

Mr. President,

thank you very much for the opportunity to discuss matters of importance with the member states, civil society representatives and other stakeholders.

Excellences,

Je vous remercie vivement pour vos réflexions et vos précisions concernant vos priorités, reçues au cours des différents cycles de consultations bilatérales et de réunions avec les groupes d'États membres. Cela m'a permis de prendre connaissance des points de vue et des remarques de la grande majorité des membres sur ma déclaration de vision.

لقد ذكرتني هذه الاجتماعات أيضاً ببعض التجارب المشتركة التي أتيت لي الفرصة للمشاركة بها أثناء الرحلة الطويلة بصفات مختلفة منذ أول مرة وقفت فيها على هذه المنصة منذ 21 عامًا.

It is heart-warming to see so many old friends and colleagues from the time I had the privilege to serve as PR of Hungary, co-chair of the OWG on SDGs and vice-president of the GA. It's good to be back home.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Vision Statement you saw has been prepared before the fierce onslaught on Ukraine. Since then, a lot has changed in the international arena leaving a huge impact on the lives of communities and nations well beyond the borders of Ukraine and Russia. I'm afraid, it will have a serious and lasting impact on the work of the General Assembly and the United Nations as a whole, too.

On the 2nd of March, at a special emergency session, the General Assembly adopted a resolution demanding that the Russian Federation "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders." Unfortunately, the military operations are still going on. People are dying, various regions of Ukraine are being destroyed, millions of refugees are fleeing the country, while Russia is inching towards technical bankruptcy and the consequences of the war are being felt across continents.

At this point, I wish to state clearly: It is not the only conflict zone in the world, but war never should not be considered an acceptable tool to settle disputes.

Sadly enough, this war is underlining some of the conclusions emphasized in my Vision Statement.

What is the nature of the crisis we are facing?

It's multidimensional, multifaceted.

We always hope to get over the actual phase of a given crisis, but in reality, crisis management has already become a permanent process. It is unlikely to go away soon.

Some alarming components of our reality today

- There is a large-scale war in Europe with global consequences.
- Some pillars of the international security architecture have been seriously undermined.
- The worst pandemic of the last 100 years is not over yet. More than 6 million lives have been lost, and the social and economic consequences will remain with us for years to come. The progress of poverty eradication has stopped and even gone into reverse in some regions.
- Sovereign debts have reached a historically unprecedented level across the world, and inflation is back.
- In some places, ethnic, linguistic and religious minority groups experience particular pressure.
- The number of refugees and migrants is again on the rise.
- Climate change has reached a “red alert” phase.
- Water crises are banging on our doors.
- Food crisis is approaching.
- The 6th wave of mass extinction of biodiversity is underway.
- Pollution of lands and oceans has reached unprecedented levels.
- The sustainability transformation is lagging way behind schedule.
- Serious questions are raised about the relevance of the international institutional structure we run.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We'll not return to the world before the pandemic. That world, the “old normal” is gone. There is no way back. Our only chance is to make a leapfrog ahead.

We confronted with a multidimensional, complex crisis. In fact, it was a prototype of the Anthropocene era crises. The war in Ukraine came on the top of that. It's a “perfect storm”, when geopolitical risk factors and those stemming from the unsustainable way of our development merge and reinforce each other. They tend to jointly shape our reality. What we see now is a postcard from the future.

What can be done? What should be our priorities in the 77th GA?

- 1. Standing firm on the basic principles of the UN Charter;**
- 2. Making significant and measurable progress on the sustainability transformation;**
- 3. Aiming at integrated, systemic solutions;**
- 4. Enhancing the role of science in decision shaping;**
- 5. Increasing solidarity to face the new chapters of crisis ahead of us.**

In this spirit, I have suggested *Solutions through Solidarity, Sustainability and Science* for the motto for the 77th GA.

You might have found large similarities between the OCA and the Vision Statement for 77th GA. Among them

- the necessity for an integrated approach to risk factors we face;
- a desire to reduce strategic risks;
- a willingness to strengthen international foresight;
- a call for stronger engagement between the United Nations system and international financial institutions;
- the necessity to introduce new measurements of development to complement GDP;
- a determination to strengthen science informed decision shaping;
- and
- belief in the value of the impact-oriented work at GA.

In some areas, we have a chance to achieve breakthrough during the 77th General Assembly, but we all have to work very hard for it – Member States, the UN Secretariat, the UN Agencies, supported by civil society organizations, academic and business communities and faith based institutions.

Transformative changes in the General Assembly and the UN in general have already been decided upon and even started. It is up to us to make sure that their pace, coordination and efficiency are up to the expectations. The world out there has high hopes, and rightly so.

I hereby would like to pay tribute to the current President of the GA and his predecessors for their foresight and leadership.

What would be the guiding principles of operations by the Office of PGA77?

1. The Office of the President of the General Assembly will do its best to show a good example of thinking and acting in terms of an **integrated agenda** of peace, prosperity and sustainability, and to be an agent of multilateralism;
2. It will work in a **task force system**;
3. **Professionalism, expertise, regional and gender balance** will be our important yardsticks;
4. **Impartiality**, with the intention to build bridges among sides, will be our principle of operation;
5. **Full transparency, accountability and efficiency** will have to characterize our work;
6. The office will be a promoter of the values of **multiculturalism and multilingualism**;
7. I will **coordinate actions** with the Secretary General, the Security Council, the ECOSOC and all other relevant organs of the United Nations.
8. I'll devote special attention to **impact-oriented and regular consultations** with civil society organizations, youth representations, science-based knowledge centers, representatives of the business communities and key institutions of finance.

Excellencies, it is my privilege to ask you to support this endeavor.

I'm sure you are not expecting an easy journey in such difficult times. But the mission of the most prominent organ of the United Nations has never been light. With shared responsibility, good will and hard work, and also following the best examples of our predecessors, we can contribute to making this world a better place.

Let's remember the words by Mahatma Ghandi: **“Be yourself the change you want to see in the world.”**