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VISIT TO BEIJING FOR THE WINTER OLYMPICS



At the beginning of the month, the President travelled to Beijing to take part in the Olympic torch relay and the Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony.

“The Olympics represents humanity at its best. It’s the coming together of the best of the world to compete, to accept winning with humility, and defeat with graciousness. Against an ever-changing global backdrop, the Olympic ideals of friendship, respect and excellence are timeless.”



VISIT TO SINGAPORE

On 5 February, the President travelled to Singapore.

During the visit, the President met with H.E. Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of Singapore, who reaffirmed Singapore's commitment to its partnership with the United Nations. The President also met with Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore, and Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

The President visited Marina Barrage and Gardens by the Bay – home to horticulture and garden artistry, which showcases Singapore's impressive commitment to coastal protection and sustainability practices. The President was hosted by Ms. Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and Environment, and met female youth leaders active in sustainability initiatives.

The President toured Singapore City Gallery – which highlights Singapore's dramatic transformation over the past 50 years, to become one of the most sustainable cities in Asia. The President also visited the UNDP Global Centre for Technology, Innovation and Sustainability based in Singapore.



With Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong



With Mr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Foreign Minister



With Ms. Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability & Environment



Calling on President H.E. Mdm Halimah Yacob



THEMATIC CONSULTATIONS ON "OUR COMMON AGENDA"

Throughout the month of February, the President convened a series of thematic consultations on the "Our Common Agenda" (OCA), Report of the United Nations Secretary-General.

The five thematic consultations intended to provide the Secretary-General with an opportunity to inform Member States on the thinking regarding the follow-up to the report, and to allow Member States the opportunity to further consider various proposals, options and potential means of implementation.

The first thematic consultation was held under the theme "Accelerating and scaling up the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no-one behind"; the second under the theme "Accelerating the SDGs through sustainable financing and building trust"; and the third consultation under the theme "Frameworks for a peaceful world – promoting peace, international law and digital cooperation."

The fourth and fifth thematic consultations will follow soon.



UN Photo/Evan Schneider



UN Photo/Evan Schneider

**I promised a Presidency
of Hope focused on
solutions and concrete
action, one that looks to
deliver for people, for
planet, and for prosperity.**

President Shahid at the First
Thematic Consultation on "Our
Common Agenda" Report



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION ANNUAL HEARING

On 17 and 18 February, the President and the Inter-Parliamentary Union co-hosted the UN's largest in-person gathering since High Level Week in September 2021. The 2022 Parliamentary Hearing, a joint initiative between the President of the General Assembly and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), was focused on the theme of "Building political support and inclusive responses to sustainable recovery."

Around 200 Members of Parliament, Speakers, advisers, and related officials from 65 Member States took part in the two-day event, which for the first time, was held in the General Assembly Hall.

UN Photo/Loey Felipe



MEETING WITH TENDAI "BEAST" MTAWARIRA

On 15 February, the President had the opportunity to meet Tendai ("Beast") Mtawarira, hailed as one of the world's foremost Rugby players.

Together with UNICEF and others, Tendai has been advocating for fair and equitable vaccination against COVID-19, and to enable sports enthusiasts and the public to return to stadiums, theatres, places of worship and cultural events.

Tendai is also a role model for youth – working through his 'Beast Foundation' to help and empower young people to forge their futures by giving them access to sports training, skills development, and education opportunities.



MEETING WITH SANDRA LINDSAY RN



On 23 February, the President met with Sandra Lindsay RN, the first American to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Ms. Lindsay volunteered to lead by example and ease skepticism about the efficacy and safety of vaccines by publicly receiving her COVID-19 vaccine. She encourages everyone to "listen to the science" and strive for vaccine equity.

During their meeting, the President thanked New York's health professionals for their unwavering support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

GALVANISING MOMENTUM FOR UNIVERSAL VACCINATION

On 25 February, the President convened a High-level thematic dialogue on galvanizing momentum for universal COVID-19 vaccination. The event brought together world leaders and a range of stakeholders to recommit to global vaccine equity. Heads of State and Government, Member States, UN agencies, civil society, frontline workers, and goodwill ambassadors all echoed the call for solidarity.

“We cannot change what happened, but we can change the path forward. Although COVID-19 will be with us for the long-haul, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and the only way to move forward is together, through global vaccination that reaches everyone, everywhere, and adheres firmly to the UN principle of leaving no one behind.”

President Shahid at the High-Level Thematic Dialogue on Galvanizing Momentum for Universal Vaccination



UN Photo/Loey Felipe

27 countries have vaccinated less than 10 per cent of their populations, not because of lack of vaccines, but because of the uneven and unfair distribution.



UN Photo/Loey Felipe



H.E. Mr Abdulla Shahid with panelists from the roundtable discussions.
(L to R) Mr. Thomas B. Cueni, Dr. Peter Hotez, Dr. Aboubacar Kampo,
Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Dr. Tonya Villafana, Dr. Abdulaziz
Mohammed, Dr. Nicole Lurie, Ms. Suchitra Ella,



HOPE FELLOWS

On 15 February, the European Delegation to the United Nations invited the eight HOPE Fellows for a discussion with the EU Youth Delegates on the main challenges to socio-economic development. The discussion was held on the margins of the 60th Session of the Commission for Social Development.

The Fellows and the EU Youth delegates discussed measures that could alleviate challenges and advance social development for the world's young people.

On 24 February, Fellow Margaret Tatenda-Chikawa, from Zimbabwe, had the honor to meet Ms. Sandra Lindsay, the first American to be vaccinated against COVID-19.



ENGAGEMENTS WITH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES



On 1 February, H.E. Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative of Maldives to the UN invited the HOPE Fellows to an informal lunch session hosted at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the UN.

Ambassador Hussain spoke about her experience being the first female Permanent Representative of the Maldives, and briefed the Fellows on the workings of a Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

On 14 February, H.E. Dame Barbara Woodward, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the UN hosted the Fellows for an English-style 'afternoon tea' at her residence.

Ambassador Woodward spoke of her experience as the first female Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the People's Republic of China, shared memorable anecdotes from her career, and spoke on the importance of a strong work-life balance.



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11TH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON UKRAINE

For the first time in 40 years, on 27 February 2022, the Security Council requested an Emergency Special Session (ESS) of the UN General Assembly. The session, focused on the situation in Ukraine, was held under the “Uniting for Peace” mechanism, which stems from a 1950 General Assembly resolution 377(V).

From 29 February to 2 March, the President of the General Assembly presided over the 11th ESS, which concluded with a resolution entitled “Aggression against Ukraine” (141 Member States voted For, 5 voted Against, 35 abstained).

In his remarks, the President called on the parties to exercise maximum restraint and to return to diplomacy and dialogue. The President reminded Member States that the General Assembly's strength was rooted in its moral authority and emphasized that it was imperative that all parties act on behalf of the innocent women, children and men who were caught in the crossfire, and to pursue all available channels to contain the situation, de-escalate the tensions, and seek peaceful resolution of the issue, in accordance with international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter.

The President also shared concerns about the deteriorating humanitarian situation and voiced support for the \$1.7B humanitarian appeal.

As requested in the GA resolution, the President will receive, by early April, a report from the Emergency Relief Coordinator on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and on the humanitarian response.



**"The violence must stop.
Humanitarian law and
international
humanitarian law must
be respected.
And diplomacy and
dialogue must prevail."**

President Shahid at the 11th
Emergency Special Session of the
General Assembly on Ukraine





6TH HOLHUASHI DIALOGUE

On 11 February, the President was delighted to welcome women experts from across the 6 committees to the 6th Holhuashi Dialogue on the theme “Women in Diplomacy”.

“To comprehensively achieve gender parity, we must do more to remove barriers, and empower women in all professional fields, including diplomacy. From preventive diplomacy to climate change negotiations, peace, and advancing gender equality, the role of women diplomats is indispensable.”



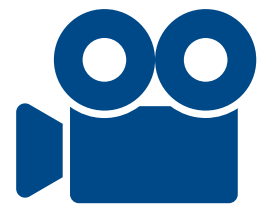
THE CIRCLE OF WOMEN AMBASSADORS



On 16 February, the President met with The Circle of Women Ambassadors, an informal network comprising of women Permanent Representatives (PRs) to the United Nations.

In their meeting, the President briefed the PRs on the operationalization of the PGA HOPE Fellowship program, noting that eight young diplomats from underrepresented countries had arrived in New York, of which 5 were women. The group discussed the ongoing efforts by the President, in collaboration with the UN Secretariat, to upgrade the services of the lactation rooms within the UN premises. The President expressed his hope that they would be able to inaugurate the upgraded lactation rooms (nine in number) in May 2022. Of the nine lactation rooms, a new one has been set up just behind the General Assembly Hall, to ensure that all delegates, including those visiting during the High Level Week, will no longer need to leave the UN premises to nurse.

LAUNCH OF VIDEO PODCAST "IN CONVERSATION WITH..."



In February, the President of the General Assembly launched a video podcast series entitled, "In Conversation with...", to spotlight eminent persons, activists, and experts in priority areas related to the Presidency of Hope.

EPISODE 1: IN CONVERSATION WITH DR. ROBERTA BONDAR

The first episode of the President's video-podcast series, titled 'In Conversation With...' featured Dr. Roberta Bondar, Canada's first female astronaut and the first neurologist in space.

In the podcast, the President and Dr. Bondar discussed their mutual love of science, as well as obstacles unique to women pursuing a career in science.

President Shahid asked Dr. Bondar for her thoughts on what policymakers could do to support women and girls in science, to which she responded: "curiosity should always be supported."



EPISODE 2: IN CONVERSATION WITH DR. TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS

The second episode of the podcast featured Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization.

In this episode, Dr. Tedros illustrated the challenges in our work to vaccinate the world, including how many high-income countries entered into direct contractual arrangements with vaccine suppliers, bypassing the COVAX mechanism.

The President and Dr. Tedros also discussed the need to ensure equitable access to COVID19 vaccines.



Dr. Tedros, we have
two questions for you today: