

President of the General Assembly Town Hall meeting with Civil Society

The 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

**Wednesday, 17 November 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, New York**

Concept Note

I. Background and Objective

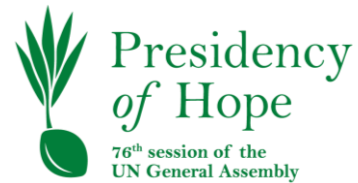
In his vision statement “Presidency of Hope: Delivering for People, for the Planet and for Prosperity”, the President of the General Assembly (PGA), in addition to laying out his “Five Rays of Hope”, highlighted that he will work on building trust and cohesion with Member States, the Secretariat, United Nations major groups and international organizations.

The PGA has further asserted that a more effective and responsive United Nations will require engagement with an array of relevant stakeholders, including civil society, businesses, philanthropic organizations, academia, the scientific community, and other partners on the key issues under discussion in the General Assembly.

Building on this strong support for the meaningful involvement of civil society with issues on the agenda of the General Assembly, the PGA will convene a meeting with civil society representatives to discuss his priorities for the 76th session, as well as issues related to the challenges of and recovery from COVID-19 and how these issues are reflected in the work of the General Assembly.

II. Format

The Town Hall Meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, 17 November 2021, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., in the General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting will be webcast live on UN WebTV. The event will consist of an opening statement by the President of the General Assembly, followed by five short keynote statements from civil society representatives that will address the “Five Rays of Hope” of PGA76. The floor will then be opened for interventions and questions from civil society representatives.



III. Logistics

Civil society representatives are invited to attend the meeting in the GA Hall in person.

Due to pandemic-related restrictions at UN Headquarters, all in-person participants are required to register [here](#) no later than 9 November. Entry to the GA Hall will be by Special Event tickets distributed at the Visitors' Entrance (46th Street and First Avenue) immediately prior to the event on 17 November 2021. Attendance will be limited to the first 400 people to register. By registering to attend in-person, all participants attest to being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Keynote statements on the "Five Rays of Hope" may be delivered in person or by pre-recorded video. To register an interest in delivering a keynote statement, please fill in the online form [here](#) no later than 9 November. Civil society representatives will be selected taking into account geographical and gender balance, as well as thematic diversity.

To ensure a wider participation from all geographical regions, civil society representatives will also have the opportunity to submit pre-recorded questions. Due to time constraints, remarks will be limited to 2 minutes. Please register your interest in submitting a pre-recorded question [here](#) no later than 9 November.

Provisional Programme 17 November 2020

3:00 – 5:00 Townhall meeting with Civil Society

- Introductory remarks by moderator
- Opening statement by the President of the General Assembly
- Remarks by keynote speakers from Civil Society Organizations
- Discussions and questions
- Closing statement by the President of the General Assembly