



INSIDE THE ISSUE

**HIGH-LEVEL
MEETING ON
PEACEBUILDING
FINANCING**

**REMARKS AT THE
G20 PRIORITIES
BRIEFING**

NEW URBAN AGENDA

THE 7TH OUR OCEANS CONFERENCE

On 13 April, the President gave his remarks at the 7th Our Ocean Conference. The PGA expressed his deep appreciation that the Our Ocean Conference continues to marshal global momentum. He highlighted that we must invest in solid, reliable, and accessible Ocean science data and information, and use that to inform policies and programmes. The PGA stressed that there is no way to protect the Ocean without wading together with all relevant stakeholders.



NEW URBAN AGENDA

On 28 April, the President convened a High-Level Meeting on “Assessing the implementation of the New Urban Agenda”. The meeting focused on: Affordable housing and access to basic services; Predictable financing for sustainable urban development, Climate adaptation and resilience; and Participatory urban planning.

The main takeaways of the meeting were:

- The New Urban Agenda is the best tool we have to manage all the risks and opportunities for our smart, vibrant and growing cities; and
- Upscaling engagement and implementation will require simplifying the New Urban Agenda’s contents and increasing delegations’ knowledge of its processes.

For the duration of the Presidency of Hope, the PGA is committed to working with the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization to elevate the New Urban Agenda.



G20 PRIORITIES BRIEFING



As the world’s twenty leading economies, the G20 has a responsibility to help guide the international community out of these challenging times. In particular, action by the G20 is needed to support the 3 pillars of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic: global vaccination; financing global socio-economic resilience; and reinvigorating multilateralism.

Our hopes for a quick rebound of the global economy are fading. Progress on universal vaccination to COVID-19 is proving far too slow. Global financial conditions are tightening, debt levels are rising, and borrowing costs borne by developing countries are increasing.

To resolve this, the president encouraged Member States to help secure the support of financial and technical partners, and to provide more resources to countries in special situations.

LECTURE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On 4 April, the President of the General Assembly was invited to Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs to speak on the topic of 'youth and multilateralism'.

In his remarks, the President encouraged young people to continue to have a voice in decision making through their countries' parliaments, ministries, and youth councils; and why they must pursue greater political representation for youth, especially young women, and girls.



21ST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

On 25 April, the President of the General Assembly was invited to address the opening of the 21st session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

In his remarks, the President emphasized that he has made protecting the rights of all – including indigenous peoples – one of the core priorities of his Presidency of Hope. This year also marks the beginning of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, running from 2022 to 2032. The President highlighted that throughout this decade, we will place emphasis on recognizing the variety and richness of indigenous languages.

ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM

On 19 April, the PGA gave his remarks on the occasion of the ECOSOC Youth Forum.

The PGA expressed his confidence that the future of policymaking, of multilateralism, and of global cooperation, will be determined by what young people make of it. If we aim to maintain our multilateral system and strengthen and revitalize it, then we must aim to engage and empower those who will inherit it.



PGA'S VISIT TO PALAU TO HIGHLIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

On 12-15 April, the President undertook an official visit to the Republic of Palau to stand in solidarity with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on issues of climate change and sustainable development. The President's visit was timed with the 7th Our Ocean Conference.

During the visit, President Shahid participated in the SIDS Global Business Network Forum. The theme of the forum was "Private Sector Ocean Partnerships and Sustainable Development in SIDS". The President underscored the importance of partnerships in addressing – sustainably – the unique challenges faced by SIDS. Also, the President met with the students of the Palau High School Science Club in an interactive dialogue, and he was joined by Dr. Dale Jenkins, Palau's Minister of Education, to hear from young students about their thoughts on climate change and efforts to stymie its impacts. The President also interacted with Bilung Gloria Gibbon Salii, and other women community leaders, to discuss issues such as culture and tradition, non-communicable diseases, and environmental protection issues.



INFORMAL HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE ON “SMALL STATES, MULTILATERALISM AND INTERNATIONAL LAW”

On 28 April, the President of the General Assembly joined Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore in an Informal High-level roundtable on “Small States, Multilateralism and International Law”.

In his remarks, the President highlighted that regardless of geographic size, economic clout, or military might, all Member States make an important contribution to meaningful reforms in the global governance framework and processes.



WORLD ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

On 27 April, the President of the General Assembly was invited to a meeting convened by the Global Task Force on Local and Regional Governments.

In his remarks, the PGA emphasized that such discussions emulate the spirit of the General Assembly, where leaders – at the global, regional, and local levels – meet to discuss ideas and reach consensus. Where mayors and representatives come together to share the concerns of local communities – and how such partnerships are always better facilitated through in person-dialogue and interaction. It is for this reason that he persistently advocated for a gradual and safe return to in person meetings at the General Assembly.



HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON PEACEBUILDING FINANCING

On 27 April, the PGA co-hosted and delivered remarks at the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding Financing.

The PGA encouraged Member States to explore all available avenues of financing instruments to support peacebuilding financing, including through partnerships with regional organizations, international financial institutions, as well as the private sector.



HOSTING THE 8TH HOLHUASHI DIALOGUE

On 8 April, the President of the General Assembly hosted the 8th Holhuashi Dialogue. The topic discussed was "Accessibility to United Nations Headquarters". The PGA highlighted that there is an urgent need to better coordinate, facilitate and monitor practical accessibility measures at the United Nations in order to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.



UN LUNCHEON ON FINANCING CLIMATE ADAPTATION

On 26 April, the President gave a statement at a UN Habitat event on Financing Climate Adaptation.

During his speech, the President highlighted that while there is no denying the urgent need to mitigate climate change and reduce carbon dioxide emissions, the unfortunate reality is that prioritizing this over all else leaves nearly half of humanity vulnerable to the impacts that are already taking place. The PGA mentioned the urgent need to make long-term changes that allow us to develop more sustainably, while increasing resilience.



ADOPTION OF LIECHTENSTEIN'S VETO INITIATIVE DRAFT RESOLUTION

On 26 April, the PGA presided over the General Assembly that took action on Liechtenstein's Veto Initiative draft resolution which mandates a meeting of the General Assembly whenever a veto is cast in the Security Council. The resolution 76/262, cosponsored by 83 Member States, was adopted by consensus.



40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)

On 29 April, the President of the General Assembly gave his remarks at the 40th anniversary of the adoption of UNCLOS. In his remarks, the President highlighted that UNCLOS continues to play a fundamental role in the development of international law, and in the promotion of peace, security, cooperation, friendly relations among all nations, and sustainable development of the ocean and sea. The PGA thanked the delegations of Singapore, Denmark, Grenada, Kenya and Portugal for requesting him to convene this commemorative event.



”IN CONVERSATION WITH...”

VIDEO PODCAST

EPISODE 5:

IN CONVERSATION WITH PROF. LILAC ALSAFADI



In honor of the International Girls In ICT Day, the PGA had an opportunity to interact with Professor Lilac AlSafadi from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Prof. AlSafadi has been proactive in empowering women and girls in the field of STEM and ICT.

Prof. AlSafadi acts as the President of The Saudi Electronic University and Professor of Computer and Information Sciences at King Saud University.

Podcast episodes are can be found on Twitter @UN_PGA

PGA HOPE FELLOWS

On 5 April, HOPE Fellow Stella Kyamu, briefed the press about the Fellows' latest UNITAR training on the UN and democracy-building. The training focused on the role of democracy and role of the UN in focal areas such as democracy and peace and security, human rights, and gender equality.

On 13 April, HOPE Fellow Mohamed Fofana, met with the Diplomat, UN delegate, and High Representative for Youth at the International Human Rights Foundation, Daniel Dell Valle, as part of the Fellowship's goal to offer great learning experience opportunities to youth from underrepresented countries.

On 22 April, the PGA met with UNITAR Executive Director Nikhil Seth. They discussed the OPGA-UNITAR cooperation in launching the HOPE Fellowship Program and the need to institutionalize the Fellowship to enable diplomats from underrepresented countries the opportunity to train in multilateral processes.

On April 25, the Delegation of Flanders and Belgium in New York hosted a luncheon for the inaugural class of HOPE Fellows,



HOPE Fellowship has been made possible with the generous support of our sponsors

