

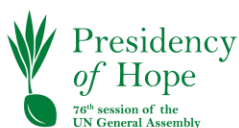
General Assembly Informal Commemorative Meeting to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme and the 20th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers

– Volunteerism for building equal and inclusive societies –

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme, launched in 1971, and the 20th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, proclaimed in 2001 by General Assembly resolution [52/17](#). The UNV Programme has a unique dual mandate of mobilizing volunteers for the United Nations System and advocating for the importance of volunteerism in peace and development worldwide. In 2020, as a United Nations system-wide service, UNV deployed 9,459 United Nations Volunteers with 60 United Nations partners worldwide, of which 82% were from the Global South and 52% were women.

In the lead up to the 2021 International Volunteer Day and to commemorate the two anniversaries, the President of the General Assembly, together with the Permanent Missions of Brazil and Japan to the United Nations, and the United Nations Volunteers Programme will hold an informal commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on Thursday 2 December 2021, at 3:00 p.m. at the General Assembly Hall, under the theme of the 2022 State of the World's Volunteerism Report "*Volunteerism for building equal and inclusive societies*". The 2022 State of the World's Volunteerism Report will be the fourth in the series of a triennial United Nations publication that informs, advocates and presents evidence on the role of volunteerism for peace and development.

The commemoration will recognize the spirit of volunteerism to help create a better future, in line with the 2021 International Volunteer Day theme of "*Volunteer Now for our Common Future*". This will be an opportunity to reflect on how volunteerism has been contributing to the development agendas at the United Nations, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



**General Assembly Informal Commemorative Meeting to mark the
50th anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme and the
20th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers**

– Volunteerism for building equal and inclusive societies –

Thursday, 2 December 2021, at 3:00 p.m., at the General Assembly Hall, UNHQ

Co-organized by the President of the General Assembly, the Permanent Missions of Brazil and Japan and
the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Programme

Preliminary Program

3.00 p.m. Opening

H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the General Assembly

Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of United Nations Development Programme

3.10 p.m. Remarks by the co-organizers

Mrs. Michelle Bolsonaro, President of the Council for Brazil's Homeland Volunteer Program

H.E. Mr. Ishikane Kimihiro, Permanent Representative of Japan

Mr. Toily Kurbanov, Executive Coordinator of the UNV programme

3.25 p.m. Remarks by invited speakers

Mr. Yoshikazu Ito, former UN Volunteer

Ms. Kabelo Botlhe Dikobe, international UN Youth Volunteer

3.35 p.m. Statements by the Regional Groups

4.05 p.m. Closing