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THEMATIC CONSULTATIONS ON 'OUR COMMON AGENDA'

At the start of the month, the President presided over the fourth and fifth thematic consultations on 'Our Common Agenda'. The fourth thematic cluster was on the theme "Protecting our planet and being prepared for the future".

In his remarks at the final thematic consultation, held on the theme "Enhancing International Cooperation", the PGA emphasized that Member States, Observers, and all stakeholders must collaborate to revitalize the United Nations.

Throughout the consultations, the President spoke on how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must remain our guiding compass.



CSW66: COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

On 14 March, the President made remarks at the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, under the priority theme of “empowering women and girls in the context of climate change and disaster risk reduction” and the review theme of “women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”.

The President drew attention to the fact that women, girls, men and boys are affected differently by climate change and disasters, with many women and girls experiencing greater risks, burdens and impacts.

In his remarks, the President mentioned that just four women have been elected President of the United Nations General Assembly in its 76 years and no woman has ever been chosen as the Secretary-General. He concluded his remarks by calling for the next Secretary-General to be a woman.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



On 15 March the President commemorated International Women's Day.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day, *gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow*, aimed to highlight the pivotal contributions of women and girls in tackling climate change, in strengthening disaster risk reduction, and in building more resilient, more sustainable societies.

OPGA76 wore green to mark the occasion. Green is a color of International Women's Day that symbolizes hope.



ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS

SPECIAL CSW66 SIDE EVENT

On 15 March the President of the General Assembly held a Special CSW66 Side event on “Ending Violence Against Women in Politics”.

In his remarks, the President shared that as a former Parliamentarian, and a lifelong politician, violence against women in politics is an issue near to his heart.

The topic of sexist hate speech across public spheres, especially on social media, was central to the discussion.

The President emphasized that "alienating women from political processes undermines democratic processes at large".



Women must feel safe to actively lead and influence laws within their parliaments, to take leadership roles in governments and be able to freely pursue their career path in politics

President Shahid at the Special Side-Event CSW66 - Ending Violence Against Women in Politics



7TH HOLHUASHI DIALOGUE

On 11 March, the President hosted the 7th Holhuashi dialogue on the topic, “Women, Peace and Security”.

In the meeting, Permanent Representatives discussed how the continued failure to include women in peace processes ignores their demonstrated contributions, and overlooks a potential strategy to respond more effectively to security threats around the world.

They also discussed how it has been documented that, when women participate in peace processes, the resulting agreements are more durable and better implemented. Higher levels of gender equality are associated with a lower propensity for conflict.



INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON COMMODITY MARKETS



On 31 March the President convened the "Interactive Dialogue on Commodity Markets".

In his remarks, the President urged Member States, "To use the discussions to identify strategies, best practices, and policies that support and promote economic diversification and value addition."

The President called on Member States to act together to do what it takes to help countries build more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economies.



PGA HOPE FELLOWS

On 9 March, the HOPE Fellows interacted with the Obama Foundation Scholars on cross-cutting themes, such as sustainable development, climate change, youth engagement, and gender equality.

In the discussion, it was highlighted how the world is facing interconnected challenges. The dialogue was a welcome opportunity to share ideas and experiences in addressing these global challenges, and promoting change through values-based leadership.

On 28 March, experts from the Delegation of the European Union (EU) hosted the HOPE Fellows for an informal discussion on Youth policies and engagement. The experts made presentations on the UN Security Council Resolution 2535 and the UN humanitarian system.

After the presentations, the Fellows expressed their views on the role young people play in shaping multilateralism.



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



AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON GENERAL ASSEMBLY REVITALIZATION

The General Debate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on General Assembly Revitalization took place on 9 March.

In his remarks, the PGA reiterated his support for revitalization of the work of the General Assembly. He expressed his support for the discussions that would allow us to improve the efficacy and efficiency of the United Nations.



DOHA FORUM 20TH EDITION "TRANSFORMING FOR A NEW ERA"

On 25 March, the President of the General Assembly travelled to Doha for the 20th Edition of the Doha Forum, "Transforming for a New Era".

During his visit the PGA had the opportunity to meet H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, and H.E. Dr. Ahmad Hassen Al-Hammadi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The President commended Qatar for its role as a key international partner for conflict resolution, preventive diplomacy and humanitarian assistance.



STOCKHOLM+50 PREPARATORY MEETING

The General Assembly convened the preparatory meeting for the International meeting "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all - our responsibility, our opportunity" on 28 March.

The PGA expressed his confidence that this preparatory meeting has laid the groundwork for a very successful Stockholm+50, and that it will inspire bold ambitions and powerful concerted action on behalf of our planet.



THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF SLAVERY AND THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE



UN Photo/Manuel Elías

The President hosted a special event, on 29 March, to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery. At the event there was a screening of Equiano.Stories, a film based on the memoir of Olaudah Equiano, who was able to buy his freedom from slavery. This film presents us with the question: “What if a West African child in 1756 had a cell phone when he was enslaved?”

The special event followed the meeting of the GA to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery. In his remarks, the PGA called for us to honor the memory of the victims of slavery by standing against racism and discrimination, by calling for greater commitments to social justice, and by celebrating the equal worth and dignity of all our communities.

It is our obligation to continue to raise awareness of the pernicious legacies of slavery, including racism, discrimination and social injustice, while also celebrating the bravery of those who stood against this brutal system

President Shahid on the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



”IN CONVERSATION WITH...”

VIDEO PODCAST

EPISODE 3:

IN CONVERSATION WITH AMANDA NGUYEN



Ahead of International Women's Day 2022, the PGA had the opportunity to record a podcast with Amanda Nguyen, CEO of the civil rights organization Rise. Amanda was recently included in the 2022 TIME Magazine's Women of the Year list.

Amanda is working towards legislation which aims to reform the handling of sexual assault evidence collection kits, and is leading an effort to pass a resolution that would protect survivors around the world.

EPISODE 4:

IN CONVERSATION WITH WOMEN IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



On the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the Sendai Framework, the President had the opportunity to interact with 4 women leaders working in the field of disaster risk reduction. The PGA spoke with Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and four inspiring leaders in DRR: Carolyn Kitone, Dr. Evangeline Inniss-Springer, Dr. Amel Azab, and Violet Shivutse. In the podcast the guests shared their thoughts, suggestions and recommendations on how we can improve disaster risk reduction and empower women and girls.

Podcast episodes are can be found on Twitter @UN_PGA