THE 76TH SESSION

1.5. Meetings to be convened during the 76th session of the Assembly for which preparation has started during the 75th session

1.5.1. High-level week in September 2021:

- **High-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, 22 September 2021**

A one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the ‘Durban Declaration and Programme of Action’ will be held on the second day of the general debate, on 22 September 2021. Pursuant to resolution 75/237, the meeting will be held at the level of Heads of State and Government under the theme “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”. The meeting will adopt a short and concise political declaration aimed at mobilizing political will at the national, regional and international levels for the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its follow-up processes.

As appointed by PGA75, H.E. Mr. Francisco António Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal, and H.E. Ms. Mathu Theda Joyini, Permanent Representative of South Africa conducted intergovernmental consultations on the political declaration and the modalities of the High-level meeting. The General Assembly adopted resolution 75/320 on the modalities of the high-level week by consensus, requesting the PGA to finalize the arrangements of the High-level meeting and decide on its format. President Bozkir started relevant preparations, including the stakeholder selection process, with the support from relevant departments of the Secretariat (DESA and DGC), which is to be finalized by PGA76 in accordance with relevant mandate from resolution 75/320. Further consultations will also take place during the seventy-sixth session of the Assembly to finalize the text of the draft Political Declaration ahead of the high-level meeting on 22 September.

- **High-level Plenary Meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, 28 September 2021**

The General Assembly designated 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/32 and subsequent resolutions, the purpose of the International Day is to further the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons through enhancing public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination. It is hoped that these activities will help to mobilize new international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

OPGA75 undertook the preparation process of the High-level meeting, which will take place on 28 September 2021, in the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, NY.

- **Sustainable Development Goals Moment**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 74/4, the Secretary-General will convene the 2021 Sustainable Development Goals Moment virtually on Monday, 20 September, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **Food Systems Summit**

The UN Secretary-General will convene a Food Systems Summit virtually as part of the Decade of Action (23 September 9:00-18:00). The Summit will launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable, and equitable food systems. It is recommended that the PGA-elect engage with the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy on FSS to seek opportunity to contribute to this important event.

- **High-Level Dialogue on Energy**

General Assembly resolution 74/225 requested the Secretary-General to convene a High-Level Dialogue on Energy – the first of its kind since 1981 – with the aim of scaling up action on SDG7. In support of this mandate, President Bozkir convened a Morning Dialogue on the HLD on Energy on 22 January 2021, which aimed to galvanize member states in the lead up to the High-Level Dialogue, as well as offered an opportunity to share experiences, learn about, and scale up ambitions for Energy Compacts and Global Champion roles. It also considered how the UN system and General Assembly could accelerate implementation efforts to achieve SDG 7 by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. A follow-up Morning Dialogue during the 76th session could be relevant.

The Secretary-General will convene a high-level dialogue on energy at the summit level, virtually from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on 24 September 2021. The dialogue will result in a global road map towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

- **High-level meeting on jobs and social protection for poverty reduction**

The Secretary-General will convene a meeting of Heads of State and Government to discuss jobs and social protection for poverty eradication as part of the Initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond. It will be held virtually on 28 September, from 9 a.m. to noon. The meeting will convene Heads of State and Government, who will be invited to express commitments through a call to action, with the aim of promoting policy coherence. Leaders from the private sector, trade unions and academia will also participate.

1.6. Other meetings and processes

1.6.1. Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on the question of the equitable representation on and the increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council

At the beginning of the 75th session, through the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, Member States committed to reigniting discussions on the reform of the Security Council.

Throughout the 75th session, the PGA chaired six formal plenary meetings on the issue, on 16-17 November 2020, and 16 and 22 June 2021. By making an early appointment of the Co-Chairs of the IGN, PGA facilitated the start of consultations with Member States in a timely manner. He also focused on ensuring that the necessary conditions for the proper functioning of the IGN were in place despite pandemic-related limitations. The Co-Chairs, H.E. Ms. Joanna Wronecka, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland, and H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar, convened five informal in-person meetings of the IGN each of two days, between January and May 2021.

After consultations with groups and Member States, at the formal plenary meeting where delegations expressed their views on the technical rollover of the decision mandating the continuation of the IGN process to the 76th session, the General Assembly adopted, on 22 June 2021, oral decision 75/569, following an oral revision by Qatar to include a reference to the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations.

Through this decision, the General Assembly decided to immediately continue the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, building on the informal meetings held during its seventy-fifth session, as reflected in the letter dated 12 May 2021 from the Co-Chairs, and on the document entitled “Co-Chairs’ Elements Paper on Convergences and Divergences on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters”, circulated on 29 April 2021, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, reflected in the text and its annex circulated on 31 July 2015, to help to inform its future work.

1.6.2. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The meeting of the GA plenary to discuss the Revitalization of the work of the GA was held on 12 November 2020.

In accordance with resolution 74/303, an Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on the Revitalization of the work of the GA was established during the 75th session. The PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of El Salvador and Slovakia to co-chair the AHWG. After an in-person general debate, the AHWG held its four thematic debates virtually. The interactive dialogue with the Secretariat was held in-person, and included a briefing by the Secretariat, requested in 74/303, on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of the General Assembly.

The Chef de Cabinet, on behalf of the PGA, briefed the AHWG twice – during the thematic debate on *Strengthening the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the PGA* and on the work of the General Committee during the thematic debate on *Working Methods*.

As the resolution adopted during the 74th session (A/Res/74/303) was largely a technical rollover, the Co-chairs based the zero draft on A/RE/73/341. Informal

negotiations on the draft resolution were held throughout June and July. The final text of the resolution was agreed on 16 July – the first time in recent years that negotiations did not carry through to the final days of the session in September.

The resolution makes progress on a number of issues that have been proposed over numerous sessions. First, the AHWG decided to biennialize the GA revitalization resolution. The AHWG will continue to meet each year, holding two of the four thematic debates, as well as the interactive dialogue with the Secretariat annually, however the resolution itself will only be negotiated every second year.

Second, from the 78th session, the start of the General Assembly will be moved forward one week to the second week of September, while the start of the general debate will remain in the fourth week. The idea of additional time between the start of the session and the general debate has been recommended repeatedly by successive PGAs to allow more time for the newly installed PGA to prepare for the busiest week of the year.

As per the resolution, the General Assembly also:

- Encourages Member States to limit side events during the general debate. This will be reviewed during the 78th session;
- Encourages the PGA to achieve gender parity amongst invited speakers and panelists for high-level and other relevant meetings;
- Urges Member States to be mindful of existing mandates when considering new mandates for General Assembly meetings, and refrain from mandating recurring high-level and commemorative meetings;
- Requests the Secretariat to brief the AHWG at the 76th session on lessons-learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, including the use of information and communication technologies with a view to ensuring better preparedness in exceptional circumstances;
- Requests the Main Committees to each submit an update during UNGA76 on progress in updating working methods. AHWG Co-Chairs are requested to appoint two focal points to work with Chairs and Bureaux of Main Committees to elaborate proposals for streamlining the agenda and biennializing/triennializing resolutions;
- Notes that there is yet to be a woman Secretary-General and invites Member States to bear this in mind when nominating candidates. Nominations for SG must come from a Member State;
- The Secretariat to report to the AHWG at UNGA77 on the functioning of the OPGA as a follow up to the SG's 2016 Task Force report on the Office.

The Revitalization resolution also includes 19 paragraphs on the alignment process (see below).

1.6.3. The process aimed at addressing gaps, overlaps and duplication where they are found to exist in the agenda of the Assembly as they relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole.

The so-called “alignment process” was conducted in accordance with paragraph 6 of the General Assembly resolution 74/303 entitled “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”. Intergovernmental consultations were led by H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh and H.E. Ms. Darja Bavdaž Kuret, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia as co-facilitators as appointed by the PGA.

As a result of several rounds of negotiations, co-facilitators submitted 19 paragraphs as an input to the draft resolution discussed at the Ad Hoc Working Group on GA revitalization. According to those paragraphs, new mandates were assigned to the General Committee to consider the best possible way to conduct the discussions on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic within the agenda of the General Assembly, as well as to the Presidents of GA and ECOSOC. This included a recommendation to continue to convene an annual joint briefing, highlighting the connection between agenda items and their interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda, and to facilitate informal joint meetings of the Bureaux of the Main Committees of the General Assembly and the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council to discuss how their respective work relate to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ensure synergies among their work and outcomes.

Despite different positions on the main focus and solutions of the General Assembly process on the alignment of agendas, there is an agreement among the Membership on the need for the work of UN intergovernmental bodies to address the 2030 Agenda in a holistic and effective manner, as reflected in the principles contained in the outcome document.

There was also agreement on the need to build synergies and complementarity between the work of UN intergovernmental bodies so that the United Nations as a whole supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda during the decade of action and delivery, and as the world battles against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The agreed outcome of the process during this session lays grounds for some common principles, delegations can follow-up within their deliberations when dealing with resolutions. This outcome also paves the groundwork for further reflection on the alignment of agendas of the UN intergovernmental bodies by the General Assembly at its 78th session.

1.6.4. Election of the President of the General Assembly

In accordance with the established principle of geographic rotation and General Assembly resolution 33/138 of 19 December 1978, the [President of the 76th session was elected](#) from the Group of Asia-Pacific States. Afghanistan and Maldives nominated candidates. In line with resolution 71/323, in what is now a well-established practice of the GA, informal interactive dialogues with the two candidates were held on 6 May. While similar dialogues had previously been scheduled for two hours, this session each candidate was afforded three hours in response to 73/341, which requested enough time be provided for all participants to have the opportunity to put forward questions.

Both candidates submitted vision statements in support of their respective candidacies, which were distributed to Member States only a week before the informal dialogues. It is recommended that, in future, PGA candidates be encouraged to submit their vision statements well ahead of the informal interactive dialogues to allow sufficient time for Member States to examine the documents.

Questions from civil society and other stakeholders were canvassed through the page dedicated to PGA elections on the current PGA website. A diverse selection of questions was shortlisted with the assistance of the Department of Global Communications Civil Society Unit and the stakeholders were asked to submit a video with their question. Each candidate drew questions at random and respective videos were played during the informal dialogues.

The election was held on 7 June 2021, with the Honourable Abdulla Shahid of Maldives elected President of the General Assembly during the 76th Session.

In accordance with the established principle of geographic rotation, the President of the 77th session is to be elected from Eastern European Group of States.

1.6.5. High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

In accordance with GA resolutions [74/176](#) and 75/283 on the "modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons", a High-Level Meeting of the plenary of the General Assembly is to be convened on 22-23 November 2021 to appraise progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (resolution 64/293), in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments.

In order to support the inclusive, active and substantive engagement of civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in the process, the PGA75 convened an informal interactive Multi-stakeholder Hearing on 13 July 2021, pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 75/283. Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions at the United Nations Headquarters, the Multi-stakeholder Hearing was held fully virtual.

Resolution 75/283 on modalities was successfully facilitated by H.E. Mr. Kaha Imnadze, Permanent Representative of Georgia and H.E. Mr. Enrique Austria Manalo, Permanent Representative of the Philippines. In line with operative paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 75/283, intergovernmental consultations on the political declaration were conducted by H.E. Mr. José Alfonso Blanco Conde, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic, and H.E. Mr. Enrique Austria Manalo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines as co-facilitators appointed by PGA.

At the end of the current session, co-facilitators informed the PGA that additional time is required to finalize negotiations before the High-level meeting. Hence, the process is expected to continue during the 76th session.

1.6.6. Permanent Forum of People of African Descent

The creation of a Permanent Forum of People of African Descent was mandated through UN General Assembly resolution 69/16 entitled “Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent” and was further defined in General Assembly resolution 73/262 entitled “A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”.

To lead the negotiations on the modalities for the creation of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, the PGA appointed Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, Ambassador Rodrigo Carazo Zeledon and the Permanent Representative of Chad, Ambassador Ammo Aziza Baroud as co-facilitators, who conducted several rounds of intensive consultations with Member States.

Following consultations with delegations and reaching compromises on areas of contention, on 2 August 2022, the Assembly adopted A/RES/75/314 on “Establishment of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent” by consensus, according to which Permanent Forum is to be established “as a consultative mechanism for people of African descent and other relevant stakeholders as a platform for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent, as well as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council, in line with paragraph 29 (i) of the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent³ and in close coordination with existing mechanisms”.

The Permanent Forum shall convene its first session in 2022 and after four annual sessions of the Permanent Forum, an evaluation of its modalities shall be carried out by the General Assembly on the basis of an evaluation made by the Human Rights Council in the light of the experience gained. Members of the Permanent Forum will be elected by the General Assembly during the 76th session.

1.6.7. United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities

In early 2021, the PGA proposed to convene an informal dialogue to explore the possible alternatives for the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities. The pledging event allowed for a less rigid and more dynamic platform in line with the President’s call to implement the necessary reforms to ensure that the United Nations is fit for purpose and can deliver the future we want.

In this regard, the PGA appointed H.E. Mr. Julio César Arriola Ramírez, Permanent Representative of Paraguay, who led the informal dialogue and convened several informal meetings to explore possible alternatives for the UN Pledging Conference. On 9 September 2021 the General Assembly adopted the decision 75/511

B mandating the Conference on an annual basis shortly after the operational activities for development segment of the ECOSOC session.

1.6.8. Informal consultations on the functioning of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, including its structure, performance and funding arrangements.

Pursuant to operative paragraph 16 of the General Assembly resolution 72/279, reiterated in General Assembly resolution 75/233, on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of operational activities of the United Nations Development System, the Secretary-General submitted to the GA a review on the functioning of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, including its structure, performance and funding arrangements.

During the preparatory stage of the report, the PGA appointed H.E. Mr. Sofiane Mimouni, Permanent Representative of Algeria and H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann, Permanent Representative of Denmark as co-facilitators to follow the informal consultations by the Secretariat during the preparations of the Secretary-General's review report and to lead on related intergovernmental consultation process thereafter, as needed.

Following their last informal consultations during the 75th session, co-facilitators informed the President that additional time is required to finalize the negotiations on the matter. President of the seventy-sixth session of the Assembly is expected to (re)appoint the co-facilitators at the earliest convenience to continue and finalize the text of the resolution based on the current work of co-facilitators and the membership.

1.6.9. The Fourth session of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

In its [resolution 72/249](#), the General Assembly decided to convene an Intergovernmental Conference on the elements of an international legally binding instrument on the 'conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction'. This instrument would fall under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea, and the conference would build on the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee, established by resolution 69/292.

As per General Assembly resolution 75/239, the fourth session of the Conference should have taken place from 16 to 27 August 2021 (postponed earlier by the General Assembly in its decision 74/543, noting the continued situation concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Nevertheless, on 22 June 2021, the General Assembly adopted decision 75/570, introduced by Singapore, deciding to postpone the fourth session of the Conference to the earliest possible available date in 2022, preferably during the first half of the year.

1.6.10. Open-ended informal consultative process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 54/33 and 75/239, PGA appointed H.E. Ms. Isabelle F. Picco, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Monaco, and H.E. Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga, as co-chairs of the open-ended informal consultative process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea during the seventy-fifth session.

The meeting of the Open-ended informal consultative process took place from 14 to 18 June 2021 and addressed the topic of sea-level rise and its impacts, as mandated by resolution 75/239. The co-chairs decided to work through plenary sessions and a discussion panel. The panel included one session on “sea level rise: understanding the issue, its impacts and related challenges” and one session on “International cooperation and coordination in addressing the impacts and challenges related to sea level rise”. The outcome consisted of a co-chairs’ summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the live plenary sessions or in writing.

1.6.11. Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/239, PGA⁷⁵ appointed H.E. Ms. Yolannie Cerrato, Deputy Permanent Representative of Honduras and H.E. Mr. Mark Zellenrath, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, as co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the General Assembly (the “Working Group”) on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects, for the duration of the third cycle.

The fifteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group took place in July 2021. The result of the meeting, in the format of recommendations to the General Assembly, included the establishment of a Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process; the Terms of Reference and Working Methods of the Group of Experts; and the Terms of Reference for National Focal Points and Focal Points for Intergovernmental Entities. These recommendations will be integrated in the draft resolution on Oceans and Law of the Sea to be considered by the 76th session of the General Assembly, following the standard practice.

1.6.12. Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States

As per General Assembly resolution 70/202, entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”, the PGA re-appointed H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda,

and H.E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier, Permanent Representative of Malta, as co-chairs of the Steering Committee on partnerships for SIDS.

During the 75th Session, the Steering Committee organised several events, including the annual Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States Partnership Dialogue on 9 July 2021.

As of the end of the 75th Session, the Permanent Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, and Malta will have reached their term limits in this capacity. New co-chairs will need to be appointed during the 76th session.

1.6.13. Modalities for the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage

The General Assembly, in its resolution 74/2 entitled the "Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Universal Health Coverage" decided to convene a high-level meeting on universal health coverage in 2023 in New York, to undertake a comprehensive review on the implementation of the 2019 political declaration, and to identify gaps and solutions to accelerate progress.

H.E. Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Permanent Representative of Guyana and H.E. Mr. Ishikane Kimihiro, Permanent Representative of Japan led the intergovernmental process to define the scope and modalities for the High-level meeting.

The resolution A/75/315 was adopted by the General Assembly by consensus. According to the modalities agreed for the meeting, the one-day high-level meeting on universal health coverage will be convened by the President of the General Assembly and be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on the third day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session.

1.6.14. Modalities for the High-level Meeting on Global Road Safety

General Assembly resolution 74/299, entitled "Improving global road safety", mandates the first ever high-level meeting on improving global road safety. The process to agree on modalities of the high-level meeting was co-facilitated by H.E. Mr. Ibrahima Toure, Deputy Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire and Mr. Dmitry Chumakov, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation.

According to resolution 75/308 on the "Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on improving global road safety", which was adopted by the General Assembly on 21 July 2021 by consensus, the High-level meeting will be convened in 2022 back-to-back with the HLPF on the theme "The 2030 horizon for road safety: securing a decade of action and delivery". PGA76 also has a mandate to convene a one-day supporting event for the High-level meeting in 2021.

1.6.15. Modalities for the High-level Meeting on Stockholm+50

During the 75th session, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions related to the Stockholm+50 process: resolution 75/280 entitled "International meeting entitled

"Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity", as well as resolution 75/326 related to its modalities, according to which an international meeting will take place in Stockholm, on 2 and 3 June 2022, during the week of World Environment Day.

As per General Assembly mandate, President of the seventy-sixth session is requested to finalize the organization arrangements of the international meeting, with support from the UNEP, no later than 2022. PGA76 is also mandated to convene a one-day preparatory meeting no later than April 2022 and conduct the stakeholder selection process.

1.6.16. The High-level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III)

General Assembly Resolution 75/224 requests the PGA of the 76th session to convene a high-level meeting “to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), taking into account the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be presented that year”.

Given the mega-trend of rapid urbanization, as well as the incidence of 90% COVID-19 cases within cities, achieving sustainable urbanization will be key for the entire 2030 Agenda, the 3 Rio Conventions and green COVID-19 recoveries. Key issues and messages on urbanization arising during the 75th session include UN-Habitat’s COVID-19 response plan to increase and equitably distribute land-based revenues to fund recoveries, and the synergies between environmental action and urbanization via measures such as adopting green energy, and initiating mass installations of green roofs, vertical forests and animal crossings.

UN-Habitat has proposed 28 April 2022 as the preferred date for this HLM, as well as suggested a PGA Morning Dialogue on the HLM early in the 76th session to solicit member state views and inform planning.

1.7. List of mandates for the 76th session of the General Assembly

A summary list of high-level and commemorative meetings, events, informal dialogues and briefings mandated by the General Assembly for the 76th session of the General Assembly and beyond, as well as some United Nations Conferences is provided in Annex 5.

PRACTICAL LESSONS LEARNED

1.8. Organization and management of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

Staffing

During the 75th session, the Office comprised of 36 team members (including the President), of which 21 are women and 15 are men.

- 17 staff are seconded from Member States

- 1 staff is seconded from the European Union
- 6 staff are provided for by the regular UN budget (1 from the Senior Executive Team, 2 Team Leaders, 1 Senior Adviser and 2 Administrative Assistants)
- 7 staff are recruited through voluntary contributions to the OPGA Trust Fund
- 3 staff are deployed from the UN system – Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM); Department of Global Communications (DGC); and UNICEF
- 1 staff provided through the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programme, funded by Germany.

The General Assembly has called on the PGAs, when establishing the Office, to strive for both gender and geographical balance. For the 75th session, the Office achieved both. 56% of the team are women, and crucially women also fill half of the leadership roles. The staff are drawn from a wide variety of nationalities, with each of the regional groups well represented.

Retaining team members from previous years helps retain knowledge and assists the new team to hit the ground running when it takes office in September. This session, 13 of the team members had served in the OPGA during previous sessions, bringing important institutional memory and experience to the Office.

The Office is allocated five posts from the regular budget – two D2s, one D1, a P5 and a General Service staff. For the second year in a row, the Office has not made use of the second D2, reclassifying it and other positions down to reflect the true needs. While it is recommended that Member States consider allocation of more posts from the regular budget to the Office to increase the total number to ten (10), it is also necessary for the General Assembly to review the level of the current allocation of posts to better reflect the needs of the OPGA today, in particular at the crucial P5 level.

The OPGA continues to rely on the generosity of Member States in seconding staff, with seconded staff constituting half of the Office. These secondees can bring a valuable diversity of views to the Office, and importantly, their networks among Missions, experience in the General Assembly and its Committees. Member States should continue to be encouraged to second officers, preferably those with recent experience at their Missions in New York. For the 75th session, staffing costs were the greatest expenditure from the OPGA Trust Fund, with two staff members and six consultants paid for from the Trust Fund at a cost of approximately \$840,000.

Transparency and Communications

Efforts to uphold high standards of transparency and accountability include:

- The Oath of office;
- Financial Disclosure Programme;
- Regular communications to Member States;
- The website of the President (including all speeches, staffing, press releases, meeting readouts, and travel details);
- The daily press briefings of the spokesperson.

Finances

Member States allocated \$307,800 in the 2020 UN Regular Budget to the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) to cover hospitality, official travel and other expenditures relating to the President's official responsibilities. 75% of this amount was allocated to PGA74 up to 14 September 2020, with the remaining 25% allocated to PGA75 for the remainder of 2020. For 2020, \$52,486 of unspent regular budget funds from PGA74 were made available to PGA75.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly reduced all travel and hospitality in the 2021 Regular Budget. This reduced the allocation to the OPGA for 2021 to \$210,800, a 32% reduction.

While the regular budget allocation for the OPGA was originally established to cover hospitality, official travel and other expenditures relating to the President's official responsibilities, today much of the OPGA regular budget is consumed by the cost of servicing mandated meetings not covered elsewhere – meetings extended through lunchtime and into the evening to cover the speakers list, webcast, interpretation, meeting services and remote platforms, for example. While it may be understandable, politically, to mandate GA meetings from within existing resources, or to *invite* the President to convene a meeting (and thus avoiding a statement of Programme Budget Implications, or PBI), this places the burden of funding these meetings on the OPGA.

The pandemic has placed an addition financial burden on the OPGA for interpretation. With the difficulties of interpreting on remote platforms, the Secretariat reduced the hours that an interpretation team could service a meeting from three to two if any participants were joining the meeting remotely. This resulted in the OPGA having to pay for an additional team of interpreters for many of the mandated high-level meetings where panelists had to join remotely.

Trust Fund

During the 75th session, the Trust Fund had received contributions of \$1,937,527 from 14 Member States. A full list of contributors is contained in Annex 3.

Unspent contributions from previous sessions of \$939,498 were also made available to PGA75. There will be approximately \$1,400,000 remaining in the Trust Fund at the end of the 75th session, which will be made available to PGA76.

Archiving, record keeping and other office matters

The General Assembly has emphasised the need to improve the archiving and record keeping of the OPGA. The Office uses Microsoft Sharepoint as a shared drive to store files, using an established filing structure. Additional training on the use of Sharepoint as a filing and collaboration tool at the start of the session, as well as appointing a focal point in each team, would help the Office make better use of the software. Access to the OPGA75 Sharepoint will be given to all incoming members of OPGA76.

In line with the established practice, the OPGA has transferred all hard-copy files pertaining to the 75th session to the Archives and Records Management Section (ARMS).

1.9. Planning and preparation of Meetings

To reinvigorate public confidence in – and engagement with – multilateralism, OPGA events must always be results oriented. This can be achieved by choosing discussion topics and speakers that serve to:

- Introduce ideas that Member States and stakeholders can coalesce around, including upscaling existing action coalitions and creating new ones.
- Identify best practices, including by strategically utilizing the spotlight provided by General Assembly events to support transformative solutions.
- Create momentum for multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Advance communication of the schedule of the General Assembly plenary and related meetings, including PGA initiatives, and regular updates in the programme of work on General Assembly website, UN Journal and at the e-delegate portal hugely helps the preparation of results-oriented meetings. Coordination and cooperation with the Secretariat, as well as relevant partner agencies or proponents of the meeting, is also key to successful event and their outcomes.

The focal points assigned for the meeting/event conduct the preparatory work, including, but not limited to, securing PGA statements, confirming procedural aspects of the formal plenary meetings, ensuring branding materials of the event, as needed, and facilitating participation of the SG and other speakers, as well as all invited stakeholders. Of importance is the need to prioritise the selection of the panellists/moderators/keynote speakers with due regard to gender balance.

In the General Assembly Hall, the teleprompter is available for the President's use at the President's request. However, the teleprompter is not considered as an essential service, so the cost is covered by the PGA trust fund. During the 75th session, the teleprompter was regularly used by the PGA at high-level and Plenary meetings. It is recommended that this is considered as part of the regular service provided by the Secretariat for future Presidencies.

It is important to engage Member States in the planning process, including the main sponsors of the resolution giving the mandate to the PGA, regional groups or other stakeholders, if modalities require so. Holding briefings for Member States to facilitate preparation of their delegations for the events is also advisable.

1.10. Informal processes and appointment of facilitators

President Bozkir received highest number of mandates for intergovernmental negotiation processes in recent years – he appointed 42 PRs and DPRs to support him in conducting 22 processes to advance intergovernmental consultations and relevant outcomes.

The appointment of facilitators and chairs requires advance planning to select PRs with experience and interest in the particular topic. While there still are processes where only one chair or facilitator is appointed, the overall trend remains to appoint two, one from global north, one from global south, taking into account gender balance and regional representation.

Co-facilitators and co-chairs conduct negotiations on behalf of the PGA. It is important that the PGA meets with his co-facilitators and co-chairs at the start of each process to discuss the mandate, share views, and expectations. The PGA needs to be duly informed throughout the process by maintaining regular communication with facilitators and chairs. He/she needs to be ready to intervene to support the process and rally stakeholders when needed. The OPGA and Secretariat also provide crucial support to co-facilitators/co-chairs and their teams, as needed, throughout the negotiation process.

Based on current mandates from the General Assembly, it is expected that PGA76 will appoint/reappoint co-facilitators and co-Chairs for at least 10 processes. PGA76 might also consider reappointment of facilitators of those processes that need more time to finalize negotiations beyond the current session, including for the process related to the Review of the United Nations Development System, and Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Trafficking in Persons, to be held on 22-23 November 2021.

1.11. Relationship with Member States and other organs

The PGA held around 224 bilateral meetings only in New York with Member States and other delegations throughout the session.

The PGA Briefed the membership on his priorities on a number of occasions, including in his acceptance speech, at the opening of the 75th session, as well as at the start of the resumed part of the session in January 2021.

The PGA ensured continued consultations with Membership, Secretariat and the Host Country on **COVID-19 related business continuity issues** by convening regular meetings of the General Assembly plenary. This provided opportunities for delegations to discuss business continuity issues with the Secretariat relating to use of UN Headquarters, as well as to hear updates from the Host Country on the status of health conditions related to the pandemic and access to vaccines. At PGA's initiative, Member States considered a paper prepared by the Secretariat outlining safe options for the reopening of the United Nations and the transition to normalcy, including increasing occupancy at in-person meetings during the seventy-fifth session. As a result of those discussions and relevant consultations, the PGA put forward his proposal regarding the practical arrangements for the high-level week of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. The General Debate will take place based on this proposal.

Meetings with the Secretary-General and the Presidents of ECOSOC and the Security Council. In addition to bilateral monthly meetings with the President of the Security Council, the PGA introduced bi-monthly trilateral meetings with the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General. He had also

sought to improve the process by which the Security Council's annual report is considered by the wider membership, in an effort to enhance the transparency, accountability and legitimacy of the Council.

Coordination meetings with the President of ECOSOC were primarily focused on maintaining the ongoing cooperation between the two organs to capitalize on the areas of complementarity in their work. Throughout the session, both organs benefitted from several joint and back-to-back meeting on priorities issues to enhance coherence and synergies.

Meetings with the **Chairs of Main Committees** were held in order to ensure the timely adoption of decisions and take stock of progress and challenges. During this session, the PGA called on Member States, on several occasions, to find common ground and make compromise. This included discussions with the Fifth Committee at year's end around the budget for the UN, which at that time was delayed and in doubt. Coordination between OPGA, Member States and the Secretariat of the Committee at all levels was key to the successful adoption of the budget.

General Committee - During the session, the PGA worked closely with the General Committee on matters regarding the agenda and the general conduct of the work of the General Assembly. The PGA convened two formal and two informal meetings with the members of the Committee. The President recommends cooperation and full use of the General Committee expertise to his successor as well.

Meeting with the 21 Vice Presidents of General Assembly during the 75th session, to discuss how to enhance the exchange of views and task-sharing to increase the efficiency of the work of the General Assembly. It is recommended that this discussion be continued.

Partnering with UN agencies - Throughout the session, PGA continued to meet with the heads and principals of the UN System. One of the results of such cooperation was the **2021 Annual Parliamentary Hearing**, jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the President of the General Assembly on the theme "Fighting corruption to restore trust in government and improve development prospects" on 17 and 18 February 2021. It brought together some 200 members of Parliaments from 80 countries and served as an opportunity for parliamentarians to discuss a wide range of thematic areas pertinent to advancing the fight against corruption. It also contributed to the preparation to the Special Session against Corruption, held in June 2021. The President of the General Assembly circulated among Member States an informal [summary](#) with highlights of the Hearing.

1.12. Boards of Advisors

The PGA established two advisory bodies, at his initiative:

- 1) Board of Advisers on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, as part of his commitment to the most vulnerable 91 (please, see section 1.3.5);
- 2) Gender Advisory Group, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment into the General Assembly's work (please, see section 1.3.6).

The Boards held meetings throughout the session which provided key messages and recommendations for the PGA over the course of his presidency. Members of both Boards recommended that the Boards be continued in to the 76th session, with a recommendation to expand membership to include the President of the Economic and Social Council in the case of Advisory Board on LDCs, LLDCs ad SIDS. Following each board meeting, a summary of the discussions was circulated to all Member States via a PGA letter. The final report of the Advisory Board on LDCs, LLDCs ad SIDS was also circulated as official document of the General Assembly.

1.13. Interaction with EOSG and the UN system

Throughout the session, the PGA held regular meetings with senior UN Officials and representatives, who were also actively invited to participate in various General Assembly meeting. The PGA maintained the established practice of regular monthly meetings with Secretary-General and other UN Officials. The PGA organized a number of informal plenary meetings to hear briefings by the Secretary-General on different aspects of the work of the United Nations, including his priorities for 2021, on UN75 report preparations, as well as related to other mandated events and processes.

The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management remains a key partner to all OPGAs providing crucial support to the work of the GA and its President, including with regards to planning, scheduling, meeting preparations and other important services. Cabinet members of the OPGA kept regular weekly meetings with the representatives of General Assembly Affairs (GAAB) and ECOSOC Branches of the Secretariat to ensure coordination and strategic planning of the work of the Assembly throughout the session.

The PGA and his office always invited the Resident Coordinator or the Head of UN representation to be present during official meetings as part of President’s travel overseas.

Due to COVID-19 related restrictions and limited availability of large Conference Rooms for meetings at UNHQ, throughout the session OPGA accommodated requests from different agencies, Departments and Committees to use the General Assembly Hall, turning it to the “UN Hall” informally.

1.14. Outreach to civil society

OPGA worked closely throughout the session with the Department of Global Communications Civil Society Unit (CSU) and the NGO branch of Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to engage with civil society and ensure their participation through mandated events and OPGA initiatives. OPGA predominately provided communications support, advising CSOs on how they could engage in campaigns and initiatives of the OPGA. Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, this session civil society engagement in high-level events was mostly made possible through pre-recorded video messages, however some CSO representatives also participated in-person in OPGA events as speakers/panellists when possible.

Of note, the OPGA continued the tradition of hosting a one-on-one with the PGA and CSOs in a virtual format, as well as ensured the participation of CSOs in the formal meetings with the PGA and SG candidates. The President also ensured the contribution and participation of CSOs and their representatives to all GA high-level and thematic meetings in various formats. In addition, stakeholder participation processes were organized for the special session of the General Assembly on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation (resolution 74/276 and decision 74/568), held on 2-4 June 2021, as well as the Special session of the General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (resolution 75/4), on 2-4 December 2020.

It should be noted that participation of representatives of non-governmental organization, civil society, private sector and academia in the high-level meetings of the General Assembly became a contentious part of intergovernmental negotiations on a number of occasions during the current session and often led to a vote in the General Assembly. It is important that the General Assembly meetings and deliberations are as inclusive as possible, and participation of stakeholders is key in this regard.

It is recommended that PGA76 continue the tradition of meeting one-on-one with CSOs to brief the on priorities as well as to hear feedback. Additionally, in developing the formats for high-level meetings and engagements, space should consistently be made for CSO engagement. Further, OPGA organised an internal training session to review mandates and prospects for CSO engagement throughout the session. It is recommended that OPGA also organise a similar training session.

List of events during the 75th session of the General Assembly that involved civil society, academia and private sector, as well as other stakeholders:

1. Interactive Dialogue with Civil Society Organizations, 19 February 2021;
2. Intergovernmental consultations on the modalities, format and the substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, 9 April 2021;
3. Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing as part of the preparatory process for the 2021 High-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, 23 April 2021;
4. High-level Thematic Debate on Digital Cooperation and Connectivity, 27 April 2021;
5. High-level event on Antimicrobial Resistance, 29 April 2021;
6. Informal Interactive Dialogue with the Candidates for the Position of the President of the General Assembly, 6 May 2021;
7. Informal Interactive Dialogue with the candidate for the Position of Secretary General, 7 May 2021;
8. High-level Event on Culture and Sustainable Development, 21 May 2021;
9. High-level Thematic Debate on Oceans, 1 June 2021;
10. High-level supporting event on challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, 3 June 2021;

11. High-level meeting on HIV/AIDS (resolution 75/260), 8-10 June 2021;
12. Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing as part of the preparatory process for the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Person (resolution 75/283), 13 July 2021.
13. High-level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, 14 June 2021.

Upcoming events to take place during the 76th session mandating civil society and other stakeholder participation:

- High-level meeting on the twentieth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (A/Res/75/237);
- High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, A/RES/75/283;
- The International Migration Review Forum, to be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly during the first semester of the year 2022 and be chaired by the President of the General Assembly, A/RES/73/326;
- Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing one day prior to the International Migration Review Forum, A/RES/73/326;
- Informal interactive hearing with indigenous peoples, A/Res/71/321 and decision 75/561;
- 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, A/RES/73/292.

Note: the list of NGOs and other stakeholders was approved in advance of the preparatory meeting in 2020.

- International meeting "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity - Stockholm (A/Res/75/326)
- High-level meeting on improving global road safety and related Interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, A/RES/75/308.

1.15. Communications and media relations

The role of the Communications team in OPGA is to keep key stakeholders, including Member States, the public, civil society, the media and the UN system informed of the General Assembly's work. This is consistent with several GA Resolutions that specifically request more public visibility of the work of the GA and PGA. In this regard, the team worked to ensure that up-to-date information was easily accessible and that key audiences were aware of the PGA's priorities and activities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increased demand for reliable information from the UN system, as well as unique challenges in delivering dynamic hybrid events with limited

in-person participation. At the same time, the prevalence of virtual meetings provided new opportunities for visibility, enabling the PGA to participate in multiple concurrent events or events while travelling through video messages.

Media

The President held four [press conferences](#) with the UN press corps over the course of the session – 15 September 2020, 15 January 2021, 4 May 2021, 9 September 2021. In each press conference the President spoke about General Assembly activity for approximately 10 minutes and then took a series of questions. The Spokesperson and Deputy Spokesperson held almost daily Noon Briefings with the UN press corp to ensure awareness of the General Assembly’s work and take questions. The Spokespeople fostered strong relationships with journalists inside and outside the UN system and provided quick responses to questions asked via email or phone.

The Communications team organized interviews while travelling, where journalists would send in questions and receive a written response. Travel was also supported with local op-eds. One member of the communications team accompanied each trip.

Speeches and Statements

The OPGA team engaged three full time speechwriters who provided statements, speeches and video scripts in collaboration with substantive focal points. A well-defined workflow and clearance process helped ensure timely statements were received by the PGA and last-minute requests could be accounted for. All public statements were checked against delivery and as delivered versions were sent to press via Spokesperson emails and uploaded onto the PGA website. To ease the workflow, speechwriters also supported teams/substantive areas, e.g. sustainable development, human rights, and humanitarian/governance.

PGA Website

The [PGA website](#) is the main tool for transparency, an important source of information for Member States and a living legacy document for the PGA. Alongside social media accounts, it also serves to bring visibility to the PGA’s priorities and activities. The comms team managed the OPGA website and all its content, regularly updating relevant sections with letters and statements (the most visited sections of the site), as well as media resources. Following established practices, information on the Office’s staffing, travels and expenses were also fully disclosed.

As in previous years, DGC’s Digital Support Section (DSU) developed and designed the website and handles ongoing technical maintenance, as well as providing customized support to OPGA throughout the session in the creation of high-profile pages (like the one set up for the [Selection and Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations](#)) and visually appealing templates for [High-Level events](#).

The website is currently built in the WordPress Content Management system as a fully functioning multilingual site, hosting content in all 6 UN languages.

Social media activities

Twitter continues to be an essential channel to keep relevant stakeholders informed of the various activities of the President and the General Assembly in a transparent and timely manner, especially during these challenging times. Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, the team focused much of its attention on demonstrating the leadership of the President in ensuring business continuity. Therefore, in light of the current limitations to hold in-person meetings, the use of Twitter particularly was maximized to serve as a vehicle for communication and to engage directly with civil society and the general public. The President's twitter account has increased by over 44,000 followers from September 2020 to September 2021 reaching over 183,000 followers, making this session the most successful in terms of audience growth.

In addition to the President's Twitter account, the team has consistently engaged with people from all around the world via other platforms such as Instagram and Flickr. Lastly, the President has recorded video messages, the highest number of recordings, which are accessible on the PGA website and on the UN official UNWEBTV channel.

Support to High-level Events

The communications team assigned a lead for each High-level event. The team lead worked closely with the focal point and partners, to ensure key messages were communicated to target audiences. This includes visual identity (developed with the support of DGC's Graphics Design Unit and other UN entities), production of physical materials including banners, designated OPGA website pages, social media content, media advisories and speeches.

Newsletters

The President has a unique role in communicating the work of the General Assembly to Member States, world leaders, media outlets, the wider UN community and the general public. To this end - and to further strengthen transparency and accountability - the communications team produced and distributed multiple newsletters detailing the PGA's high-level events, engagements, and bilateral meetings. Official travel also offers a key opportunity to further communicate the work of the General Assembly and connect with the UN system outside the New York headquarters. After each official trip, the team produced a dedicated newsletter detailing the President's visits, engagements, and outcomes. A total of 10 [newsletters](#) have been produced so far and are available on the PGA website.

1.16. Official Travel

Over the course of the session, President Bozkir was invited to undertake a number of official travels to UN Member States and the UN Offices. The PGA visited 15 countries as part of his 9 trips.

The PGA travelled to countries where his presence would help advance the UN's priorities as well as the needs on the ground. He paid particular focus to vulnerable populations that had experienced further difficulties due to the pandemic. He engaged with UN Country Teams and after each trip released a detailed newsletter to inform the membership of his work. The President's visits are initiated by invitations from Member States. He took health conditions, travel restrictions and regional balance into consideration when planning travel. A full list of overseas engagements is included in Annex 4.

Conclusion by the President of the General Assembly

The number of interconnected challenges facing our planet has grown and will only continue to grow as the networks between us deepen. The peace and security situation in many countries continues to be of deep concern as do the resultant humanitarian situations, which are often devastating. Achieving Agenda 2030 looks increasingly difficult. To truly address these challenges, we must do so together. The United Nations, and indeed the General Assembly – the world's most representative body is the best, and arguably the only, suitable platform to address these interconnected challenges. This organization and the General Assembly must be fit for purpose and sufficiently supported to address the increasingly complex challenges faced by the people we serve. During the 75th session, I took steps to ensure the United Nations Headquarters was open so that the General Assembly could meet in person, diplomats had a space to discuss our most pressing challenges face to face, and the Assembly was able to complete all mandates from this session, as well as those that were delayed from the 74th session. The 76th session is shaping up to be another busy year and I hope the operational steps we have taken this session will facilitate the smooth running of the next. I wish His Excellency President-elect Abdulla Shahid and his team a productive and impactful 76th session.

I would like to thank my entire Cabinet for all their hard work and dedication this year. I am grateful to all those that have served alongside me. I am also deeply grateful to the entire staff of the Secretariat who ensure this Assembly functions efficiently and effectively every day. I want to pay my particular thanks to António Guterres, our Secretary-General, whose support was crucial to my work and that of this session.

- ANNEX 1: Facilitators and Chairs of the intergovernmental consultation processes during the 75th session**
- ANNEX 2: Governments and others which seconded staff to the OPGA during the 75th session**
- ANNEX 3: Governments that made contributions to the Trust Fund of the OPGA during the 75th session**
- ANNEX 4: Official Travel**
- ANNEX 5: Meetings mandated for the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly and beyond**

Annex 1:

Co-facilitators for the intergovernmental consultations on the modalities for the organization of the 31st special session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, General Assembly decisions S-31/4, S-31/5 and S-31/6:

- H.E. Mr. Yashar T. Aliyev, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan
- H.E. Ms. Louise Blais, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada

Co-facilitators for the process of alignment of the agenda of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, General Assembly Resolution 74/303 of 4 September 2020, entitled “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”, paragraph 6:

- H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh
- H.E. Ms. Darja Bavdaž Kuret, Permanent Representative of Slovenia

Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, General Assembly resolution 74/303 of 4 September 2020, entitled, “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”:

- H.E. Ms. Egriselda Aracely González López, Permanent Representative of El Salvador
- H.E. Mr. Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia

Co-chairs for the Inter-Governmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council, General Assembly decision 74/569 of 31 August 2020:

- H.E. Ms. Joanna Wronecka, Permanent Representative of Poland
- H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar

Co-facilitators of the process of the Review of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), General Assembly resolution 74/298 of 12 August 2020 entitled “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”:

- H.E. Mr. Alexander Marschik, Permanent Representative of Austria
- H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Permanent Representative of Senegal

Co-facilitators appointed by President of the General Assembly and President of the Security Council for the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, Resolutions A/RES/72/276 and S/RES/2413 (2018), entitled “Follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace”:

- H.E. Mr. Craig John Hawke, Permanent Representative of New Zealand
- H.E. Ms. Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Co-facilitators for the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy Review, General Assembly resolution 72/284 and General Assembly decision 74/556 of 20 May 2020, entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy”:

- H.E. Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver, Permanent Representative of Spain
- H.E. Mr. Mohamed Al Hassan, Permanent Representative of Oman

Co-facilitators for the High-level meeting on HIV and AIDS, General Assembly resolution 70/266 of 8 June 2016, entitled “Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030”

- H.E. Mr. Mitchell Peter Fifield, Permanent Representative of Australia
- H.E. Mr. Neville Melvin Gertz, Permanent Representative of Namibia

Co-facilitators for the Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, General Assembly Resolutions 54/33 and 75/239, entitled “Results of the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the sectoral theme of “Oceans and seas”: international coordination and cooperation”

- H.E. Ms. Isabelle F. Picco, Permanent Representative of Monaco
- H.E. Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē, Permanent Representative of Tonga

Co-facilitators for the scope and modalities for the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), General Assembly resolution 74/2 of 10 October 2019 entitled “Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage”

- H.E. Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Permanent Representative of Guyana
- H.E. Mr. Kimihiro Ishikane, Permanent Representative of Japan

Co-facilitators for the 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, General Assembly Resolution 73/292, entitled “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” and decision 74/548

- H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann, Permanent Representative of Denmark
- H.E. Ms. Keisha A. McGuire, Permanent Representative of Grenada

Facilitator for the Review of the format of the Pledging Conference for Development Activities, General Assembly resolution 45/215 of 21 December 1990, decision 75/511 of 23 November 2020, and PGA letter dated 16 November 2020:

- H.E. Mr. Julio César Arriola Ramírez, Permanent Representative of Paraguay

Co-chairs for the Steering Committee on partnerships for SIDS, General Assembly resolution 70/202 of 22 December 2015 entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”:

- H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda
- H.E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier, Permanent Representative of Malta

Co-facilitators for the Intergovernmental negotiations on the modalities of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, General Assembly resolutions 74/176 and 68/192 entitled “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons”:

- H.E. Mr. Kaha Imnadze, Permanent Representative of Georgia
- H.E. Mr. Enrique Austria Manalo, Permanent Representative of the Philippines

Co-facilitators for the intergovernmental process to define the modalities, format, and the substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, General Assembly resolution 75/237 entitled “A global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the

comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”:

- H.E. Ms. Ammo Aziza Baroud, Permanent Representative of Chad
- H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Alberto Carazo Zeledón, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica

Co-facilitators for the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, General Assembly resolution 75/237 entitled “A global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”

- H.E. Mr. Francisco António Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal
- H.E. Ms. Mathu Theda Joyini, Permanent Representative of South Africa

Co-chairs for the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, General Assembly resolution 75/239 entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”:

- H.E. Ms. Yolannie Cerrato, Deputy Permanent Representative of Honduras
- H.E. Mr. Mark Zellenrath, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of The Netherlands

Co-facilitators for the Intergovernmental process to define the scope and modalities for the High-level Meeting on Global Road Safety, General Assembly resolution 74/299 entitled “Improving global road safety”:

- H.E. Mr. Ibrahima Toure, Deputy Permanent Representative of Côte d’Ivoire
- Mr. Dmitry Chumakov, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation

Co-facilitators for the Review of the United Nations Development System, General Assembly resolution 72/279 entitled “Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system” and General Assembly resolution 75/233:

- H.E. Mr. Sofiane Mimouni, Permanent Representative of Algeria
- H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann, Permanent Representative of Denmark

Co-facilitators for the intergovernmental consultations on the modalities of the Stockholm+50 meeting, General Assembly Resolution 75/280 entitled “International meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”:

- H.E. Mr. Martin Kimani, Permanent Representative of Kenya
- H.E. Ms. Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden.

Co-facilitators to conduct intergovernmental negotiation on the political declaration for the High-level meeting of the General Assembly plenary on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 75/283:

- H.E. Mr. Jose Alfonso Blanco Conde, Permanent Representative of Dominican Republic
- H.E. Mr. Enrique Austria Manalo, Permanent Representative of the Philippines

Co-chairs of the Steering Committee on Accessibility:

- H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda
- H.E. Ms. Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Permanent Representative of the United States of America.

ANNEX 2:

Argentina	Republic of Korea
Australia	Saudi Arabia
Azerbaijan	Switzerland
China	Turkey
Indonesia	Ukraine
Malaysia	United Kingdom
Morocco	Department of Global Communications
Netherlands	Department of General Assembly and Conference Management
Nigeria	
Qatar	UNICEF

ANNEX 3:

Austria	USD 11,862	Philippines	USD 10,000
Azerbaijan	USD 100,000	Portugal	USD 6,131
China	USD 300,000	Qatar	USD 500,000
Hungary	USD 20,000	Togo	USD 2,500
Ireland	USD 156,627	Turkey	USD 600,000
Japan	USD 26,205	Saudi Arabia	USD 50,000
Kuwait	USD 150,000	Ukraine	USD 10,000

Unspent contributions from previous sessions of USD 939,498 were made available to PGA75.

Annex 4:

Prior to assuming office:

- **Qatar**, 7-8 July 2020
- **Russian Federation**, 22-23 July 2020
- **Pakistan**, 9-10 August 2020

From 15 September 2020 onward:

- **1-12 April 2021, Turkey, Qatar, Azerbaijan**

- **Turkey**, 2, 5 and 6 April 2021, to meet with the President, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly and Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as the UN Country Team and delivered remarks at the Grand National Assembly. On 10 April President traveled to the southern province of Hatay to meet with Syrian refugees and visit the United Nations cross-border humanitarian mechanism, to observe the vital work by OCHA;
- **Qatar**, 8 April 2021, to meet with Emir of the State of Qatar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as representatives of United Nations entities based in Qatar;
- **Azerbaijan**, 9 April 2021, to meet with the President, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Chair of the Parliament (Milli Majlis), as well as the UN Country team, led by Resident Coordinator. In addition, PGA participated in wreath-laying ceremonies in the Alley of Honor and the Alley of Martyrs. The trip was supported by OPGA Trust Fund and the Governments of Turkey, Qatar and Azerbaijan.
- Newsletter and other materials on the trip are available here: https://www.un.org/pga/75/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2021/04/Around-the-World_V5.pdf;
<https://www.un.org/pga/75/2021/04/22/first-official-turkey-qatar-and-azerbaijan/>

- **25-27 May 2021, Bangladesh and Pakistan**

- **Bangladesh**, 25-26 May 2021, to meet with the Government, civil society, and the UN System representatives, as well as to deliver the sixth lecture of the Bangabandhu Lecture Series at the Foreign Service Academy of Bangladesh. President also traveled to Cox's Bazar to meet with Rohingya refugees and observe the vital work undertaken by UN Resident Coordinator and the UNHCR representatives;
- **Pakistan**, 27 May 2021, to meet with the Government and the UN Country Team, as well as to deliver remarks at the National Defence University. The trip was supported by OPGA Trust Fund and the Governments of Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- Relevant Newsletter is available here: <https://www.un.org/pga/75/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2021/06/Newsletter-Pakistan-Bangladesh.pdf>

- **28 June – 1 July 2021, Kenya**

- President Bozkir traveled to **Kenya to visit the United Nations Office in Nairobi** to participate in the High - Level Mid-Term Review of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), as well as to meet with the Government, civil society, and UN system representatives.
- Relevant Newsletter is available here: <https://www.un.org/pga/75/2021/07/09/pga-newsletter-travel-to-kenya/>

- **4-10 July 2021, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan**

- President Bozkir traveled to **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to**

hold meetings with Government representatives to discuss regional security and environmental concerns, including climate change, the socio-economic recovery from COVID-19 and the need to build back better, as well as gender equality, and the need to accelerate the pace of digitization across the region.

- Relevant Newsletter is available here: <https://www.un.org/pga/75/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2021/07/PGA-letter-Official-visit-to-Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-and-Kazakhstan.pdf>

- **22-28 July 2021, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados**

- PGA travelled to Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Barbados, to hold meetings with Government representatives and discuss matters pertaining to disaster risk reduction, climate action, the socio-economic recovery from COVID-19, and aspects of multidimensional vulnerability.
- Relevant Newsletter is available here: https://www.un.org/pga/75/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2021/08/Newsletter-Antigua-and-Barbuda_St-Vincent-and-the-Grenadines_Barbados-compressed.pdf

- **31 July – 2 August 2021, Kuwait**

- President Bozkir travelled to Kuwait and held bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Speaker of Parliament. Their discussions ranged from humanitarian action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, COVID-19 recovery and Vaccines for All. PGA also visited UN House to meet with the United Nations representatives in Kuwait and learn of their work.
- Relevant Newsletter is available here: <https://www.un.org/pga/75/wp-content/uploads/sites/100/2021/08/Newsletter-Kuwait-compressed.pdf>

Annex 5:

High level and other meetings mandated for the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly

21-27 September 2021	General debate (A/Res/57/301)
22 September 2021	High-level meeting on the twentieth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (A/Res/75/237)
28 September 2021	High-level plenary to commemorate and promote the September 2021 International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (A/Res/69/58)[1]
22-23 November 2021	High-level meeting on the Global Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons (A/Res/74/176)
By December 2021	One-day supporting event for the High-level meeting on global road safety (A/Res/75/308)
Early 2022	High-level event for the launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (A/Res/75/168)
Early 2022	Informal briefing on the Group of 20 (A/Res/71/327) ¹
21 March 2022	Commemorative meeting for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/Res/75/237)[2]
25 March 2022	Commemorative meeting to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (A/Res/70/7) ¹
By April 2022	Informal interactive hearing with indigenous peoples (A/Res/71/321 and decision 75/561)
22 April 2022	Interactive dialogue on Harmony with Nature (A/Res/75/220) ²
28 April 2022 (tbc)	One-day high-level meeting on the New Urban Agenda Habitat III (A/Res/75/224)
By May 2022	Informal interactive dialogue with the candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly (A/Res/71/323) ¹
18 June 2022	Informal high-level meeting to mark the commemoration of the first International Day for Countering Hate Speech (A/RES/75/309)
By June 2022	Four-day 1 st International Migration Review Forum (A/Res/73/326)
July 2022	High-level meeting on global road safety (A/RES/75/308; A/Res/74/299)
29 August 2022	High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests (A/Res/72/51) ¹
On or around 13 September 2022	High-Level Forum on a Culture of Peace (A/Res/75/25) ²
By September 2022	High-level meeting on financing for peacebuilding (A/Res/75/201)

Meetings mandated for the seventy-seventh and later sessions of the General Assembly

By November 2022	One-day preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 (A/Res/75/212)
September 2023	Two-day high-level political forum on sustainable development (A/Res/67/290)
September 2023	High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, (A/Res/69/313)
21 September 2023	High-level Meeting on universal health coverage (A/RES/75/315; A/Res/74/2)
By end 2023	High-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis (A/Res/73/3)
By end 2025	High-level meeting on non-communicable diseases (A/Res/73/2)

Mandated United Nations Conferences^[3] and other meetings

23-27 January 2022	Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries - Doha (A/Res/73/232 A and B)
2-3 June 2022	International meeting "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity - Stockholm (A/Res/75/280; A/RES/75/326)
27 June -1 July 2022	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 – Lisbon (A/Res/73/292 and decision 74/548)
22-24 March 2023	United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 (A/Res/75/212)
By end 2024	Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (A/Res/74/15)

^[1] Mandated to reoccur annually

^[2] Mandated by annual resolutions of the General Assembly.

^[3] See the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations, submitted by the Committee on Conferences and approved by the General Assembly, for more. <https://conf.un.org>.