

VISION STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR CSABA KÖRÖSI, DIRECTOR AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF HUNGARY, CANDIDATE FOR THE 77TH PRESIDENT OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*solutions through solidarity,
sustainability and science*

SOLUTIONS In the time of widening geopolitical divides and protracting crises of complex nature the world needs progress on the delivery of our shared goals more than any time before. The decline in trust always makes it harder to tackle big challenges. Our mission is to support concrete solutions, having a direct impact on the lives of people and the planet. Time is running out and the price we are paying for delays is on the rise. Deliberations at the General Assembly and the thematic conferences under its umbrella should keep focusing on the desired impact and share tangible results.

SOLIDARITY We have committed to leaving no one behind. The pandemic has demonstrated how solidarity within societies and among countries impacts social and economic stability and security. In times of crisis, honouring commitments to jointly make our world a safer place is more important than ever.

SUSTAINABILITY Member States have jointly decided to embark on the path towards satisfying the development needs of the present generation and preserving the opportunities for future generations. This choice is based on the shared conviction that development must be sustainable. It is time to see how this vision is reflected in our daily decisions. Peace, economic development, environmental sustainability and social inclusion are inseparable aspects of our safe and sustainable existence on this planet.

SCIENCE Our efforts to tackle global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, the COVID-19 pandemic and the digital revolution have provided us with convincing proof about the role science can play in shaping decisions on complex issues. The transformative agenda must be based on scientific evidence and the political wisdom of negotiators.

1. *The 77th General Assembly and the world we have*

For the last two years the world has been struggling with the worst pandemic of the last 100 years. It has revealed the vulnerabilities of our societies, the bottlenecks in international cooperation and the need to strengthen our economic and social resilience. The pre-pandemic world will probably never return to the form it used to be. Still, tremendous efforts will be needed to leave this complex crisis behind us and rebuild our lives the (sustainable) way we envisaged before the pandemic.

The nature of the crisis we face

A great number of resolutions by the UN General Assembly, the ECOSOC, the High Level Political Forum, the Human Rights Council as well as ample scientific evidence clearly tell us that we have been confronted by a crisis of unprecedented nature. The warning we collectively received during the pandemic might be regarded as a postcard from a possible future.

We are witnessing the emergence of a lethal threat and a cascade of interlinking processes, posing the ultimate challenge to social and economic development, environmental stability and international security. Along with the unprecedented burden on healthcare systems, it was alarming to see the speed of disruption of supply chains, the contraction of economies, a growing unemployment rate, increased food shortages in a number of regions, sky-rocketing budget deficits, soaring energy prices, rising national and corporate debts and spreading political and social instability. Insecurity has an unfavourable effect on the promotion and protection of basic human rights. In some places, ethnic linguistic and religious minority groups experience particular pressure. The number of migrants and refugees is on the rise.

We must seize the opportunity of the current crisis to learn lessons and build a more sustainable and resilient world for humanity.

Interlinking risk factors to human security and prosperity

Our traditional threat perception has been mostly influenced by risk factors of geopolitical nature. While geopolitical rifts are likely to remain with us and may even widen in some cases, consequences of unsustainable development tend to increasingly impact our lives. They jointly create a dangerous set of challenges undermining the stability of the most vulnerable countries and communities, and also endanger the prospects for the more affluent ones. We cannot afford to drift towards a global breakdown.

The transformation we need

The window of opportunity to strike a better balance between securing short-term survival and longer-term stability is still open, but it is closing quickly as time is running out. We need urgent yet consistent action, guided by shared goals, a transformation through scientific, technological and economic development, as well as international cooperation. Inaction cannot be our option.

We shall be judged not only by the goals we set, but also by the road we chose and time we take to reach them.

2. *The UN General Assembly in the era of transformative changes*

The challenges we are facing require consistent responses stretching over decades, way beyond the scope of what the UN General Assembly can handle during one year.

Solutions through solidarity, sustainability and science

The pandemic has reconfirmed that none of our countries would be safe until all of them are safe. Most of our actions to seek greater stability and prosperity are to be pursued on local and national levels, but future crises can be prevented or eased through cooperation based on solidarity and shared responsibility, as it stands in the Charter of the United Nations.

It would be difficult to fix the present crises and prevent new ones with the same mentality and logic that led to their onset. Our challenges are clearly reinforcing each other. The best approach would be to seek systemic solutions and act across silos. The Secretary General has put forward a number of inspiring suggestions in his report titled "Our Common Agenda". Some of them need clear decisions and actions by the General Assembly.

The UN General Assembly has always been the principal forum of multilateral political decision making and norm setting. It will remain a key body of pursuing political interests. However, ahead of every conference to be convened under the aegis of the UN General Assembly we should consider what science can offer us.

Coherence of the work by the GA during the implementation of integrated solutions is crucially important. The strategic coordination of actions with the involvement of the General Committee should be strengthened and be supported by the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

3. *Great opportunities during the 77th General Assembly*

There will be pivotal moments the 77th General Assembly should seize during its work.

Human rights, political and social stability

The protection of human rights and the fight against all forms of discrimination should be further mainstreamed into our decisions. The promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts. The General Assembly has therefore mandated to

convene a high-level meeting at the beginning of its 77th session to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

There has been a historic injustice done to half of humanity for centuries. The empowerment of women and girls should be high on the agenda of the General Assembly and the United Nations in general.

Sustainable development, sustainable water management, fighting climate change, protection of biodiversity, food security

The time originally foreseen for the implementation of Agenda 2030 will be halfway through. As we embark on the second half of this collective effort, an honest and profound account should be made of our own performance and sober conclusions must be drawn.

In 2023, the first comprehensive UN conference on water since 1977 will be convened, following its preparatory high level event in 2022. The best time to stop the downward spiral of a multifaceted water crises was yesterday, but the second best is now. Let these years be the ones to achieve a breakthrough. The Water Decade of Action will be at halfway. It offers a perfect timing for us to face our options, integrate our water and climate agendas, along with other programmes, and make sure that the breakthrough will lead to a more predictable and safer development, as well as increased international confidence and security.

COP27 on climate policies to be held in Egypt will be the forum for putting a reality check on our pledges and increased ambition levels announced at COP26. This climate summit should pay due attention to adaptation challenges and our cooperation to speed up building resilience to the unavoidable impact of climate change.

The 77th General Assembly should help to make sure that the ambitious goals of protecting biodiversity will be turned into action. It will be important not only to the endangered species and their habitat, but first and foremost for the safety of our societies and economies.

The International Food Security Assessment Forum will be of crucial importance in the light of the grave tendencies we have witnessed during the pandemic. Promising nature friendly solutions are at our hands but we are still racing against time to eliminate hunger from the face of earth.

Cyber security

The *Reflections on Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security* will offer us a unique opportunity to address the combination of traditional security and cyberspace rooted factors impacting our daily lives.

4. *Revitalising the United Nations and the General Assembly*

I will build on the results achieved under the leadership of my excellent predecessors and work with Member States during the 77th session to deliver on these mandates.

The ongoing reforms led by the Secretary General aim to improve the global institutional capabilities to deliver on an integrated agenda, assisting Member States through the rough seas of the rapidly changing world.

Further actions by the General Assembly will be needed to advance the reforms suggested by the Secretary General in "Our Common Agenda" in order to make the UN capable of tackling the present and future challenges.

The resolutions by the General Assembly on the revitalisation of its activities provide a clear mandate on how to improve its work and put a stronger focus on the implementation of the agreed initiatives and resolutions, while aligning its daily work with the UN75 declaration and Agenda 2030.

5. *Guiding principles of OPGA operations*

Developing an integrated perception of challenges and further aligning our actions with the changing security, economic, social and natural environment is best served by showing a good example at the level of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

Like my predecessors, I will be working with a multinational team selected on the basis of professionalism, expertise, regional and gender balance. While the traditional structure of the Office, reflecting the key areas of activities by the General Assembly, would be maintained, particular emphasis will be given to the ability of working in a task-force system to allow an interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral approach of operations.

The work of the Office will be based on impartiality, the intention to build bridges among nations in order to help find shared solutions, corresponding to the agreed goals and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Office with relatively small but selected staff members will conduct its operations with full transparency, accountability and efficiency.

It will be my priority to duly coordinate actions with the Secretary General, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and all other relevant organs of the United Nations.

It is my intention to hold impact oriented consultations with civil society organisations, youth representations, science based knowledge centres and representatives of the business communities, key institutions of finance, as well as faith based organisations. I hope to be able to encourage them to bring their contributions to the General Assembly while keeping in mind the interlinking nature of risk factors we face and the integrated character of the solutions we need.

THE UNITED NATIONS MUST "...BE A CENTRE FOR HARMONISING THE ACTIONS OF NATIONS IN THE ATTAINMENT OF (THEIR) COMMON ENDS."

(UN CHARTER)

*Curriculum Vitae of Mr. Csaba Kőrösi,
Hungary's Candidate to the Post of President
of the 77th General Assembly of the United Nations
and Supplement to his Vision Statement*

I thank the Government of Hungary for nominating me to the position of the 77th President of the General Assembly.

I am also grateful to the Member States of the East European Group for their support to my candidature.

Special acknowledgements are to be paid to current and previous Presidents of the General Assembly who through their leadership have contributed to the achievements of the Highest Organ of the United Nations.

As a career diplomat, I have spent my entire professional life in public service, combining national duties with assignments received from various international communities. I had the privilege to serve as ambassador and permanent representative of Hungary at the United Nations, head of mission in Greece and the United Arab Emirates.

At various posts at government service, I was responsible for the security policy, multilateral diplomacy and human rights cooperation of my home country.

In my tenure of service in New York, I was honoured to be a co-chair of the intergovernmental process (Open Working Group) tasked with producing the Agenda 2030 and the sustainable development goals in its heart.

I am grateful for the experience gained as Vice President of the 66th UN General Assembly.

As director (state secretary) of the Office of the President of Hungary, I had the duty and privilege to work alongside the President of the Republic in discharging his functions as member of the High Level Panel on Water co-convened by the UN Secretary General and the President of the World Bank Group. In the present, I have a similar engagement in the framework of the Water and Climate Leaders panel, co-convened by the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization and the President of UN-Water.

I am a founding member of the Hungarian Scientific Panel on Climate Change, a permanent invitee in the Presidential Committee on Sustainable Development at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, as well as in the National Council on Sustainable Development at the Hungarian National Assembly.


Csaba Kőrösi
8 February 2022