



Fellows of the PGA Fellowship for HOPE with the President of the General Assembly

INSIDE THE ISSUE

**ARRIVAL OF THE
HOPE FELLOWS**

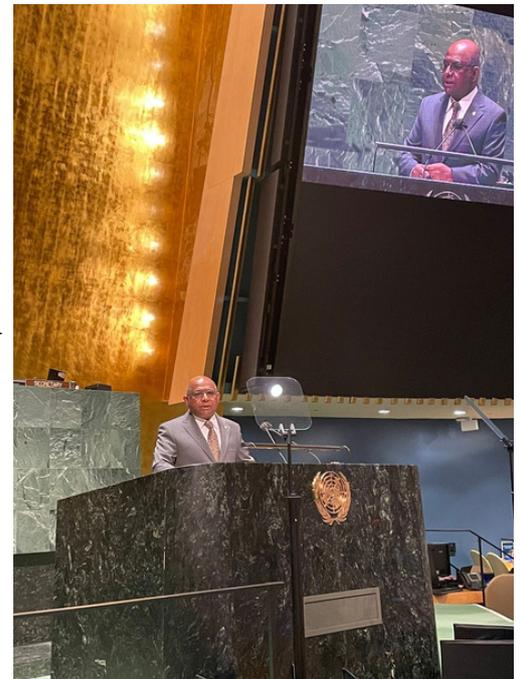
**PRIORITIES FOR
THE RESUMED
76TH SESSION**

**VISIT TO THE
KINGDOM OF
BAHRAIN**

PRIORITIES FOR THE RESUMED 76TH SESSION

On 19 January, I briefed the membership on my priorities for the resumed part of the session. I led with the message that while Omicron has upended our plans to fully reopen, it also underscores the need to fully vaccinate the world, if we intend to prevent more variants and finally end this pandemic.

Congratulating the membership on all that they accomplished during the main session, I urged them to focus their energies on implementing the 250 resolutions and several decisions already adopted, throughout the resumed session.



I touched upon each of my five rays of hope: recovering from Covid-19, rebuilding sustainably, responding to the needs of the planet, respecting the rights of all, and revitalizing the United Nations. I reiterated my commitment to delivering on each one of them. I also emphasized that I would approach each priority with a gender-lens in mind, to continue mainstreaming gender-equality within the **General Assembly's** work.

I highlighted several upcoming High-Level Events that will take place during this session, including the High Level Event on Galvanizing Momentum for Vaccine Equality; the High-Level Thematic Debate on “Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19 through Tourism; the High Level Event on a ‘Moment for Nature’, the High-Level Event on the launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, and a High-Level meeting to mark the commemoration of the first International Day for Countering Hate Speech; and the first ever Migration Review Forum.

Acknowledging the busy agenda ahead and the scale of our ambitions, I closed with a reminder of why we so desperately need hope. Cynicism will always remain a path to inaction, lulling us into complacency and the false belief that our actions do not matter; hope is what will strengthen the courage of convictions, remind of us all that we have achieved and of what we can achieve – and give us the momentum we need to deliver for our constituents.



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

"Hope is what will strengthen our resolve. Hope is what will give us the courage of our convictions and inspire us to act. Hope is what will remind us of all that we have achieved and all that we can achieve if we work together. One world. One planet. One humanity."

President Shahid



UN Photo/Loey Felipe

ECOSOC

On January 20, I joined President Kelapile for the joint briefing of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. We touched on a number of overlapping areas and complementarities, including work on sustainable recovery from COVID19, climate action, and the UN revitalization.

On sustainable recovery, I underscored the importance of vaccine equity and provided an update on the High-Level thematic debate entitled “Galvanizing Momentum for Universal Vaccination” that I will convene on February 25.

To further support a build back better agenda, President Kelapile and I will jointly hold an event on debt sustainability in May. The primary objective is to ensure that countries, especially LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS can emerge from this pandemic in a sustainable manner.

Building on the momentum of COP26 outcomes, I will continue to appeal to member states for enhanced climate ambition, particularly around the revised NDCs in the lead up to COP27. This will be further supported through a High-Level thematic debate on a ‘Moment for Nature’.

I updated the membership of the reconstituted board of advisers for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, as well as reiterated my support for gender equality throughout the work of the General Assembly. I also informed member states of my upcoming advocacy campaign around ‘Women and Girls in Science’, to be launched in February.

"Our journey ahead must be in unison and in concert. If we operate in silos, we risk leaving many behind."

President Shahid at the Joint Briefing of the General Assembly and ECOSOC



UN Photo/Loey Felipe

VISIT TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN



I was delighted to have recently concluded a very successful official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain, from 22-25 January.

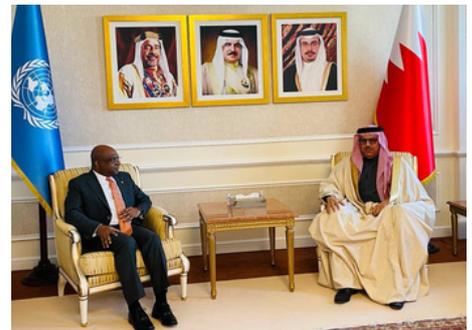
I met several key national figures, including His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah; the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, His Highness Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa; the Foreign Minister, H.E Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani; and the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, H.E Fawzia Abdulla Yusuf Zainal. I also met with the United Nations Country Team, led by the country's Resident Coordinator a.i, Mr. Mohamed El Zarkani.



Our conversations touched on several issues, focusing on Bahrain's strong partnership with the United Nations and its exceptionally strong Covid-19 response, driven by a proactive vaccination campaign. The Kingdom's National Medical Taskforce for Combatting the Coronavirus (NMTCC) shared with me some of Bahrain's experiences in managing the pandemic.



Keeping with my pledge to interact with youth while on trips, I delivered a lecture at the Mohamed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies, during which I impressed upon the young aspiring diplomats at the academy the enduring importance of multilateralism to solve global challenges.



I also had the pleasure of meeting one of my predecessors, H.E Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, the President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly. She remains the only Bahraini national elected to the Presidency of the General Assembly, and one of four women to be elected to the role. During our conversations I benefited immensely from her experience and insight.



Overall, it was a wonderful visit, and I shared my experiences in the country when I sat down for a one-on-one interview with Bahrain National TV. I left Bahrain heartened by the Kingdom's continuing strong engagement with the United Nations, and the progress they are making on several fronts, from gender-empowerment to Covid-recovery.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Gail Farngalo
25 September 1963 - 18 January 2022

It is with great sadness that the Office of the President of the General Assembly announced the passing of our colleague, Gail Greezakhwah Farngalo, on 18 January 2021.

Gail was a seasoned diplomat and senior colleague in the Office of the President of the General Assembly, serving as Team Leader for Human Rights. Extremely knowledgeable of the areas she handled particularly gender equality and women's empowerment, Gail's untimely departure has left a deep void.

Her rich experience, affable nature, friendship, warmth & exuberance is something we will cherish.

Our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues at the Permanent Mission of Liberia.

Prior to joining the Office of the President of the General Assembly, Gail served as a diplomat in the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations for ten years, representing Liberia on the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, known as the Third Committee. Among her other roles, she served as an election officer and as a liaison for military, police, and corrections affairs for peacekeeping.

Gail's desk on the third floor of the Secretariat Building will remain unoccupied as a tribute to her.

Our office will continue to carry out the strategy that Gail created for supporting human rights priorities and would celebrate her spirit by continuing to work together for a better, more hopeful world.



The Office of the President of the General Assembly invites friends and colleagues of Gail Greezakhwah Farngalo to share their memories and condolences in a book positioned outside of the Office, on the second floor beginning on Monday, 31 January, at 11AM EST to Friday, 4 March, at 5PM EST.



FIRST MONTH OF THE HOPE FELLOWS

On 10 January, 8 young diplomats from underrepresented countries at the United Nations, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), kicked off their journey as the inaugural Fellows for the President of the General Assembly's Harnessing Opportunities for Promoting Empowerment of Youth Fellowship – the PGA's Fellowship for HOPE.



During their first weeks, the Fellows have been introduced to the teams of the OPGA and briefed on their mandates as well as their on-going and future work for the remainder of the 76th Session.



Apart from working with OPGA, all Fellows are also assigned to their respective Missions, where they are expected to gain first-hand experience of multilateral diplomatic affairs. Meanwhile, their theoretical knowledge is deepened by the trainings provided by UNITAR for this first month. The training focused on an introduction to ECOSOC, the Security Council & Principal Organs of the UN, as well as Multilateral Negotiations.

FROM THE FELLOWS...



"Being at the UN has been an incredible experience so far, having learnt a lot about the multilateral system, the work culture at the UN, social dynamics and everything in between; all in a few weeks." - *Margaret, Zimbabwe.*



"I spent an impressive month working at the Mission and the OPGA as well as participating in the briefings of PGA, ECOSOC, and UNSG. So far my greatest experience in the multilateral industry." - *Fofana, Guinea.*



"A month in and it is truly unbelievable that I am given the opportunity to walk through the halls of the UN, learning from experts on various multilateral issues." - *Javier, Antigua and Barbuda.*



"Eager to take part in working towards peace, empowerment and development, thus happy to be selected as a HOPE fellow, to experience working in a culturally dynamic environment and understand international relations where countries pursue a common goal." - *Stella, Uganda.*



"A wholesome month of learning the fundamentals of UN & multilateralism and linking the works of OPGA to that of our Missions' and realizing the indispensability of multilateralism to the world." - *Jigme, Bhutan.*



"Closing to our first month as HOPE fellows, my experience thus far has been exciting and eventful. I am taking advantage of the opportunity, learning first-hand the art of multilateralism at its core." - *Jaala, Nauru.*



"The Fellowship has been a surreal experience so far, observing the practice of multilateralism from the UN perspective and that of my Mission. Honored to be among the first cohort and looking forward to the next few months." - *Diedra, Grenada.*



"My first month as a HOPE fellow offered such an eye-opening experience, from having a chance to be among those with expertise in their own fields and mandates to experiencing first-hand on the works of multilateralism." - *Phongsavath, Lao PDR.*

MEETING WITH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS



On 20 January I had the opportunity to meet with a few Holocaust survivors along with the Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan, and the CEO of Pfizer Mr. Albert Bourla, whose parents survived the Holocaust.

While the past cannot be changed, the history and legacy of those who were lost and of those who survived must forever be recognized.

As we remember the Holocaust, let us recommit to respecting the rights of all; to promoting human rights; to addressing inequalities and injustices; and to countering the rising tide of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as all other forms of discrimination.

GALVANISING MOMENTUM FOR UNIVERSAL VACCINATION

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to those of you who joined my 'New Year's Resolution' #VaccineEquity campaign on Twitter and encourage others to follow. Together we can not only recover progress but work towards vaccine equity and move into a post-COVID era.

While many of us had begun to see 'light at the end of the tunnel', the omicron variant made clear that we still have a long way to go.

We cannot let this continue; we cannot risk more variants with our delays. We must act quickly and decisively to achieve vaccine equity.

That is why the first High-Level event that I will convene this year will be on "Galvanizing Momentum for Universal Vaccination", which I am pleased to announce will now take place on 25th of February.



The High-Level event "Galvanizing Momentum for Universal Vaccination" will be held in the General Assembly Hall on Friday 25th February 2022