



# Delivering for Equality



H.E. Abdulla Shahid

President of the 76th session of the  
United Nations General Assembly

*"The UN cannot call for implementation of gold standards throughout the world as far as gender equality and women's empowerment is concerned*

*but not implement this standard at home.*

*I personally would lead from the front calling for the next Secretary-General to be a woman. Join me in this clarion call"*

*~ President Shahid at the Opening session of CSW66  
14 March 2022*

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## Second Meeting of the Advisory Board on Gender Equality



*21 January 2022: One of the first activities of the resumed GA session was the convening of the 2nd meeting of the Advisory Board on Gender Equality. President Shahid reflected on the efforts made to promote gender equality during the regular session. He detailed all major women-focused initiatives undertaken at the UN and during his visits abroad. President Shahid and the Members of the Board also discussed the program of work for the resumed session and additional opportunities to promote gender equality including during the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66), International Women's Day and International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The President underscored the importance of not only pursuing new paths, but leveraging all available opportunities to empower women and girls.*

## Annual Meeting of the International Gender Champions



*8 February 2022: This year's annual meeting of International Gender Champions brought together the Gender Champions of the New York hub to see the official launch of the IGC Gender-based Violence (GBV) Pledge - a new core pledge urging Champions to stand against GBV, sexist behavior and sexist attitudes.*

*With at least a third of women experiencing some form of violence in their lifetime, a number that has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, violence against women and girls remains a devastating example of human rights violations. President Shahid urged all leaders and gender champions who have not done so to sign up to the new pledge and ensure that this commitment be met with decisive and accelerated action.*

## Dialogue with Circle of Women Ambassadors



16 February 2022: During the second dialogue with the Circle of Women Ambassadors, President Shahid thanked the members of the Circle while noting that they have all been instrumental in accelerating action to deliver for gender equality during the 76th UNGA. President Shahid also solicited the support of Ambassadors towards ensuring meaningful and transformative change to advance gender equality during the remainder of his Presidency, including identifying potential female voices that should be heard in the UN and empowering the next generations of women leaders. The Ambassadors stressed on the importance of rallying the support of male Ambassadors as gender allies, to further promote gender equality and empower women and girls.

## Advocacy around women and girls in science

*The International Day of Women and Girls in Science (11th of February) availed the opportunity to spotlight the pioneering achievements of women in science while encouraging greater participation of girls in science. Towards those efforts, a series of engagements were organized to amplify the voices of women scientists and to cultivate a culture that promotes women and girls to pursue their dreams and careers in science.*

### "In Conversation with" Vodcast Series



Dr. Roberta Bondar



Ms. Amanda Nguyen

11th February 2022: The first podcast of the 76th Presidency of UNGA featured Dr. Roberta Bondar, the first neurologist in space and Canada's first female astronaut. This chat was part of the advocacy around women and girls in science and marked the first of an ongoing series of video podcasts that expanded to cover other issues.

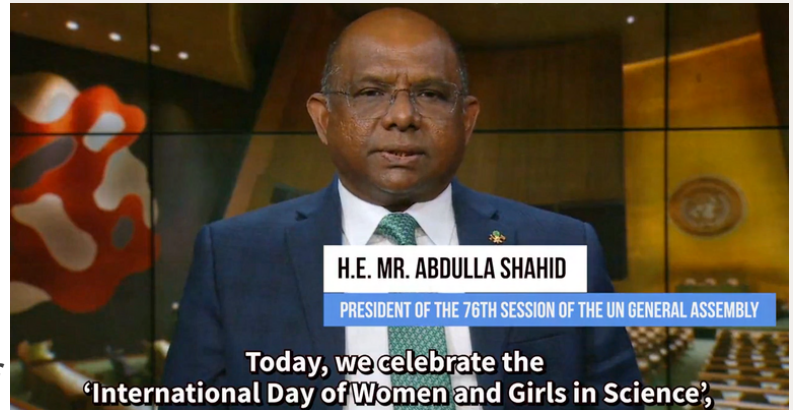
Dr. Bondar discussed some of the challenges she faced as a woman in the field of science. She noted that while these experiences made her more confident and braver, they should not have happened in the first place. She reflected on the importance of nurturing a culture of inclusive opportunity for both girls and boys, and the need to fuel the curiosity about the natural world through inclusive education.

5th March 2022: Ms Amanda Nguyen, the 2019 Nobel Prize nominee who penned the Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill was the second speaker in the podcast series. President Shahid and Ms. Nguyen discussed a range of issues from eradicating violence against women and girls to inspiring the next generation of women scientists. "I want all girls, women, anyone who comes from a disadvantaged background, to know that you matter, you can make it through, and you can be whatever it is that you want to be", Ms Nguyen said. She is currently pursuing her dream to be an astronaut and has been named one of the year's most influential women.

11 February 2022: President Shahid participated in the 7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science' Assembly on the theme, "Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Water Unites Us". In his keynote address, President Shahid applauded the achievements of women in science, and noted that women were among the many firsts in space, discovering planets and new frontiers. It was the work of women that revolutionized digital advancement. Despite their achievements, to date, only 23 of the 631 Nobel Prizes in science have gone to women.

President underscored the integrality of education to ensure that girls and women have a more equal footing in the field of science. For a young girl who aspires to search for signs of water on the moons of Jupiter, or who aims to explore the depths of the Ocean, or who is committed to solving community water shortages, education can take a daydream and turn it into an ambition, said President Shahid.

## 7th 'International Day of Women and Girls in Science' Assembly "Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Water Unites Us"



### *The Future of Climate Science is Female: Empowering Women and Girls in Science*

22 February 2022: Acknowledging the significance of the involvement and participation of women and girls in science for the future of the world, the President of the General Assembly in partnership with UNESCO held an interactive dialogue with women and girl scientists from around the world. President Shahid noted that women and girls should always feel that becoming a scientist is possible. That whatever they would like to do is possible. Women and girls should never feel that particular fields of work or study are off limits to them. I am of the view that women advocating for women is powerful and is essential for all disciplines, especially those that remain male-dominated.

*"I am aware that recruiting women is not enough. We need to back this up with the right policies and the right approach."*

PGA-UNESCO joint event "The Future is female", 22 February 2022

# "Holhuashi" Morning Dialogues

President Shahid convened two Holhuashi Morning Dialogues focused on promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. The dialogues are informal in nature and aim to promote frank exchanges among Member States, the UN System, and other invited stakeholders to generate ideas and seek solutions for action.

## 6th Holhuashi Dialogue: "Women in Diplomacy"

11 February 2022: the sixth Holhuashi Dialogue, convened on the topic "Women in Diplomacy", highlighted the indispensable role of women in diplomacy. It was a first with women experts across the six committees. Despite the increasing recognition of women in decision making process, political life, and in multilateral processes, women are severely underrepresented in senior diplomatic positions. There was a call to recognize the role of women in diplomacy through the observance of an International Day of Women in Diplomacy.



*President Abdulla Shahid with women experts covering the six General Assembly main committees*



*President Abdulla Shahid with PRs of Member States that participated in the 7th Holhuashi Dialogue*



## 7th Holhuashi Dialogue: "Women, Peace and Security"

11 March 2022: The seventh dialogue focused on the topic "Women, Peace and Security". It was noted that greater efforts are needed to ensure safe and conducive working environment for women peacekeepers in the field. While there has been progress in advancing Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda since the adoption of the resolution 1325 (2000), much more needs to be done and there is risk of backsliding.

# Advancing Gender Equality Across the Globe

## Meeting with Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Bahrain



*24 January 2022: President Shahid met with H.E. Ms Fawzia Bint Abdulla Zainal, Speaker of Bahrain's Council of Representatives. The PGA congratulated the speaker for being Bahrain's first elected woman Speaker, as she continues to break gender barriers, they also discussed a wide range of issues, from COVID-19 recovery to human rights.*

## Meeting with the 61st President of the General Assembly

*24 January 2022: President Shahid met with President of the 61st session of the General Assembly, H.E. Ms Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa. During the meeting, President commended Ms. Haya for her contributions as the PGA. Discussions touched on multilateralism, GA revitalization and women's empowerment.*



## Meeting with the President of Singapore

*7 February 2022: President Shahid met with H.E. Madam Halimah Yacob, the President of Singapore. During the meeting, the president particularly highlighted the progress on those priorities related to youth, gender equality and women's empowerment.*



## Meeting with the Supreme Council for Women, Bahrain

*25 January 2022: President Shahid met with the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women in Bahrain. During the meeting, the president was briefed on initiatives taken to empower women including equal opportunities in the workplace & lifelong learning in Bahrain.*



## March 8: International Women's Day (IWD)

*"Despite the gendered impacts of climate and disasters, women and girls continue to be leaders in each of these areas, and in broader sustainable development efforts.*

*They are scientists, educators, advocates, influencers, researchers, frontline workers, decision-makers at home and at all levels of government, and in the private sector. They are setting and shaping the sustainable development discourse.*

*While we acknowledge their contribution in these fields, we must also realize that women remain under-represented, under-supported, and unrecognized in the social, economic, and political fields needed for sustainable recovery."*



Team OPGA76 **#BreakingTheBias** in celebration of the IWD



*President Shahid hosted an informal gathering for Women Ambassadors on the occasion of the International Women's Day*

## 66th session of the Commission the Status of Women (CSW66)

14 March 2022: After two years, with high-level participation from Member States, UN entities and civil society, the CSW66 was convened in-person on the priority theme “Empowering Women and Girls in the context of Climate Change and disaster risk reduction”. Ahead of the deliberations, Ambassador Mathu Joyini, the Chair of the CSW66 met with the PGA.

In his remarks at CSW66, the President underscored the necessity for well-designed disaster risk reduction and climate change initiatives in order to provide for the full and effective participation of women while ensuring that sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change objectives are achieved. He said that while climate change may have an unfair impact on women, it has also led them to gradually seize the levers of power in a moment of intense uncertainty, to rewrite the rules of society when the current systems of power and economy no longer seem reasonable. He called on Member States to commit to develop gender action plans that combine climate action with efforts to improve gender equality.



*President Shahid meeting with Ambassador Mathu Joyini, the PR of South Africa and the Chair of the CSW66*



*President Shahid delivering remarks at the opening of CSW66*

## Ending Violence Against Women in Politics (VAWP)



15 March 2022: President Shahid convened a special event on the sidelines of the CSW66 during which he emphasized that violence against women in politics creates additional, and at times deadly, obstacles to women’s active and meaningful participation in politics.



The event aimed to draw the highest-level of attention to VAWP and provide the space to identify existing structural and normative barriers, as well as new opportunities to eliminate VAWP and to ensure women’s meaningful participation in politics. Vice President of Colombia, and Ministers from Denmark, Latvia, Jordan, Kenya, Italy, the Netherlands, Maldives, Liechtenstein, Panama, the UK, Finland, Ireland, France, Brazil, Belgium, and Greece delivered statements at the meeting.



## Reducing disaster risk through a gender-responsive midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

16 March 2022: The Office of the President of the 76th session of the General Assembly co-organized an event on Reducing disaster risk through a gender-responsive midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. In his statement, President Shahid stressed on the importance of acknowledging the disproportionate impacts endured by women, while at the same time empowering them to act alongside their peers.

## Meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes & Consequences

18 March 2022: President Shahid met with Ms. Reem Alsalem, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences. Ms. Alsalem briefed the President on her mandate and key priorities relating to her future reports and activities. They also discussed issues pertaining to violence against women and girls in the context of climate crisis and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, particularly against older and indigenous women and girls.



## Interactive conversation with the Obama Foundation Scholars



9 March 2022: As a strong believer in youth empowerment and recognizing the need for youth involvement in decision-making, the President of the General Assembly launched the PGAs Youth Fellowship program, drawing primarily from Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developed Countries, and Small Island Developing States, with the objective of engaging with youth and enhancing their role in policy making.



Acknowledging the aforementioned, the President held an interactive discussion with the Obama Foundation Scholars and HOPE fellows to exchange their views and experiences on the main challenges for gender equality and achieving the sustainable development goals, as well as bring them closer to the work of the United Nations and multilateralism. Any of the challenges confronting humanity cannot be solved without multilateralism, and thus, youth engagement and commitment.



*"We must continue to build on this momentum and to ensure that our actions are not only louder than our words, but that they be far-reaching, resolute, and in abundance."*

*- Dialogue with Circle of Women Ambassadors, 16 February 2022*

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***#PresidencyOfHope #Deliver4Equality***