



# HANDOVER REPORT

From

H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid,  
President of the General Assembly  
during the seventy-sixth session

To his successor,

H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi,  
President of the General Assembly  
during the seventy-seventh session

**New York, 12 September 2022**

## Message of the 76<sup>th</sup> President of the General Assembly

The General Assembly remains at the center stage for all the ongoing work at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. In the true spirit of multilateralism, it brings together 193 Member States and facilitates their endeavours to find solutions to the complex and borderless challenges that permeate our world.

Under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly has within its remit to discuss almost every aspect of public life. Its work has a profound impact on both the present and future. During the 76<sup>th</sup> session, its role and moral authority has grown even further.

I crafted my Presidency around the theme of ‘hope’ out of my belief that hope is what will give further momentum to the work of the General Assembly. I believe that hope is what will help us overcome cynicism and anxiety and help generate solutions and concrete actions to address global challenges.

My five ‘rays of hope’ were based on what I identified to be the major challenges confronting our world at the start of the 76<sup>th</sup> session. These included: recovering from Covid-19, rebuilding sustainably, responding to the needs of the planet, respecting the rights of all, and revitalizing the United Nations. I approached each priority with a gender-lens in mind, to ensure mainstreaming gender-equality within the General Assembly’s work.

Throughout the session, we certainly endured our fair share of challenges. At the start, the work at Headquarters was heavily impacted by the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, every opportunity was used to move things forward, and to find innovative ways to continue the important work of the organization, including through virtual settings.

We were also reminded of the direct bearing that geopolitical strife and instability can have on the work of the organization, at the practical and logistical levels. As 2022 commenced, I was planning to focus the Assembly on a sustainable recovery from COVID-19. My priority was to convene a High-Level Meeting on Universal Vaccination to emphasize that vaccination must leave no country, no region, and no one behind, which I did convene in February. However, that was the same month in which the aggression against Ukraine shocked the international community. We must remain firm in our resolve to avert further conflicts and resolve existing ones, including in Yemen, Palestine, Syria and Afghanistan.

In the meanwhile, planetary crises such as pollution, the proliferation of natural disasters, and global warming continue unabated. These are issues that I am personally familiar with, as I come from one of the most climate vulnerable countries on earth. That is why I have consistently advocated for stronger climate action during my travels, in my engagements at COP-26, at Stockholm+50, and at the High-level meetings on Climate, and ‘Moment for Nature’ among others.

Throughout the session, I spared no effort to enhance the visibility of the work of the Assembly and make it accessible to a wider audience. I thank every Member State, Observers, members of Advisory Boards and Committees, as well as colleagues in the Secretariat. It was a joint undertaking to instil hope and deliver on so many fronts.

I would like to thank my team at the Office of the President of the General Assembly for all their hard work to make this session a success. Sadly, one member of our team, Ms. Gail Fargalo passed away in January. We will remember her fondly.

As a message of legacy, I would like to focus on 3 things:

First, ending violence and suffering should now be made a priority and political leaders should use the GA as the global platform to call for an end to the conflicts and bridge the divides in today's polarized world. We saw how quickly the world came together in solidarity in response to the aggression in Ukraine. We must build on such momentum. We must leave behind the barbaric legacies of war and turn to a future devoted to peace, understanding and social and technological progress.

Second, we must revitalize our commitment to multilateralism, and strengthen this organization to realize our common aspiration of a UN 2.0. Towards this end, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary declaration and Our Common Agenda is the vision and blueprint we need to follow. The pandemic has shown us the importance of collective action – that our strength lies in unity. Likewise, the scale of transformation needed to tackle the three planetary crises — climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution — is only possible with collective action.

Third, we need to fully embrace the principles of inclusivity. We can no longer let the injustices of excluding women and youth from public work continue. Regarding gender equality, our progress thus far has been too slow. On our current trajectory, it will take 135.6 years to close the gender gap worldwide. By the dawn of 2021, women were leading just 22 of 193 nations and occupying less than a quarter of parliamentary seats globally. We must greatly enhance and accelerate our efforts to remedy these gaps.

Increasing youth engagement, is also critical. That is why I launched the PGA Youth Fellowship as one of my flagship initiatives, to allow young diplomats to experience the inner workings of the multilateral system, before returning back to their respective countries to further enshrine the values and principles of multilateralism. Indeed, investing in youth is investing in the very future of multilateralism. That is why I made it a point to meet and interact with youth during all my travels and why I encouraged more youth to get involved in global affairs and public work. While on this note, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all Member States who contributed to my Voices of Youth - Time Capsule initiative.

My recommendations to my successors are as follows:

It is imperative to support a smooth transition between sessions. Towards this end, members of the next OPGA team have been coordinating closely with my team in anticipation of the High-Level Meetings in September. My team and I also participate in the annual retreat organized by Finland and a workshop initiated by the Mission of Ecuador, Finland and Malaysia, in cooperation with UNITAR.

I'm grateful to all Member States for seconding their staff members in my Office. One specific way of strengthening institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly is retaining the cabinet members with experience from previous sessions, including consultants.

The role of the GA has been growing and this year it was demonstrated by adoption of a Resolution on the Veto initiative and by the convening of an Emergency Special Session (ESS) on Ukraine upon the decision of the Security Council. A stronger United Nations is necessary to build a resilient world. Efforts to make the United Nations efficient, effective and accountable must continue, together with efforts to reform the Security Council, revitalize the General Assembly

and strengthen the Economic and Social Council. Towards this end it is also important to facilitate enhanced coordination between the chairs of the Main Committees.

To maintaining our multilateral system and strengthen and revitalize it, we must aim to engage and empower youth.

In line with the principle of gender equality, we must facilitate more pathways for women to serve as the President of the General Assembly. Only four women have served as the PGA in the General Assembly's history, and we must endeavor to raise this number. Similarly, I continue to advocate that the next Secretary-General should be a woman.

I would like to conclude by wishing my successor, the President of the General Assembly during its 77th session, His Excellency Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, a successful year ahead.

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# 1. Introduction

The handover report from the President of the General Assembly (PGA) during the 76<sup>th</sup> session is prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/305 and subsequent resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (GA). It will be presented to the President of the General Assembly during the 77<sup>th</sup> session on the day of the handover of the gavel in the General Assembly Hall.

## 1.1. Objectives of the handover report:

- Assists the President of next session and his team in preparing all processes that started or continued during the previous session(s). Outlining major outcomes of the current session, the report covers ongoing processes and mandates that require follow-up action by the President-elect during the new session.
- Contributes to a smooth transition from one session to the next.
- Strengthens institutional memory of both the General Assembly and the Office of its President (OPGA).
- Outlines best practices and lessons learned from the current session.

The report has a number of annexes containing detailed information on the current session, including PGA's travel, support provided by Member States and the Secretariat to OPGA, as well as a list of mandates for next session(s).

## 1.2. Highlights and achievements during the 76<sup>th</sup> session

Increasing the role, impact and visibility of the General Assembly – whether during the special emergency or regular sessions, the Assembly took the lead to discuss and provide recommendations on an array of issues, including peace and security, humanitarian, food and other crises emerging during the year. The 11<sup>th</sup> Emergency Special Session, and the standing mandate of the PGA to convene a plenary debate each time a veto is cast in the Security Council, as well as various draft resolutions, and decisions adopted during the session have been instrumental in recording the positions of the world body on issues such as Russian aggression against Ukraine, and the humanitarian consequences of conflict, among others.

- Multilateralism in action:
- General Assembly's consensus resolution 76/6 on the follow-up to the Secretary-General's report "Our Common Agenda" (A/75/982) – the PGA-led informal consultations on proposals in the report and negotiation processes to implement the recommendations of the report for an improved United Nations.
- General Assembly decision to convene the Summit of the Future, under the theme "Multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow", in accordance with its resolution 76/307 adopted on 8 September 2022. The Summit, to be held in 2024, will have an important role to play in "reaffirming the United Nations Charter, reinvigorating multilateralism, boosting implementation of existing commitments, agreeing concrete solutions to challenges, and restoring trust amongst Member States".
- General Assembly resolution 76/306 on the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office – a landmark decision to promote meaningful, inclusive and effective engagement of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the work of the United Nations.

- Recognizing the need for peacebuilding efforts to have adequate, predictable and sustained financing in order to effectively assist countries to build and sustain peace, General Assembly adopted a resolution 76/305 on Financing for Peacebuilding on 8 September 2022.
- World leaders' renewed commitment to fight against racism by adopting, without a vote, the Political Declaration titled "United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" during high-level week on 21 September 2021.
- General Assembly resolution 76/262, adopted without a vote, on standing mandate for a General Assembly debate when a veto is cast in the Security Council – the first such debate was held in June 2022.
- Acting without a vote, the Assembly adopted the outcome document of the high-level meeting on the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons on 22 November, entitled "2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons".
- Without a vote, the Assembly reviewed the functioning of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including its funding arrangement, and adopted resolution 76/4, emphasizing the need for adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of the UN RC system.
- The first ever High-level Thematic Debate on "Putting sustainable and resilient tourism at the heart of an inclusive recovery", in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). This event was an outcome of the discussions that the PGA had with Member States at the Holhuashi morning dialogue on the theme "Sustainable recovery through tourism" that he convened on 3 December 2021.
- The inaugural International Migration Review Forum, held on 17-20 May 2022 and its outcome, adopted without a vote: Progress Declaration of the IMRF, reaffirming the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Assembly endorsed the document on 7 June 2022.
- Election, by acclamation, of the President of the General Assembly during the 77th session, H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi.
- Conclusion of the main part of the Assembly session on 24 December 2021 – approving resources of \$3.12 billion for the 2022 regular budget, the Organization's third annual budget in 50 years.
- The thematic debate entitled "Moment for Nature" - The first time several, interlinked Conferences and Processes relating to the theme of environment were considered together, with a view to identifying and addressing common bottlenecks and solutions that can stimulate action on all fronts.
- The High-level thematic debate entitled "Galvanizing momentum for universal vaccination", which brought together world leaders and a range of stakeholders to recommit to global vaccine equity.
- The first High-level meeting of the General Assembly on Improving Global Road Safety – the first time that a meeting of the General Assembly was held on the topic. The meeting resulted in a negotiated political declaration.
- The High-level meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda – the mid-term review of the New Urban Agenda, adopted in 2016.
- The High-level Special Event on Global Food Security – which brought together various actors at the national, regional and global level to foster coordinated policy responses to the current food crisis.



- Regular coordination meetings of the PGA with the Secretary-General, Presidents of the Security Council and ECOSOC, as mandated to help bridge differences and improve the efficiency of work.
- After a two-year postponement brought about by the pandemic, the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference was held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 27 June to 1 July 2022, as mandated by the General Assembly. Co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, the event held nine plenary meetings and eight interactive dialogues aimed at scaling up action based on science and innovation to protect our oceans and seas and concluded with the adoption, without a vote, of the Declaration “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”, which was later endorsed by the Assembly on 21 July 2022.
- Increasing the number of Observers in the General Assembly to 115 by inviting the International Solar Alliance to participate as an observer in the work of the General Assembly, based on the recommendation of the Sixth (legal) Committee.
- In-person Town Hall meeting with CSOs - Advocating for in-person diplomacy and further reopening of the UN headquarters, the President hosted almost 200 representatives of civil society in the General Assembly Hall on 17 November in a meeting organized together with Secretariat.
- Under the label ‘Holhuashi’, a Maldivian term for a place for informal communal gatherings, the practice of morning dialogues with Permanent Representatives and other delegates continued, creating opportunities for dialogue on issues related to the work of the General Assembly.
- Creation of a network of women leaders and the initiative of a recurring meetings during the high-level week of each General Assembly session came to fruition during the Presidency of Hope, but it will have the legacy beyond one particular session and strengthen the cause of gender equality in the UN and beyond.
- Inauguration of new and improved lactation rooms at UN Headquarters in the presence of H.E. Gabriela Rodríguez de Bukele, First Lady of El Salvador; H.E. Ms. Egriselda Aracely González López, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations; H.E. Ms. Carolyn Schwalger, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations; H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; and Mr. Christian Saunders, Assistant Secretary-General of Supply Chain Management. The project to refit and expand lactation services at the United Nations was a collaboration between Office of the President of the General Assembly, the Department of Operational Support, and the governments of both El Salvador and New Zealand.
- Adoption of GA resolution 76/269 establishing the Women in Diplomacy Day on 24 June.
- Initiating a video podcast series, titled “In Conversation With...” to interview and discuss a range of thematic areas and backgrounds with invited guests.
- The PGA’s Fellowship for HOPE - President of the General Assembly’s Harnessing Opportunities for Promoting Empowerment of Youth Fellowship.

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### **1.3. Work of the Main Committees of the General Assembly:**

#### **1.3.1. The First Committee (1C - Disarmament and International Security):**

- 1C approved 60 draft resolutions and decisions, 37 by recorded vote, with 66 separate votes requested. While convening a full session was challenging due to the pandemic, the Committee held all three traditional general, thematic and action segments, completing the former two in record time. 137 delegations made statements in the general debate. It should be noted though that only 33 were delivered by women, indicating there is a long way to go in achieving equal gender participation and representation. In his address, the President of the General Assembly underlined that women and youth can make a meaningful contribution in disarmament efforts and urged Member States to ensure that women and youth, as well as civil society, are more actively engaged in the work of the Committee.
- During the session, the increased requests for votes reflected the wide differences on such issues as how to rid the world of nuclear weapons and to keep outer space and cyberspace safe. The high number of recorded votes requested impeded on the committee's available time for substantive discussions.
- Opening the Committee's general debate, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs warned that the continued growth in global military spending — almost \$2 trillion in 2020 — had fed into cycles of insecurity and mistrust. Amid the current heightened tensions and conflict, the First Committee's role was as pertinent as ever, she said, reminding members that “the solutions sought here are not utopian, but have practical, real-world consequences”.

#### **1.3.2. The Second committee (2C - Economic and Financial):**

- As the world continued to face the COVID-19 pandemic while beginning a tentative recovery, rebuilding sustainably, in line with the 2030 Agenda on sustainable Development became more important than ever. During this session, the Second committee (Economic and Financial) focused on enhancing cooperation, mobilizing resources and getting the international community on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Opening the general debate on 5 October, Mariana Mazzucato, a professor at the University College London in Economics of Innovation and Public Value, said the pandemic has shown how ill-equipped the world is to resolve crises, underscoring the need for new strategies to handle poverty, health, climate change, vaccine inequality and the digital divide. During this session, the Second Committee adopted 37 resolutions and two decisions aimed at supporting developing countries in reversing setbacks and recovering sustainably.
- C.2 of the seventy-sixth session made the history with its first all-female bureau of a Main Committee in the history of the United Nations, which was chaired by Ambassador Vanessa Frazier of Malta alongside Vice-Chairs Ms. Nadja Micael (Eritrea), Ms. Karolina Krywulak (Poland) and Ms. Claudia Mansfield LaRue (Dominican Republic) and Rapporteur Ms. Prathma Uprety (Nepal).

#### **1.3.3. The Third Committee (3C - Social, Humanitarian and Cultural):**

- 3C considered issues relating to the world social situation including on youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and the family. The Committee also discussed matters related to refugees, returnees and displaced persons, as well as the advancement of women and the

rights of children and indigenous peoples. Additional matters for consideration included the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, the right of people to self-determination, matters of crime prevention, criminal justice and international drug control. The majority of the committee's draft proposals were considered under the agenda item "promotion and protection of human rights".

- The Committee recommended 59 draft resolutions and one draft decision to the General Assembly during a busy eight-week session, 18 of which were approved by recorded vote. It held 16 in person meetings, and due to changes in work methods brought on in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic, 29 virtual ones. The Committee heard from 65 Special Procedure Mandate Holders, chairs and experts, as well as 15 United Nations officials. Some 1,884 interventions were made during the related 15 virtual interactive dialogues with Member States. Throughout, COVID-19 dominated discussions on social, humanitarian and cultural imperatives, particularly as Governments worked to lay the groundwork for eventual recovery from the pandemic.

#### **1.3.4. The Fourth Committee (4C - Special Political and Decolonization):**

- 4C held 16 formal and 2 informal meetings. The Committee also considered its regular agenda items including atomic radiation, assistance in mine action, questions relating to information and peaceful uses of outer space. In addition, it held several interactive dialogues. The session concluded with the approval of 34 draft resolutions and 3 draft decisions for adoption by the General Assembly.
- Petitioners speaking on decolonization matters returned this session following their absence in 2020 due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Delegates also called for collective action to end impunity for Israel's violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and expressed concern over the continued budgetary shortfall faced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). On the topic of peacekeeping operations, Member States stressed that ensuring the safety and proper resourcing of United Nations' "blue helmets" is key to the successful implementation of peacekeeping mandates.
- In his address to the Committee, the PGA noted that 2021 marked the beginning of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and urged Member States to make this decade the closing chapter of the decolonization era. On the question of Palestine, he called on Member States to expedite the realization of Palestine's inalienable right to self-determination based on the two-state solution. He also urged all Member States to provide the necessary funds to support the work of UNRWA. On peacekeeping, the President underscored the contribution of UN peacekeepers in maintaining stability in conflict-prone areas around the world and called on all stakeholders to redouble efforts to support the Blue Helmets and to ensure the meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping.

#### **1.3.5. The Fifth Committee (5C - Administrative and Budgetary):**

- 5C concluded its main part of the session (October-December) on 24 December 2021, which was regarded as a record (in 2020, the main part of the 75th session was concluded on December 31<sup>st</sup>), despite the huge workload and number of agenda items it had before it. The Committee sent the Assembly for its adoption a total of 16 resolutions and 2 decisions. Regarding the regular budget, the Committee approved resources of \$3.12 billion for the 2022 regular budget, the Organization's third annual budget in 50 years. This was a reduction of 2.8 per cent compared to the 2021 budget. The

Committee also approved a wide-ranging 24-part resolution called “Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for 2022”. Regarding the scale of assessments (the methodology used to calculate how much each Member State pays into the United Nations regular and peacekeeping budgets), the committee approved, without a vote, two resolutions on this matter.

- Resumed part of the session - During the resumed session (March-June) the committee approved \$6.45 Billion Budget for 11 Peacekeeping Missions and broke a Five-Year Deadlock around Cross-Cutting Issues. Throughout the session, the role of the PGA was crucial in facilitating negotiations when needed, by reaching out to some key members of the committee; the same was done with the ACABQ when delayed reports resulted in a potential shutdown during negotiations on the budget of the organization.

### **1.3.6. The Sixth Committee (6C - Legal):**

- 6C held its seventy-sixth session with an extensive workload of substantive deliberations, sending 17 resolutions and 10 decisions to the General Assembly for adoption without a vote, keeping its tradition of consensus. The Committee recommended the Assembly to grant the GA Observer Status to the International Solar Alliance, which was approved by GA resolution 76/123, 9 December 2021. H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif al-Thani (Qatar) chaired the Committee alongside Vice-Chairs Ahmed Abdelaziz (Egypt), Justina Krutulytė (Lithuania), Ricardo García López (Spain) and Rapporteur Ana L. Villalobos-Brenes (Costa Rica). In his address to the Committee, welcoming the gender balance within its bureau, the President of the General Assembly expressed the hope that, in the future, women will also be better represented in international institutions, including commissions, courts and tribunals.

## **2. UNGA76**

### **2.1. Numbers**

The seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly was held from 14 Sept 2021 to 12 Sept 2022 and considered 176 items on its agenda. The President's vision paper and the theme of the Presidency of Hope largely shaped the development of the programme of the Assembly during the session. The President briefed Member States on his priorities for the resumed part of the 76th session on 19 January 2022 and hosted the briefing by the Secretary-General on his priorities for the year on 21 January 2022.

The Assembly adopted a total of 307 resolutions and 140 decisions, addressing the state of global food insecurity, reaffirming the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, adopting the "Space2030" Agenda, stressing the role of space exploration as a driver of sustainable development, elevating pandemic prevention, preparedness and response to the highest level of political leadership to build resilient health systems, and establishing the International Day of Women in Diplomacy, among others.

President Shahid convened a total of 103 formal plenary meetings of the General Assembly, 15 High-level Meetings and a further 28 informal plenary meetings, hearings, thematic debates and other events. In addition, around 98 intergovernmental consultations and informal, informal meetings were held as part of intergovernmental negotiation processes.

In line with relevant resolutions and decisions by the Assembly, 15 mandated intergovernmental negotiation processes on behalf of the President of the General Assembly took place, for which 27 co-facilitators or co-chairs were appointed by the PGA (see Annex 2). The President's Office also conducted negotiations for the outcome document of the High-level meeting on improving global road safety.

In total, the PGA delivered 322 statements at the UN and beyond. He convened the inaugural International Migration Review Forum, finalized arrangements and facilitated preparations for Stockholm +50 international meeting, as well as the 2022 Oceans Conference and convened the 11 meetings of the 11<sup>th</sup> Emergency Special Session.

### **2.2. General Debate**

UNGA 76 general debate centered around the theme "Building resilience through hope - to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalize the United Nations". Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the High-level segment of the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly went ahead in a hybrid manner, with leaders attending in the General Assembly Hall or sending pre-recorded statements. Overall, the general debate, held from 21 to 27 September 2021, featured 194 speakers, including 152 Heads of State and Government. The list of speakers included 100 Heads of State, 52 Heads of Government, 3 Vice-Presidents and 34 ministers, 81 of them sending pre-recorded statements. Only 18 of those speaking at the General Debate were women.

## 2.3. Five Rays of Hope

President Shahid advanced the initiatives of the Presidency of Hope throughout the session, including through General Assembly mandated meetings, special events and campaigns, partnerships with the UN system, other main organs and civil society.

The following chapters provide a brief account of highlights and key results of work under the five rays of hope – five thematic priority areas: Recovering from COVID-19; Rebuilding sustainably; Responding to the needs of the planet; Respecting the rights of all; Revitalizing the United Nations

### 2.2.1. Recovering from Covid-19 pandemic

Building on the discussions and relevant outcomes of:

- Covid-19 related business continuity consultations
- Social media campaign entitled “New Year’s Resolution for Vaccine Equity”
- High-level thematic debate entitled “Galvanizing momentum for universal vaccination”.

At the start of the session, the practical arrangements for the conduct of the general debate and the high-level meetings of the 76th session of the General Assembly continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the holding of meetings at the Headquarters and how they were conducted, including the number of attendees, virtual participation and the provision of remote simultaneous interpretation to ensure multilingualism, a fundamental value of the organization.

Most of the COVID-related restrictions were gradually lifted starting from the Fall of 2021 and the UNHQ returned to pre-pandemic arrangements for meetings in April 2022. The major lesson learned from COVID-19 period work arrangements is related to the role of modern technology in ensuring the continuation of intergovernmental processes in most difficult circumstances. Securing the uninterrupted functioning of the intergovernmental work of the United Nations has been a high priority, as well as further innovating and optimizing working methods in line with stakeholders’ expectations.

At the end of 2021, the PGA launched a social media campaign entitled “New Year’s Resolution for Vaccine Equity”. As part of this campaign, he invited delegations to join him by sending to the world a clear message of commitment and partnership on the importance of vaccine equity. **More than 130 Ambassadors and other representatives joined the campaign ahead of the PGA flagship high-level meeting on vaccination.**

The international response to COVID-19 was the focus of discussion at the General Assembly High-level thematic debate entitled “**Galvanizing momentum for universal vaccination**”, held on **25 February 2022**. The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid convened this high-level meeting to bring together world leaders and a range of stakeholders to recommit to global vaccine equity.

The event provided Member States and other relevant stakeholders an opportunity to review existing challenges in vaccine production, distribution, and immunization, and provided a platform to build synergy among existing strategies and initiatives aimed at bridging the vaccine gap. The meeting consisted of an opening segment, a special segment, two high-level roundtables, and a

high-level closing segment. The plenary heard from 7 Heads of States and Governments, 2 Vice Presidents 4 Heads of Government 3 Deputy Prime Ministers, 68 Ministers, 8 Vice Ministers and 18 Permanent Representatives.

Member States noted that it is in every country's interest to vaccinate the world as quickly as possible. Failure to do so risks new variants emerging that could evade vaccines and undo all the hard work up to this point while leading to more deaths, overwhelmed health systems and untold economic damage.

It was further noted that while the fruits of our collective efforts are materializing, to achieve the global vaccination targets at a desirable pace, manufacturers, governments, international institutions, and other non-governmental organizations must scale up efforts to support countries in their national vaccine rollouts and remove barriers to the efficient distribution and administration of vaccine doses.

Greater efforts are required across UN agencies to address growing anti-vaccine trust. It is also important to continue increasing confidence in vaccines and vaccination programs, particularly by countering misinformation, providing timely vaccine effectiveness and safety data, and supporting adequate no fault compensation programs. Many Member States also encouraged the elimination of remaining trade and regulatory barriers to support supply and free flow of goods, raw materials, services, and personnel needed for COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing, distribution, and administration.

Event Summary: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/wp-content/uploads/sites/101/2022/04/Summary-of-HLTD-on-GMUV.pdf>;

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### 2.2.2. Rebuilding sustainably

Building on the discussions and relevant outcomes of:

- G-20 briefings
- High-level meeting to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA)
- Work of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanisation
- Fourth Holhuashi Dialogue on the topic “The Decade of Recovery – What’s next? Looking at sustainable recovery through tourism”
- informal interactive dialogue of the Assembly on commodity markets entitled “What’s Next for Commodity Markets
- High-level Thematic Debate on the theme “Putting sustainable and resilient tourism at the heart of an inclusive recovery”
- High-level meeting of the General Assembly on improving global road safety, under the theme “The 2030 horizon for road safety: securing a decade of action and delivery
- High-Level Special Event, entitled “Time to Act Together: Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis”
- High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests
- Board of Advisers on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- A Special High-level Dialogue on the theme “The Africa We Want: Reconfirming the Development of Africa as a Priority of the United Nations System.

The 76<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly was best placed to push for building back better, stronger, as well as greener and bluer after the COVID-19 pandemic, which has threatened to reverse decades of development gains and impeded the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Focusing on the needs for a post-COVID-19 world to be a more sustainable one, President Shahid implemented several initiatives while adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the guiding framework. PGA convened high-level events and briefing to Reinvigorate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, addressing the means of implementation, and delivering targeted interventions for countries in special situations.

In light of the G20’s impact on critical issues such as vaccines, COVID-19 recoveries, and climate actions, a virtual debrief by the G20 Sherpa for Italy, Ambassador Luigi Mattiolo, on the outcomes of the G-20 Rome Leaders Summit, was convened on 30 November 2021, in line with resolution 71/327. In addition, a briefing by the G20 Co-Sherpa of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani, on the priorities of Indonesia’s G20 Presidency, was convened on 4 March 2022. Relatedly, with reference to the Secretary-General’s proposal in ‘Our Common Agenda’ report to convene Biennial Summits of the G20, ECOSOC, Secretary General and International Financial Institutions, based on the broad support from Member States and relevant recommendations during the PGA-convened informal consultation on this topic, the PGA invited the Secretariat to continue working on this proposal, including the scope and modalities of such summits, and to provide regular updates to Member States. The ECOSOC was invited to further discuss the proposal, considering the Member States’ call for inclusivity, results-orientation and avoiding duplication with existing processes.



On 28 April 2022, in accordance with resolution 75/224, the President convened a High-Level meeting to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), which was adopted at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016. Its implementation contributes to the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, including Goal 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Preparations for the meeting were informed by the Report of the Secretary-General on the Progress in the implementation of the NUA ([A/76/639-E/2022/10](#)), the deliberations of the five Regional Forums for Sustainable Development on the New Urban Agenda, inputs from Member States conveyed during an informal General Assembly briefing, and the strategic guidance and key messaging provided by the President of the General Assembly's Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization, comprised of Member States, UN system representatives and diverse constituencies of the New Urban Agenda. The meeting focused on repositioning the New Urban Agenda strategically as a road map for accelerating sustainable development, climate action, and building peace. Participants recognized the importance of cities and transformative actions for ensuring a more just, sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Details of the event: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/new-urban-agenda/>

The President convened an Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization on 20 December 2021, to provide strategic guidance on the preparations for the high-level meeting and identify key messages for advocacy in its build-up and for other strategic engagements related to urbanization during the 76th session of the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee contributed greatly towards the large momentum achieved for the NUA, through its diverse membership that informed preparations and focus areas to ensure the meeting's inclusivity and impact, as well as in mobilizing interest across the UN Membership and UN System and diverse stakeholder groups and large networks working on sustainable urbanization. Members of the Advisory Committee supported momentum-building for the high-level meeting by organizing twenty side-events from 25 to 29 April 2022, including the World Assembly on Local and Regional Governments. The Committee's work was informed by cross-system consultations regarding its objectives and scope of work to avoid duplication and maximize synergies across charter bodies. A key outcome of the high-level meeting and the Committee's work on its preparatory process was the launch of the "Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization and the New Urban Agenda", which can build on this momentum, including supporting greater coordination and synergies between New York, Nairobi and Geneva. Relatedly, two informal virtual briefings by the President of the General Assembly's Office were convened by UN Habitat, UNECE and the Geneva Cities Hub for Geneva-based UN offices and Member State delegations, in addition to in-person briefings by UN-Habitat to all regional groups in New York to strengthen interest in the high-level meeting's goals and to advocate for coordinated urgent action. The Committee's meetings were chaired by the President of the General Assembly and summaries were circulated to all permanent missions and permanent observers in order to increase awareness and engagement with sustainable urbanization solutions. The Committee's meetings were followed by informal expert-level meetings to further support preparations.

Due to its success in advocating for sustainable urbanization, the incoming PGA may wish to consider continuing the Committee's work, in the interests of accelerating the SDGs and COVID recoveries since cities are cross cutting across the entire 2030 agenda and are vital to achieving the Paris Agreement and keeping the 1.5 degrees target alive. Summaries: [first meeting](#), [second meeting](#), [third meeting](#).

To review trends and prospects in global commodities markets in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery process, the PGA convened an informal interactive dialogue of the Assembly on commodity markets entitled “What’s Next for Commodity Markets” on 31 March 2022, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/194. The event was organized in collaboration with UNCTAD and included participants from governments, the UN System, Private Sector and civil society. A comprehensive summary captured the discussion, key points and recommendations regarding trends and prospects in global commodities markets in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery process; strategies for structural transformation and export diversification; and the role of technology in diversification. A special focus was placed on access to sustainable energy. Details of the event: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/commodity-markets/>

With a view to support countries overcome the socio-economic impacts of, and economic devastation caused by the pandemic, President Shahid dedicated the fourth Holhuashi Dialogue to the topic “The Decade of Recovery – What’s Next? Looking at sustainable recovery through tourism”, on 3 December. This topic was chosen in recognition that the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs began with a global pandemic like no other in history, and that the tourism sector is among the hardest hit, impacted by COVID-19 as well as climate change. This Holhuashi recognized the opportunities to be harnessed from the global recovery effort in support of a resilient, equitable and inclusive recovery of the tourism sector, which is a vital development lifeline for many vulnerable countries, including SIDS and African countries. During the dialogue, it was suggested that the General Assembly provides a unique platform from which to promote actions to ensure an SDG-aligned, climate-friendly transformation of the tourism sector. This resulted in the special high-level event of the GA on tourism held on 4 May.

Building political momentum and strengthening commitment from the international community and relevant stakeholders to support a rebound of the tourism sector globally that is more resilient and fully aligned with Agenda 2030, a High-level Thematic Debate on the theme “Putting sustainable and resilient tourism at the heart of an inclusive recovery”, was held on 4 May 2022. The debate was convened in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization. This was the first-time tourism was discussed in a focused manner at the high-level meeting of the general assembly. The debate attracted widespread participation from government representatives from capitals, civil society, academia, media, the private sector, the UN System and other international organisations, including a Vice President and 14 Ministers of Tourism representing all regions. A comprehensive summary captured experiences, best practices and key messages to support greater alignment of tourism activities with Agenda 2030 in the context of COVID-19 recovery. Details of the event: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/tourism/> .

The High-level meeting of the General Assembly on improving global road safety, under the theme “The 2030 horizon for road safety: securing a decade of action and delivery” was held on 30 June - 1 July 2022. The high-level meeting adopted by consensus a milestone political declaration on road safety, almost 80 high-level speakers delivered statements at the plenary, and government ministers, heads of international and regional organizations, representatives from civil society and the private sector participated in fruitful interactive discussions. The meeting was organized by the President in consultation with the World Health Organisation, and with the support of the UN Regional Commissions and the Special Envoy on Road Safety. Through the political declaration, Member States collectively reaffirmed the importance of improving global road safety, highlighted our shared responsibility at all levels, while acknowledging the primary responsibility of governments, and committed to implementing the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030, with the aim of reducing road traffic deaths by at least 50 per cent by 2030. In the statements and discussion, all Member States and stakeholders called for strengthening political will, promoting cooperation with all stakeholders, implementing a comprehensive approach to

road safety that is based on science, evidence, and best practices, and addressing risk factors that undermine road safety. Integrating a gender perspective into all policies and actions relevant to road safety plans and ensuring adequate and predictable financing to sustain our efforts in the long-term were highlighted as key elements in the Decade of Action. This gathering has put us closer to the goal to reduce road traffic deaths by 50 per cent by 2030. A supporting event was also convened by the President on 3 December 2021, with an interactive thematic dialogue session on domestic and international financing, and an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing. Details of the meetings: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/event/global-road-safety/>

The High-Level Special Event, entitled ‘Time to Act Together: Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis’ was jointly organized on 18 July 2022 by the President of the General Assembly and the Committee on World Food Security supported by – and in support of - the UN Secretary-General’s Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy, and Finance. The event was well attended by relevant Stakeholders, including governments, international and regional organizations, multilateral development banks, civil society, the private sector and academia. The event saw immense interest from the Member States to speak, with ministerial and other level participants. The high-level event fostered coordinated policy responses to the current food crisis. Participants recognized the importance of humanitarian relief to address the most urgent cases of food insecurity during this crisis. This may include a wide array of tools, comprising cash assistance and support to local protection mechanisms. Some also highlighted the need of boosting social protection as a way to cushion the impact of the crisis into the most vulnerable. A Chair’s Summary capturing the views expressed and recommendations made during the high-level event was prepared and circulated among the Member States. Details of the event: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/food-security/>.

Delivering targeted interventions for countries in special situations, President Shahid convened:

Four meetings of the Board of Advisers on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, first constituted during the 75<sup>th</sup> session and reconstituted on 20 October 2021 with 16 members including chairs of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS groups, Permanent Representatives from relevant countries, principals or representatives of UN agencies and UN Foundation. The Board discussed and provided recommendations at its meetings under the themes ‘Recovery from COVID in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS: What more can be done?’, ‘Financing a Sustainable Recovery and the SDGs in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS’, ‘Rebuilding Sustainably in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS’ and ‘Responding to the Needs of the Planet’. Summaries of each meeting reflecting key deliberations were circulated to the full membership under Chatham House rules. Summaries: first meeting, second meeting, third meeting, fourth meeting.

A 12-member high-level panel of experts to finalize the Multidimensional Vulnerability index for Small Island Developing States, pursuant to resolution 76/203, paragraph 8. PGA circulated A draft TOR on 23 December 2021 and the panel was appointed and tasked on 25 February 2022. In line with the resolution, the work of the panel will continue until December 2022. The OPGA SIDS Team was part of the technical support group, in addition to DESA and OHRLLS. The task for OPGA is to act as a conduit between the panel and the Member States. In this regard, the OPGA facilitated an informal briefing to Member States on 19 April 2022. The interim report of the panel was circulated to Member States on 5 August 2022. The report of the panel will be finalized by end of December 2022.

A Special High-level Dialogue on the theme “The Africa We Want: Reconfirming the Development of Africa as a Priority of the United Nations System”, together with the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Collen Vixen Kelapile. The dialogue took place on 20 July and attracted

participants from Governments, civil society, international financial institutions, the African Union, the UN System, among others. It included two interactive roundtable sessions – the first focused on preparing for COP27 and the second on domestic resource mobilisation, financing and partnerships. A comprehensive summary captured key messages and recommendations to accelerate implementation of commitments for the sustainable development of Africa in line with Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. In addition, the President of the General Assembly and the President of ECOSOC jointly issued a “Call to Action” to underline the need for all stakeholders to take urgent action to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 across Africa. Details of the event: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/special-HLD-on-africa/>

Furthermore, it needs to be highlighted that the General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution [A/RES/76/258](#), in which it endorsed The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2030, which was the outcome of the fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, taking place in New York on 17 March 2022. As per the General Assembly mandate, derived from resolution 76/251, the second part of the Conference will take place in Doha, from 5 to 9 March 2023.

The PGA convened a High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, at the start of the session, on 28 September 2021 to raise awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their elimination in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. 7 Head of States/Governments, 42 Foreign Ministers, 6 Vice/Deputy Ministers, 3 high-ranking officials and 31 Permanent Representatives participated in the event. In addition to Member States, 4 also participated in the meeting.

Opening the meeting, PGA noted that more than 15,000 atomic bombs remain operational, collectively making the world less safe. He said atomic bombs are not compatible with the collective view of the future, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic forced all States to reflect on the kind of world they want. Under the Presidency of Hope, he engaged with Member States to see how we can quickly and comprehensively free the world of its nuclear arsenals. He expressed his confidence that with collective determination, we could deliver on the commitment towards ridding the world of its nuclear arsenals.

Another high-level event, devoted to enhancing public awareness and education about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world, was High-level Plenary Meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests, convened by the PGA on 7 September 2022. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/51, the meeting was opened by PGA and included statements by Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO and the Director General of IAEA. In addition, a representative from civil society organizations made one of the keynote addresses. Representatives of regional groups and individual Member States delivered statements during the meeting.

### 2.2.3. Responding to the needs of the planet

Building on the discussions and relevant outcomes of:

- High-level thematic debate on 'Delivering climate action: for people, planet and prosperity', 26 October 2021
- Preparatory meeting for the international meeting entitled "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity" (resolution 75/326), 28 March 2022
- Interactive dialogue on the theme “Harmony with Nature and Biodiversity: Contributions of Ecological Economics and Earth-centered law”, 22 April 2022
- Informal meeting of the plenary to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 29 April 2022
- Holhuashi Dialogue on the topic “Greening the Blue: UN System Coherence Between Words and Actions in Fighting Global Warming, 9 June 2022
- The 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC), 27 June to 1 July 2022, Lisbon, Portugal
- High-Level Thematic Debate on the theme “Moment for Nature”, 19 July 2022

Climate change remains the greatest challenge of our time. It is a cross-cutting and all-encompassing game changer and threat multiplier. The ocean continues to be affected by harmful consumption and production processes, including proliferating marine plastic pollution. Biodiversity loss, desertification, sustainable fisheries management and access to sustainable energy – these are among the key issues of our generation, requiring global responses.

President Shahid used his convening power to boost global efforts and deliver on greater focus on climate action and environment, out of his conviction that the General Assembly should lead in galvanizing efforts towards greater climate action, and connecting dots in the context of COP26 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the COP15 to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Ocean Conference, all of which were held in 2021-2022. This was especially needed given that the COVID-19 pandemic has overwhelmed States’ capacities, just when they were needed most to address climate priorities.

In this regard, at the start of the 76<sup>th</sup> session, the first high-level meeting President Shahid convened at his initiative focused on “Delivering Climate Action: for people, planet, and prosperity”. The event took place on 26 October 2021, in response to calls by Member States to enhance political momentum ahead of the twenty-sixth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) held in Glasgow, considering the urgency of upscaling climate action to achieve the 1.5 degrees temperature goal and ensure that climate change remains the highest priority on the international agenda. The debate highlighted measures to bridge the gap between current and required technical, upskilling and financing capacities to achieve the 1.5 degrees target – including best practices that simultaneously address climate action and the myriad structural challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the event took stock of the ambition-raising initiatives from Member States and stakeholders made along the path to COP26, to identify areas and sectors where more can be done. In preparation for the High-Level Thematic Debate, and in support of existing regional initiatives on climate action, the UN Regional Commissions prepared a Supplementary Information Note on Regional Perspectives on Climate Finance. GA High-level Thematic Debate confirmed that,

while the UNFCCC remains the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change, the UN General Assembly has a critical role in creating a space to foster political consensus, raise awareness, give strategic direction to the UN system and forge multi-sectoral partnerships among the broader global community members. This was paramount given the scale and breadth of ambition needed to secure humanity's future, ultimately to maintain hope in our shared future on our blue planet. The partnerships and solutions proposed during the Debate were captured in the [PGA Summary](#). Details of the event: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/event/deliver-climate-action/>

To renew momentum for action on all fronts, the preparatory meeting for the international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity” was held on 28 March 2022, in line with resolution 75/326. Stockholm +50 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 and its outcome documents, which for the first time recognized the state of the environment as a major issue of concern. The preparatory meeting, organized in close collaboration with UNEP, and the co-Presidents of the International Meeting, resulted in productive, multistakeholder discussions on the three themes of the leadership dialogues at the International Meeting in Stockholm. In his closing remarks, the President of the General Assembly urged the participating States and stakeholders to make further commitments for action, to decarbonize every possible aspect of life and to take holistic approach to understand development issues, one which gives equal bearing to human and environmental well-being. He also stressed the necessity to listen to the voices of the future generations. Details of the meeting: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/preparatory-meeting-stockholm50>.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Interactive Dialogue on Harmony with Nature under the theme “Harmony with Nature and Biodiversity: Ecological economics and Earth-centered law” on 22 April 2022 as mandated in resolution A/RES/75/220. Since 2009, the General Assembly has adopted twelve consecutive resolutions on Harmony with Nature, as well as the resolution A/RES/63/278 designating 22 April as International Mother Earth Day. Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic presents a unique opportunity to build back better, this interactive dialogue highlighted initiatives and advances in ecological economics and Earth-centered law, in support of the transformative paradigm necessary to build back better, a world that lives in Harmony with Nature. Summary of the event: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/id-on-harmony-with-nature-summary/>.

The PGA's signature event - High-Level Thematic Debate on the theme “Moment for Nature”, was held on 19 July 2022, to address the level of cohesion needed among the global environmental work streams to keep the 1.5 degrees temperature goal alive and rapidly accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also aimed to highlight that while climate change is creating vicious cycles of rising temperatures and more severe weather patterns, including droughts, floods, and wildfires, the interlinked environmental crises are also significantly stressing water and food insecurity.

To inform preparations for the Moment for Nature, the President of the General Assembly's Office requested UNEP to provide an analysis focusing on multilateral environmental meetings held during the 76th session of the General Assembly (2021-2022) on diverse environmental workstreams, to provide overviews of current global environmental commitments and key messages, outcomes, and commitments made during the period. The analysis included commitments from 10 meetings (COP26 of the UNFCCC, COP15 of the UNCBD, COP15 of the UNCCD, the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, UNEA 5.2, UNEP@50, the Stockholm+50 International Meeting, the UN Food Systems Summit, the Sustainable Transport Conference and the High-Level Dialogue on Energy. In addition, the analysis outlined common challenges

identified by Member States across the above-mentioned meetings and included a non-exhaustive sample of cross-cutting UN initiatives and partnerships for nature that provide models for the levels of synergies required on all fronts.

The meeting provided concrete proposals and solutions to inform future action and policies by the General Assembly and implementation bodies at international, regional, and local levels, as well as to inform relevant policies and actions by Member States and other stakeholders; and to inform engagement of Member States at other related high-level meetings and processes. Key actions identified during the Moment for Nature included the urgent need to integrate all environmental action plans at the national levels, particularly the three Rio conventions through their local focal points, as doing so would allow for unified strategies and implementation plans which map out common challenges, and simultaneously identify the most transformative investments needed to cover all work streams at every level – from local to national to regional to global. Details of the event: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/moment-for-nature/>

The PGA convened the **ninth Holhuashi Dialogue** on the topic “**Greening the Blue: UN System Coherence Between Words and Actions in Fighting Global Warming**”, on 9 June 2022. The UN “Greening the Blue” initiative has been working since 2009 towards an eco-friendly UN System which is in alignment with global environmental commitments. Participants discussed [the 2021 Greening the Blue Report](#) findings regarding UN operations that have managed to drastically reduce their environmental footprint resulting in multiple positive consequences in countries in terms of pollution, biodiversity, and climate. Participants noted that much more had to be done and stressed the need for all new and existing facilities to be disaster risk informed, and to incorporate planning on how UN infrastructure and investment decisions can positively impact local communities in virtuous cycles of sustainable consumption and production. Upscaling efforts will also require technical support in key areas, including logistics, shift to more sustainable sources of energy, and waste management among others, as well as the needed support for localizing and upscaling these innovations to all offices and locations. Greener UN operations and facilities can contribute to host countries’ efforts to mitigate climate change by sharing of best practices and acceleration of multi-stakeholder partnerships guided by national priorities. In this regard, more work can be done to identify a set of technical and management solutions that can be implemented and replicated by the UN system and in host countries via [the UN Sustainable Development Group](#), the Development Coordination Office and the Resident Coordinators system and other interagency mechanisms such as [the UN High-level Committee on Management \(HLCM\)](#)<sup>1</sup> and the Environment Management Group. Delegations noted that apart from discussions among UN entities and [the UN Chief Executive Board adoption of the Strategy for Sustainability Management 2020-2030](#), Member States are not very active in the Greening the Blue process, and that greater Member State ownership would be needed to accelerate action and partnership. Summary of the event: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/summary-of-the-ninth-holhuashi-greening-the-blue/>.

Upon the request of Singapore, Denmark, Grenada, Kenya and Portugal, President Shahid convened a high-level informal commemorative meeting of the plenary on 29 April 2022 to mark the **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, which established a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities. This initiative ensured that the milestone would be celebrated during the 76<sup>th</sup> session, ahead of the commemoration of the adoption and opening for signature of the Convention on 8-9 December 2022, during the 77<sup>th</sup> session.

In this context, the high-level informal commemorative meeting held in April included opening statements by the PGA and by the USG for Legal Affairs and UN Legal Counsel as well as keynote remarks by the President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the

President of the International Court of Justice, the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, the President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and the Chair of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. The meeting called for continued work together for 40 more years of success, strengthening commitments to the protection of oceans and seas, as well as principles and value of multilateralism.

The 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC): Convened by the General Assembly under resolution 73/292 and decision 75/578, the high-level 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development was held in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July 2022. During that period, the Conference held nine plenary meetings and eight interactive dialogues.

The President of the General Assembly delivered remarks at the opening of the Conference during its 1<sup>st</sup> plenary meeting, on 27 June, as well as in three side events: (1) “Leading by doing: Latest large-scale actions and new announcements on ocean conservation to achieve 2030 goal”, convened by Portugal, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Mozambique, on 27 June; (2) "Ocean Action in Support of SDG 14 - The AIS SIDS Perspective", convened by Cabo Verde, Maldives, Seychelles and Singapore, on 28 June; and (3) “Launch of the 2022 edition of the flagship report ‘State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture – SOFIA’, convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), on 29 June.

The Conference was concluded on 1 July, with (1) the adoption of the brief, concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility” and of the report of the Conference; and (2) the recommendation that the General Assembly endorse, at its 76<sup>th</sup> session, the declaration as adopted by the Conference. Following up on this outcome, the GA endorsed the Declaration on 21 July 2022.

Building on the success of the first two Ocean Conferences, and following the announcements of the Governments of Costa Rica and France to co-host the next Ocean Conference, preparations are expected to start soon regarding the mandate, modalities and the outcome of such an event.



## 2.2.4. Respecting the rights of all

Building on the discussions and relevant outcomes of:

- High-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, 22 September 2021
- High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, 22-23 November 2021
- UNHCR’s Pledging Conference, 7 December 2021
- Annual commemorative meeting of the Assembly for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 18 March 2022
- Commemorative meeting of the General Assembly to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 29 March 2022
- Informal Meeting of the Plenary to Hear an Interim Oral Update on the Situation of Human Rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, 8 April 2022
- Inaugural International Migration Review Forum, and an Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, 16-20 May 2022
- High-level debate on the theme “Enhancing youth mainstreaming in crime prevention policies”, 6 June 2022
- Informal Meeting of the Plenary to Hear Briefings by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, 13 June 2022
- Informal High-level Meeting to mark the commemoration of the first International Day for Countering Hate Speech, 20 June 2022
- UNRWA Pledging conference, 23 June 2022
- Informal plenary meeting of the Assembly in observance of the Nelson Mandela International Day, 18 July 2022
- High-level Forum on Culture of Peace, 6 September 2022
- PGAs HOPE Fellowship

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights treaties and instruments, the President spared no effort to put humanity at the center of all efforts at the General Assembly, raising the collective conscience of the international community to counter the growing tide of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as all other forms of violence and discrimination.

Symbolically, the first resolution of the session - A/RES/76/1 reaffirmed the General Assembly’s determination to stand United Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance. Further during the session, the GA’s work focused on violence against women and girls, discrimination and inequality – all of which have worsened during the pandemic. As a lifelong supporter of gender equality, President Shahid focused on the empowerment of women, in the spirit of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, building on good initiatives such as the President’s Gender Advisory Group. Furthermore, he looked for and listened to young people during his trips, events, university lectures. Through his fellowship programme, he ensured that the young people had a say in the decisions that will shape their destinies, are represented, and have their voices heard.

### 2.2.4.1. 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

“Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent” was the theme of the high-level meeting to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, held on 22 September 2021, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/237.

The high-level meeting which was composed of an opening plenary meeting, two consecutive roundtables and a closing plenary meeting, served as a platform for speakers, representatives of Members States and a broad array of stakeholders, to highlight the successes and challenges in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance since the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in 2001, with a particular focus on people of African descent. The meeting focused on discussions on contemporary and emerging challenges in this area and the way forward in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

The high-level meeting resulted in adoption, without a vote, of a Political Declaration “United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”, proclaiming the strong determination of the international community to mobilize political will at the national, regional and international levels and to accelerate momentum to make the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the protection of the victims thereof, a high priority (A/RES/76/1).

#### **2.2.4.2. United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons**

On 22 and 23 November 2021, the PGA convened the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions A/RES/74/176 and A/RES/75/283. The two-day high-level meeting consisted of an opening plenary meeting at which the 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted, plenary meetings, two interactive panel discussions and closing plenary meeting. The first interactive panel discussion focused on the theme “The Global Plan of Action and enduring trafficking issues and gaps including, inter alia, the trafficking of women and children, particularly girls, for the purpose of sexual exploitation”, while the second interactive panel discussion addressed the topic “The Global Plan of Action and emerging issues, such as trafficking in persons in the context of COVID-19, and the misuse of information and communication technologies to facilitate trafficking, including trafficking of children for the purpose of sexual exploitation on the Internet”. The meeting highlighted the pressing need to improve capacities to prevent and respond to human trafficking as well as to address the root causes that facilitate trafficking. It also stressed the necessity of adopting a whole-of-society approach to combatting trafficking, that strengthens partnerships between governments, civil society, and the private sector, while integrating the perspectives of survivors and recognizing trafficked persons as agents of change. During the event, following her inspirational speech, the keynote speaker, Ms. Kendall Alaimo, trafficking in persons survivor, artist and advocate donated her artwork, entitled “Survivors’ Voices Lead the Way” to the OPGA.

#### **2.2.4.3. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

On 18 March 2022, the PGA convened a commemorative plenary meeting of the General Assembly to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/226. In addition to the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Chair of the Committee on

the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and a representative of CSO (Mr. Leyner Palacios, Commissioner for the Colombian Truth Commission) addressed the commemorative meeting. Member States made regional group statements, as well as a limited number of individual statements. The PGA encouraged people everywhere to strengthen and consolidate their voices against racism, to mobilize against all forms and manifestations of racial discrimination and injustice, and to ensure a safe environment for those who speak up.

#### 2.2.4.4. International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/7, the PGA held a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 29 March 2022 to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, under the theme “Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism”. The meeting featured the participation of the Secretary-General and Ms. Nikole Hannah-Jones, the creator of The New York Times’ groundbreaking 1619 Project, as keynote speaker. Member State statements were delivered by the Chairs of the regional groups. The PGA stressed the 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.

On 17 March 2022, the week before the commemorative meeting to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the PGA visited the Ark of Return, the United Nations Permanent Memorial to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. He was accompanied by H.E. Mr. François Jackman, Permanent Representative of Barbados, Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); H.E. Mr. Nkopane Raseeng Monyane, Permanent Representative of Lesotho and Chair of the African Group; H.E. Ms. A. Missouri Sherman-Peter, Permanent Observer of CARICOM, and H.E. Ms. Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Permanent Observer of the African Union. After receiving a tour of the memorial, President Shahid noted that “The Ark of Return memorial stands as a poignant legacy of the horrific slave trade and the persistent problems of racism. The memorial reminds us of the bigotry that was prevalent during the times which were witness to this horrible practice of humans ill-treating fellow humans to the extent that humanity was sacrificed for profits. The memorial also stands testimony as a reminder that racism has no place on this planet.”

#### 2.2.4.5. Situation of Human Rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

On 8 April 2022, President Shahid convened the informal meeting of the plenary to hear an interim oral update on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, pursuant to paragraph 64 of General Assembly resolution 76/228. The meeting addressed the lack of progress in addressing the tragedy of tens of thousands of missing persons as the Syrian conflict enters its 12<sup>th</sup> year. The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Michelle Bachelet delivered the interim oral update on behalf of the Secretary-General. She informed Member States that, as required by the resolution, bilateral and multilateral consultations are being held with relevant actors, such as the Commission of Inquiry on Syria, the International Impartial and Independent Mechanism, the Office of the Special Envoy, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Commission on Missing Persons, the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The role of Member States and how they can contribute to advancing action in this area was highlighted at the meeting. The High Commissioner further called on the international community to respond to the magnitude and horror of the violations and crimes committed in Syria with concrete action to more strongly uphold human rights, human dignity and justice.

#### 2.2.4.6. Inaugural International Migration Review Forum

The inaugural International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) took place from 17 to 20 May 2022, as per the modalities outlined in General Assembly resolution 73/326. It consisted of four interactive multi-stakeholder round tables, a policy debate, and a plenary. The Forum was preceded by one-day informal interactive multistakeholder hearing on 16 May 2022. Previously, as part of the preparations, an informal meeting of the Plenary to hear a briefing on the report of the Secretary-General on the Global Compact was held on 16 February 2022.

It was the first-ever intergovernmental global platform to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. The Forum was well attended by Member States, the UN System, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. The General Debate included statements by one Head of Government, 20 Ministers, 27 Vice Ministers, and other high-level representatives amongst the 113 statements delivered by States and 7 by observers respectively. Three group statements were delivered on behalf of: the Regional Conference on Migration, the South American Conference on Migration, and the 32 Champion Countries of the Global Compact.

The major achievement was the adoption, without a vote, of the Progress Declaration of the IMRF, which covers the full spectrum of migration issues and echoes well the 360-degree approach of the GCM. This represents a crucial step, as it will be the guide to accelerate the implementation of the Global Compact and to strengthen cooperation on international migration as States and communities build on best-practices, including those that emerged in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The audience welcomed the adoption of the Progress Declaration with ovation and applause. More than 2000 people watched the relevant part of the Forum live on UN WebTV or on-demand.

The General Assembly endorsed the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum by its resolution 76/266, adopted without a vote, on 7 June 2022. In accordance with operative paragraph 24 (b) of General Assembly resolution 73/326, the PGA circulated the summaries of the plenary, round tables, and policy debate of the IMRF. Secretariat will also issue a report of the Forum - A/AC.293/2022/2.

For future forums and migration-related meetings, targeted efforts to ensure regional and gender representation throughout the panels, as well as the participation of youth, mayors, and migrants, should be continued for future forums and migration-related meetings and to continue the work with all Member States to make migration safe, orderly and regular. Further details of the event are available here: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/event/international-migration-review-forum/>.

#### 2.2.4.7. Enhancing youth mainstreaming in crime prevention policies

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/187, the PGA held, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, a high-level debate on the theme “Enhancing youth mainstreaming in crime prevention policies” and prepared a summary of the discussion for transmission to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and to all Member States. The High-level debate consisted of an opening segment which featured remarks by the PGA, the Deputy Secretary General, the Executive Director of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, Ms. Ghada Waly, and a Youth Representative, Mr. Junbert Pabon of the Philippines, followed by a High-level segment and an Interactive Panel Discussion on “Mainstreaming youth in crime and

violence prevention policy development and evaluation”. Throughout the High-level debate, participants emphasized the importance of the discussions to share national practices, and lessons learned on the development and implementation of effective and innovative crime prevention policies as essential tools for the development, and for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

#### 2.2.4.8. Briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar

The humanitarian needs of 14.4 million persons, which amounts to one quarter of the people of Myanmar were highlighted at the informal meeting of the plenary to hear a briefing by the Special Envoy (SE) of the Secretary-General on Myanmar on 13 June 2022. President Shahid convened the meeting on 13 June 2022, pursuant to paragraph 22 of the General Assembly resolution 76/180, on the “Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar”. The briefing highlighted that the political crisis of 2021 opened new front lines to the situation in Myanmar and since 2021, there were 1 million displaced people, of which 700,000 are from Burma. The SE also briefed the membership on the multi-track strategy to deal with this multi-dimensional crisis that revolves around four key factors: Humanitarian and protection needs; Return to civil rule; Effective and democratic governance; and durable solutions for the Rohingya. Gradual improvements of inter-communal relationships and social integration of the Rohingya in Rakhine States was also underscored, as well as the new dynamics related to solidarity among youth emerging from this crisis.

#### 2.2.4.9. First International Day for Countering Hate Speech

As mandated by General Assembly resolution 75/309, the PGA held an Informal High-level meeting to mark the commemoration of the first International Day for Countering Hate Speech on 20 June 2022. The event featured remarks by the PGA and the Special Adviser on Genocide Prevention, followed by interventions by the chairs of regional groups. The PGA highlighted the destructive effects that hate speech can have on the unity that is necessary to collectively address the global problems that the United Nations was built to address. He noted that the repercussions of Hate Speech go far beyond words. Further, he invoked the very founding of the UN as an institution created in the ruins of one of history’s darkest moments, one that was fuelled by hate. The High-level meeting galvanized political support to develop strategies to identify, address and counter hate speech at the national and global levels.

#### 2.2.4.10. UNHCR’s Pledging Conference

Calling for increased funding for UNHCR’s activities addressing the health and wellbeing of forcibly displaced people globally, despite the increasingly challenging circumstances brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, PGA participated via a recorded message in the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR’s pledging conference). The Conference was held in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/75, on 7 December 2021. The PGA stressed the importance of UNHCR’s ongoing work that spans more than 130 countries. He emphasized that UNHCR’s work is critical to supporting displaced and host communities alike, while generating solutions that can resolve the issues of displacement and statelessness. The pledging conference resulted in a record US\$1.054 billion in support of the UNHCR’s work in 2022, to continue lifesaving programs worldwide for millions of those forcibly displaced. A further USD 808 million has been pledged for UNHCR’s programmes in 2023 and beyond.

#### 2.2.4.11. UNRWA Pledging Conference

President Shahid convened Pledging Conference in support of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (Pledging Conference) was convened pursuant to the General Assembly Resolution 1729 (XVI), on 23 June 2022, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at the UN HQ. In his pre-recorded message, the President of the General Assembly stressed that stagnation of the funds for the past decade, as well as interruptions and decrease in funding from major donors, including regional donors, and the unpredictability of income to UNRWA have compelled it to operate for a decade with an average shortfall of around US\$ 100 million. It was noted that shifting geopolitical priorities and regional dynamics, and the emergence of new humanitarian crises, have deprioritized the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the Agency continues to be under sources of intense pressure.

The meeting underscored the commitment of the General Assembly to uphold the rights of Palestine refugees and its instruction to UNRWA to deliver basic services until a just and lasting solution. Member states collectively confirmed US\$ 160 million in pledges to support the health, education, social protection and other essential services that UNRWA delivers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

#### 2.2.4.12. Annual Nelson Mandela International Day

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/13, the PGA convened on 18 July 2022, an informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly to observe the annual Nelson Mandela International Day. The meeting featured the participation of the 2020 Nelson Mandela prize Laureates, Mrs. Marianna V. Vardinoyannis of Greece (virtually) and Dr. Morissanda Kouyaté of Guinea, the deputy Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Mondli Gungubele, Minister in the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York, Prince Harry and Meghan, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Member States made regional group statements. The PGA highlighted the legacy of Nelson Mandela who devoted his life to the pursuit of equality and freedom and commended to follow in his footsteps and emulating his lifelong service to community.

Nelson Mandela International Day was also traditionally marked with a community service event in which all UN delegates and staff were invited to pay tribute to the memory of President Mandela by participating in a community service event. This year's service event consisted of weeding, picking-up litter, painting, and food distribution at Thomas Jefferson Park in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City, a neighborhood with historical ties to Nelson Mandela.

#### 2.2.4.13. High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace

The High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace under the theme, "The Culture of Peace: Importance of justice, equality, and inclusion for advancing peacebuilding," was convened in accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/68, on 6 September 2022, in close collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, the proponent of the mandating resolution. This year's forum offered an opportunity to the Member States and Observers of the United Nations and other stakeholders to renew their commitments to the full and effective implementation of the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, with particular emphasis on advancing peacebuilding by ensuring justice, equality and inclusion. The event was webcast on UN WebTV and open to UN agencies, civil society organisations and other stakeholders.

#### 2.2.4.14. PGA HOPE Fellowship

The 2022 PGA Fellowship for HOPE started on 10 Jan 2022 and lasted through the mandate of the 76th session. The Fellowship was generously funded through Member State contribution. Apart from working with OPGA, the Fellows were also assigned to their respective Missions to gain first-hand experience of multilateral diplomatic affairs. Knowledge on multilateral processes was deepened by regular trainings provided by UNITAR. The trainings focused on the workings of the Principal Organs of the UN, as well as other thematic issues. Fellows worked on research papers on topics related to the current work of the General Assembly, under the supervision of their mentors in OPGA.

The Fellows also had opportunities to engage with other Permanent Missions in New York. From 10 to 28 May 2022, the Fellows undertook a Study Tour to Europe organized and funded by the European Union and the Swiss Government. The fellows visited Brussels, Belgium; Geneva, Switzerland; and Florence, Italy where they attended training sessions; meetings with Government Officials and representatives of International Organizations; and undertook field visits.

**Selection Process:** Member States and Observer States, from underrepresented countries, particularly LDC, LLDC and SIDS were invited to nominate, through their Missions in New York, one candidate for the Fellowship. Gender balance and regional representation to be considered in the selection of Fellows. Nominees for the Fellowship to meet the following criteria:

- Fall in the age group: 25 – 32
- Have a university degree
- Fluency in verbal and written English
- A maximum of 3 years of experience working in the national government

**Selection Board:** An independent 3-member selection board, comprising of representatives from one Member State, United Nations system, and Civil Society Organizations to review the applications and forward their recommendations to the OPGA.

#### **Suggested timeline for future PGA Fellowship processes:**

- Jun/Jul: Inform Member States the intention to continue the programme
- Aug/Sept: Call for nominations from PGA to the membership (incl. information about the Fellowship programme, selection process, deadline for application etc.)
- Oct: Review applications based on criteria
- Sept/Oct: Put in place a Selection Board comprising of representation from Member States, United Nations system and civil society with terms of reference
- Oct: Recommend to PGA the list of candidates forwarded by the Selection Board - Inform Member States of the final list of candidates - Request selected candidates to sign acceptance of terms and conditions and finalize plans to reach New York.

#### 2.2.4.15. Other initiatives:

- World AIDS Day (observed on 1<sup>st</sup> December) - on 30 November 2021: The PGA convened an Informal Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to mark the 2021 World AIDS Day under the theme “End Inequalities. End AIDS. End Pandemics”. This event marked several important milestones in the history of the AIDS pandemic: 40 years since the first AIDS cases were reported, 25 years since the establishment of the Joint United Nations Programme in HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) by the ECOSOC and 20 years since the UNGA Special Session on HIV/AIDS and its declaration of commitments was adopted. The event was also an occasion to draw on lessons learned from the fight against HIV/AIDS in the fight against COVID-19 and promote better understanding of the inter-linkages between the AIDS response and broader health, human rights and other development issues as well as strengthening pandemic preparedness. PGA stressed the need to renew commitment to get the world back on track to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
- Informal meeting of the plenary to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers Programme and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, 2 December 2021: PGA convened this meeting in cooperation with the Permanent Missions of Brazil and Japan, as well as the UNV Programme, under the theme of the 2022 State of the World’s Volunteerism Report “Volunteerism for building equal and inclusive societies”. This meeting was an opportunity to reflect on how volunteerism has been contributing to the development agendas at the United Nations, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The PGA noted that young people are acting on issues that affect them, including the climate crisis, conflicts, disasters, gender inequalities, governance failures, or lack of quality education, health, and decent jobs for youth and stressed the role of volunteers in building the resilience of communities to develop a sense of ownership of development interventions.
- Special event on *Equiano.Stories*, 29 March 2022: The Office of the President of the General Assembly, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Israel, organized a screening of *Equiano.Stories* at United Nations Headquarters. Based on the historic story, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, Or Gustavus Vassa, The African*. The Instagram film reimagines the childhood of Equiano, a writer and abolitionist who was kidnapped as a child from the Eboe region of the Kingdom of Benin. Speakers included Mr. Eric Adams, Mayor of New York City; as well as Permanent Representatives of Israel, Jamaica, Senegal, USA, and Permanent Observers of the African Union and the Chair of the Task Force on Addressing Racism and Promoting Dignity for All in the United Nations Secretariat.
- The United Nations Holocaust Memorial Ceremony under the theme “Memory, Dignity and Justice” on 27 January 2022: At this event, PGA recalled that remembrance of the Holocaust is critical to preventing further acts of genocide and to collectively reject any denial of the Holocaust. The PGA called for recommitment to respecting and promoting the rights of all; to addressing inequalities and injustices; and to countering the rising tide of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as all other forms of discrimination. Earlier that week, on 25 January 2022, the PGA also shared a written message with the Annual United Nations International Holocaust Remembrance Shabbat service held this year virtually at Park East Synagogue.



- PGA hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Holhuashi Dialogue on the theme, “Accessibility to the United Nations Headquarters” on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022: The dialogue focused on how the General Assembly can further address accessibility to UNHQ and further enhance the awareness of staff with respect to disability inclusion and accessibility. In order to hear the concerns of persons with disabilities and the daily challenges they face at the UNHQ, three diplomats with disabilities (the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, diplomat from Pakistan and diplomat from the US) participated at this dialogue. PGA stressed the need to ensure that the UNHQ is in line with the highest standards on accessibility and that persons with disabilities can easily access UNHQ, which can be done through effectively incorporating their needs into the campus. The discussions featured also that there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to addressing the different needs and expectations for every disability and that the discussions on addressing accessibility must include frequent dialogues with people living with disabilities and making them part of the decision-making process so that targeted and practical solutions could be identified and implemented. As a follow up to the dialogue, on 9 June 2022, the OPGA along with the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) organized a training session on accessibility and sensitivity awareness for all UN delegates and staff. A fully accessible lactation room at UNHQ was also designed and inaugurated to ensure that all delegates, including those visiting during the High-level Week, will no longer need to leave the UN premises to nurse.
- The 2022 World Press Freedom Day – Joint statement: On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day 2022, observed yearly on 3 May, the PGA, alongside the Presidents of the General Conference of UNESCO and the Human Rights Council, as the presidencies of the main entities in the United Nations system invested with the mandate to protect and promote freedom of expression in general and press freedom and safety of journalists in particular, issued a joint statement on the safety of journalists, recalling the essential role played by media workers in ensuring access to information for all and in advancing human rights, sustainable development and peace. The Three Presidents also signed the preface of a UNESCO publication on “The Universal Periodic Review (UPR): model recommendations in the field of freedom of expression, safety of journalists and access to information: guidance note for Member States”.
- Voices of Youth - Time Capsule: To push forward the momentum of youth participation in multilateralism and as part of a concerted effort to promote a worldwide listening exercise to enable the youth to envision their future, the President launched a new initiative, the “Voices of Youth - Time Capsule”, which seeks to provide an additional opportunity to bring youth voices into our work at the UN and showcase their hopes and aspirations for the future they want. The “Voices of Youth - Time Capsule” project includes a series of video reflections by young people around the world, describing what they aspire for in 2045, when the UN turns 100, on issues related to peace, human rights, development, technology, jobs and climate change, among others. The Time Capsule installed in the Office of the PGA will be opened on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2045.
- PGA’s Fellowship for HOPE: The President of the General Assembly’s flagship initiative - HOPE Fellowship Programme - is a concrete practice of promotion of youth engagement in multilateralism. Initiated by the 76<sup>th</sup> President of the General Assembly, H. E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, the PGA Fellowship programme for “Harnessing Opportunities for Promoting Empowerment of Youth” brought to New York a cohort of eight young diplomats/civil servants from underrepresented countries at the United Nations, particularly from Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries

(LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), while also ensuring geographical representation and gender balance. Ms. Jigme Wangmo, of Bhutan; Ms. Jaala Jeremiah, of Nauru; Ms. Diedra Sealey, of Grenada; Ms. Stella Kamukama, of Uganda; Mr. Mohamed Fofana, of Guinea; Ms. Margaret Tatenda Chikawa, of Zimbabwe; Mr. Phongsavath Mahathilath, of Lao PDR; and Mr. Javier Spencer, of Antigua and Barbuda were the eight chosen ones. Based on the successful completion of the Fellowship and the positive review of the Fellowship by Member States, institutionalization of the Fellowship by future Presidencies is recommended.

## 2.2.5. Revitalizing the United Nations

Building on the discussions and relevant outcomes of:

- Informal thematic consultation as a follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”
- Review of the functioning of the Resident Coordinator system
- High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding Financing on 27 and 29 April 2022
- Holhuashi Dialogue
- Veto Initiative
- Emergency Special Session.

PGA76 advocated for revitalizing the United Nations by making it more efficient, effective and accountable. This should encompass efforts to reform the Security Council, revitalize the General Assembly and strengthen the Economic and Social Council. In this regard, he continued regular consultations with Member States, and worked closely with the Presidents of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Focusing on how to bring the United Nations closer to the people of the world, and making the United Nations approachable and relevant, the PGA implemented several initiatives or supported successful outcomes of the following long-run processes.

### 2.2.5.1. Our Common Agenda

The “Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations”, adopted by General Assembly as resolution 75/1 on 21 September 2020, set the tone and vision for the global cooperation, multilateralism and the organization itself in the future. In its text, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report back before the end of the 75<sup>th</sup> session with recommendations to advance our common agenda and to respond to current and future challenges. In response to this request, the Secretary-General presented the report entitled “Our Common Agenda” (OCA) on 10 September 2021.

The report, amongst other things, outlines what is needed for a more agile, forward-looking UN 2.0. It contains two main elements – key proposals across the 12 commitments reflected in the UN75 Declaration and several chapters elaborating on a vision for a better future. As such, the report contains proposals to establish new institutions and formats (UN Youth Office, UN Special Envoy for Future Generations, High-Level Advisory Board led by former Heads of State and Government, civil society focal points in all UN entities, biennial summit between G20, ECOSOC, SG and heads of international financial institutions, annual meetings between UN and all heads of regional organizations) and to hold one-time summit-level meetings in the near future (Transforming Education Summit in 2022; Summit of the Future in 2023, World Social Summit in 2025).

The report also offers a path centered around a renewal of a social contract anchored in human rights, which requires a paradigm shift emphasizing stronger partnerships between states, individuals, and other actors.

Following the issuance of the Secretary-General’s report, informal consultations to help build consensus among Member States were held under the good offices of President Shahid. As a result, the General Assembly adopted resolution 76/6 entitled “Follow-up to the Report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda” on 15 November 2021, without a vote. The resolution

gave a mandate to the President of the General Assembly to initiate, under his overall guidance, a follow-up process to the report and to begin inclusive intergovernmental consideration of issues related to the report, in collaboration with all relevant partners. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to engage in broad and inclusive consultations with them, all parts of the United Nations system and other relevant partners on his proposals in the report, and to provide regular updates to Member States.

As a follow up to resolution 76/6, the President of the General Assembly convened five rounds of open, inclusive, informal thematic consultations from 10 February to 11 March 2022. Consultations were chaired by Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly from each regional groups – Belgium, Dominican Republic, Kuwait, Republic of Slovenia, and Tanzania. The five thematic consultations intended to provide the Secretary-General to brief and engage with Member States on the findings of the report and the recommendations, and to allow Member States the opportunity to further consider various proposals, options and potential means of implementation.

The President of the General Assembly circulated [summaries of thematic consultations](#) on 20 May 2022. Subsequently, the PGA appointed co-facilitators to move forward some of the proposals in the report and lead the intergovernmental processes on:

- The establishment of the UN Youth Office, co-facilitated by the Permanent Representatives of Egypt, His Excellency Osama Mahmoud Abdel Khalek Mahmoud, and Permanent Representative of Guyana, Her Excellency Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett. As a result of successful consultations, the General Assembly adopted resolution 76/306 on 8 September 2022.
- Modalities for the Summit of the Future, co-facilitated by the Permanent Representative of New Zealand, Her Excellency Carolyn Schwalger and the Permanent Representative of Oman, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Al Hassan. Following successful negotiations, resolution 76/307 was adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2022.
- Declaration on Future Generations, co-facilitated by the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, Her Excellency Yoka Brandt, and Permanent Representative of Fiji, His Excellency Satyendra Prasad. Consultations are expected to continue during the 77<sup>th</sup> session to finalize the text of the draft declaration.

Before the end of Presidency of Hope, following one of the action proposals of summaries of thematic consultations, the PGA, in partnership with the Office of the SG's Envoy on Youth, convened a focused discussion on more meaningful youth engagement in the work of the General Assembly. Advocating for youth involvement in the GA work to ensure continued success of multilateralism, President Shahid provided platform for Member States to explore meaningful engagement of youth in our multilateral system, by prioritizing their full participation and recognizing their integral role in decision-making.

Overall, during the Presidency of Hope, within the mandate of resolution 76/6, the groundwork for the implementation of relevant proposals of the SG's landmark report has been laid, and the PGA facilitated pathways to important milestones at the UN, including a decision to convene the Summit of the Future, as well as the establishment of the UN Youth Office, and promoting more meaningful, diverse, and effective youth engagement in United Nations, as proposed in the OCA report outlining the future of the UN.

### 2.2.5.2. Reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system

The Review of the functioning of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including its funding arrangement that began in the 75th session was continued in the 76th session under the

co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Algeria and Denmark. Following final consultations conducted on 14 October 2021, resolution A/RES/76/4 was adopted without a vote on 28 October 2021. The proposal adopted was based on the continuation of the current funding model and funding stream components already in place.

### 2.2.5.3. High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding Financing

Pursuant to the twin resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council, A/RES/75/201 and S/RES/2558 (2020), respectively, at the conclusion of the 2020 United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture Review, President Shahid convened a High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding Financing on 27 and 29 April 2022. As peacebuilding financing remains a critical challenge, the High-level Meeting explored and considered options for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding. The High-level Meeting of the General Assembly served as a platform for Member States to discuss and consider possible solutions and make commitments to address the identified financing gap for prevention and peacebuilding in the context of fast-changing, protracted and complex violent conflicts.

The High-level Meeting consisted of an opening segment, with ten keynote speakers from the United Nations, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), the private sector and civil society, including one representative each from youth-led and women-led organizations. The plenary segment consisted of statements by 70 Member States, including 3 ministers, 2 vice- ministers, 2 high-ranking officials and 63 Member States. Six groups delivered statements: Bangladesh on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, Egypt on behalf of the African Group, the European Union, Fiji on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum, the Netherlands on behalf of the Feminist Foreign Policy Group and aligned Member States, and Egypt on behalf of a cross-regional group.

As a follow-up to the High-level Meeting, PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of Kenya and Sweden as co-facilitators to conduct consultations on a possible negotiated outcome before the end of 76<sup>th</sup> session.

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. As a result, General Assembly resolution 76/305 was adopted on 8 September 2022 to further advance efforts to ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.

### 2.2.5.4. Holhuashi Dialogues

During the 76<sup>th</sup> session, the series of now well-established morning dialogues of the President of the General Assembly with Permanent Representatives to the UN continued under the label ‘Holhuashi’, a Maldivian term for a place where people gather to exchange views and ideas regarding important communal matters – much like in the United Nations.

This practice of informal exchanges, which started by H.E. Miroslav Lajčák, the President of the General Assembly during its 72<sup>nd</sup> session, enabled a candid and unfiltered interaction between the participants and generated new views and ideas that led to concrete positive outcomes. As an example, one of the important recommendations that later came to fruition included the establishment of the 24<sup>th</sup> of June as the International Day of Women in Diplomacy. The resolution 76/269 presented by Maldives on behalf of core group of countries comprising El Salvador, Eritrea, Grenada, Guyana, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Malta, Qatar, Saint Lucia, and South Africa,

garnered historic support at the General Assembly and was co-sponsored by 191 delegations, of which 85 Member States were main sponsors of the text.

Based on the recommendations from Holhuashi Dialogues, the first ever General Assembly high-level meeting on tourism in partnership with UNWTO was another timely initiative that attracted significant participation of delegations from capitals. PGA organized high-level meetings and special events taking into account the recommendations given during the second Holhuashi dialogue. Last, but not least, a successful accessibility training was conducted in partnership with DGACM.

A total of 9 dialogues were convened during the Presidency of Hope. They were attended by over 100 PRs and individuals from relevant agencies who enriched the discussions with their expertise. For the first time, an expert-level only Holhuashi dialogue was held, where experts from various Permanent Missions sat with the PGA and shared their knowledge and experiences in their field of expertise.

The Dialogues continued to be hosted by the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library Building. Each of the Holhuashi dialogues discussed, under Chatham House rules, an important subject with direct bearing on the work of the United Nations and to the advocacy of its broader goals and principles. Concept notes were circulated to all invited participants, and, in the interest of transparency, summaries of each dialogue were widely shared with all delegations.

A gist of the nine dialogues is placed below:

- 15 October 2021 – “Climate Change and Humanitarian Situations” to discuss different dimensions of climate change and its consequences in different regions in the world, as well as the role of the General Assembly, Security Council, Human Rights Council and other parts of the UN system were highlighted. More details available here: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/2021/11/04/letter-regarding-the-summary-of-the-first-holhuashi-dialogue/>
- 29 October 2021– “More effective, engaging and impactful high- level meetings” addressing the proliferation of high-level meetings, thematic debates, summits and interactive dialogues, bringing into question their relevance, effectiveness and impact. A set of recommendations were identified, including how to promote high-quality, engaging and analytical conversations at the events, ensure stakeholder participation and gender parity panels, streamlining planning of the high-level and special events based on subject matter to endure high-level attendance from capitals. Summary is available here: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/2021/11/30/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-summary-of-second-holhuashi-dialogue/>
- 12 November 2021– “Being inclusive - Small States at the United Nations”, highlighting the contributions of small states to multilateralism, their role and interest in strong rules-based multilateralism, constraints faced by them and the role and potential of forming coalitions, similar to Forum of Small States (FOSS) to better influence decisions at the UN. Summary is available here: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/2021/12/06/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-summary-of-third-holhuashi-dialogue/>
- 3 December 2021 – “The “Decade of Recovery – What’s next?”; specific actions were suggested to boost tourism recovery, including by strengthening health and safety protocols; opportunities to boost climate-friendly, green initiatives in tourism recovery

were highlighted, and the GA was invited to give due consideration to the tourism industry as a key driver of a sustainable and green recovery by the convening of a high-level meeting. Summary of the dialogue and recommendations are available here: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/2021/12/15/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-summary-of-the-fourth-holhuashi-dialogue/>

- 10 December 2021 - “Cooperation between the UN and regional and subregional, and other organizations in the Context of COVID-19” to explore the unique and complementary capacities of the UN and regional organizations that can contribute decisively to the work of the General Assembly. Brief summary is available here: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/2021/12/28/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-summary-of-the-fifth-holhuashi/>
- 11 February 2022 – “Women in Diplomacy” recognizing the indispensable role of women in decision-making processes, political life and in diplomacy, calling for more women in senior diplomatic positions and establishing an International Day of Women in Diplomacy. Summary is available at: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/2022/03/28/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-on-6th-holhuashi-dialogue-summary/>
- 11 March 2022 – “Women, Peace and Security”. Participants highlighted that the lack of political will and cultural barriers continue to become obstacles to the advancement of the role of women in peace and security. Participants recommended to build a platform for raising awareness and sharing best practices among members states on the implementation of WPS agenda. One example could be the establishment of “network among women peacekeepers”, “women peace negotiators, mediators and peacebuilders.” Summary of the dialogue is available at: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/2022/03/22/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-7th-holhuashi-dialogue-summary/>
- 29 April 2022 on “Accessibility to United Nations Headquarters”, to promote the UNHQ which is in line with the highest standards on accessibility, building up on continued dialogues with stakeholders; initiatives like the Steering Committee on Accessibility (SCA); system-wide policies such as the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy; and infrastructural upgrades, such as the Accessibility Gate. Reflecting on the efforts being made, specific ideas and initiatives were collected on how to promote inclusive and accessible working environment, while scaling up the political and budgetary support. The Summary of the Dialogue is available at: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/2022/05/13/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-holhuashi-dialogue-on-accessibility-to-unhq/>
- 9 June 2022 on “Greening the Blue – How the UN System Secures Coherence Between Words and Actions in Fighting Global Warming” to promote the UN, which “walks the talk” and meets the climate, biodiversity and other environmental targets and sustainability practices are strengthened at the UN HQ, the Offices of Member States and beyond, including the UN duty stations. Summary is available at: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/2022/08/02/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-summary-of-the-ninth-holhuashi-greening-the-blue/>

#### 2.2.5.5. Veto initiative – standing mandate to the President of the General Assembly

On 26 April, the PGA presided over the General Assembly meeting that took action on the so called “Veto Initiative” – a draft resolution which mandates a debate in the General Assembly each

time a veto is cast in the Security Council. The General Assembly, where all Member States have an equal vote and no power of a veto, decided to raise a moral and political accountability of a veto privilege of the Permanent Members of the Council. The resolution 76/262 entitled “Standing mandate for a General Assembly debate when a veto is cast in the Security Council” was adopted without a vote, with 83 co-sponsors from a cross-regional group, including three permanent members of the Council: France, United Kingdom and the United States. The initiative and the overwhelming support of Member States demonstrated the need, as well as the potential for wider UN reforms, re-affirmed the Assembly’s role in the United Nations system and strengthened the relationship between the Assembly and the Security Council.

According to the resolution 76/262, the President of the General Assembly has a standing mandate to convene a formal meeting of the Assembly, within 10 working days of the casting of a veto by one or more permanent members of the Security Council, to hold a debate on the situation as to which the veto was cast. The Permanent Member(s) responsible for the veto is “invited” to the speak first in the debate, followed by other Member States and observers on the list of speakers.

During the 76th session of the Assembly, such debates pursuant to resolution 76/262 were held twice: 8 June 2022, following the veto cast by two permanent members under the agenda item “Non-proliferation/Democratic People’s Republic of Korea” and on 21 July, following the veto cast by a permanent member under the agenda item “The situation in the Middle East”. President Shahid informed the membership of the dates of the plenary debates immediately after the relevant Security Council meetings. In both instances, the Assembly received the special reports of the Council, which were circulated to the membership by PGA letters and issued as official documents of the General Assembly.

As per resolution 76/262, the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session will include an item entitled “Use of the veto”, and any future debates on this issue will be held under that item, which should remain on the agenda of the Assembly in future sessions.

#### 2.2.5.6. Eleventh Emergency Special Session (ESS) of the UN General Assembly

For the first time in 40 years, the Security Council requested an Emergency Special Session (ESS) of the UN General Assembly on 27 February 2022. The session followed the inability of the Security Council to maintain peace and prevent or stop the Russian Aggression against Ukraine, and was held under the “Uniting for Peace” mechanism which stems from a 1950 General Assembly resolution 377(V). President Shahid presided over the 11th ESS, during which the Assembly adopted the following resolutions:

- ES-11/1 entitled “Aggression against Ukraine”, condemning the aggression;
- ES-11/2 entitled “Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine”;
- ES-11/3 entitled “Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council”.

The ESS-11 has been temporarily adjourned and can be resumed by the President of the General Assembly, at the request of Member States.



### **3. Ongoing processes & mandated meetings for the 77<sup>th</sup> session**

#### **3.1. High-level week in September 2022:**

The general debate will begin on Tuesday, 20 September, continue through Saturday, 24 September, and conclude on Monday, 26 September. The general debate will be held from 9 a.m. to 2.45 p.m. and from 3 to 9 p.m. The theme “A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges” has been proposed for the general debate at the seventy-seventh session, pursuant to resolution 58/126 (annex).

- Monday, 19 September 2022: Secretary-General will convene the annual Sustainable Development Goals Moment from 8.30 to 10 a.m., in accordance with resolution 74/4. The Transforming Education Summit will be convened on the same day, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., as follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda” (A/75/982). Pre-Summit events will be held on Friday, 16 September and Saturday, 17 September.
- Wednesday, 21 September 2022: High-level meeting to mark the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/RES/76/168) – PGA letters with the tentative programme, concept note, list of speakers and other details were circulated on 19 July, 1 August, 1 and 8 September 2022. The high-level meeting will consist of an opening meeting to hear statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a general debate and a closing meeting. The President of the General Assembly will finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member States, and prepare a summary of the discussions.
- Monday, 26 September 2022: High-level plenary to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, designated on 26 September (A/RES/76/36). In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/32 and subsequent resolutions, the purpose of the International Day is to mobilize new international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a of a nuclear weapon-free world. OPGA76 undertook the preparation process of the High-level meeting, which will take place on 26 September 2022, in the General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters, NY. Relevant letters from President Shahid were circulated on 8 August 2022.

#### **3.2. Other meetings and processes**

##### **3.2.1. Secretary-General’s report entitled “Our Common Agenda” (A/75/982) and General Assembly follow-up process**

Following the thematic consultations held during February-March 2022 on “Our Common Agenda” report of the Secretary-General, the PGA appointed co-facilitators for recommendations of the report that were broadly supported by Member States during the consultations, namely for processes on modalities of the Summit of the Future, the Declaration on Future Generations, and the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office. Future Presidents of the General Assembly,

including the President during the 77<sup>th</sup> session, are also expected to appoint co-facilitators for other OCA recommendations supported by Member States during the thematic consultations.

- Intergovernmental process on a Declaration on Future Generations: On 6 June 2022, the PGA appointed H.E. Ambassador Ms. Yoka Brandt, Permanent Representative of The Netherlands and H.E. Ambassador Mr. Satyendra Prasad, Permanent Representative of Fiji, as co-facilitators to lead an intergovernmental process on a Declaration on Future Generations as part of the preparations for the “Summit of the Future”. As reflected in the timeline proposed by the co-facilitators, the process is expected to continue during the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.
- OCA related consultations and SG briefings: Also, it is hoped that Secretary-General’s briefings to Member States on the status of OCA implementation, similar to the one on 4 August 2022, is held regularly in upcoming sessions, in close cooperation with EOSG.

### **3.2.2. Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on the question of the equitable representation on and the increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council**

Throughout the 76<sup>th</sup> session, the General Assembly held four formal plenary meetings on the issue, on 15-16 November and 24 November 2021, as well as on 12 July 2022. By conducting informal consultations with Member States in October 2021 and by making an early appointment of the Co-Chairs of the IGN, the PGA facilitated the start of consultations with Member States in a timely manner. He also ensured the necessary conditions for the proper functioning of the IGN despite pandemic-related limitations and later during the gradual opening of the UN building in the second half of the session.

The Co-Chairs, H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar and H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann, Permanent Representative of Denmark, convened five informal in-person meetings of the IGN, between February to May 2022, covering all five clusters of SC reform [(i) regional representation (7-8 February); (ii) the categories of membership and (iii) the question of the veto (7-8 March); (iv) the size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods and (v) the relationship between the Council and the GA (16-17 March)] as well as containing a meeting focusing on the status of IGN documents (20-21 April) and another on the review of the Co-Chairs’ updated paper (12 May).

Taking a new approach, the Co-Chairs, for the very first time, convened so-called ‘un-formal’ conversations among Member States on 7-8 April 2022 during which some progress was made in terms of increasing convergences and narrowing divergences. They also introduced oral reflections following some of the more substantive discussions of IGN rounds during the session. Apart from the unformal conversations, the Co-Chairs also took some initiatives which included: the use of oral reflections by the co-chairs following some of the more substantive discussions; vigorous use of guiding questions for the interactive discussions; discussions on the revised elements paper during the IGN process itself leading to the final version that was circulated to Member States; meetings were adjourned only when the speakers’ lists were exhausted; and further elaboration and a more comprehensive reference to the Common African Position.

Following the PGA’s exhaustive consultations with all groups and Member States, the General Assembly adopted, on 12 July 2021, oral decision 76/572 at the formal plenary meeting where delegations expressed their views on the technical rollover of the decision mandating the continuation of the IGN process to the 77<sup>th</sup> session.

In this decision, the General Assembly resolved to immediately continue the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, building on the informal meetings of the current session, as reflected in the letter dated 16 May 2022 from the Co-Chairs, and in the document entitled “Co-Chairs' Revised Elements Paper on Convergences and Divergences on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters”, circulated on 19 May 2022, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, reflected in the text and its annex circulated on 31 July 2015, to help to inform its future work.

### **3.2.3. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly**

Under resolution 75/335 of 10 September 2021, the General Assembly (1) decided to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly during the 76th session; (2) decided that, for the 76th session, the AHWG would focus primarily on the role and authority of the General Assembly and its working methods, as well as on the implementation of resolution 75/325.

On 15 October 2021, the PGA appointed the Permanent Representatives of El Salvador and Australia as co-chairs of the AHWG, and, on 8 November 2021, the meeting of the GA plenary to discuss the Revitalization of the work of the GA was convened.

The General Debate of the AHWG was held on 9 March 2022, marking the beginning of the AHWG's programme of work in the 76th session. A Thematic Debate on the Role and Authority of the General Assembly was held on 12 April 2022, which included a briefing by the Department of Global Communications on “measures to further enhance public awareness of the role and activities of the Assembly” and a focused discussion on “efforts to limit the number of side events held in parallel with or in the margins on the general debate and other high-level sessions”.

A second Thematic Debate, on Working Methods, was held on 11 May 2022, which included briefings by each of the six Main Committee Chairs on best practices and lessons learned, and a statement by the OPGA's Chef de Cabinet on the work of the General Committee.

Lastly, an Informal Dialogue between Permanent Missions and the UN Secretariat was held on 14 June 2022, which also entailed an informal briefing by UN Secretariat representatives on “lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and on the progress made to improve the accessibility of the UNHQ premises for persons with disabilities”.

An informal summary of the Co-Chairs on the discussions during the 76th session was circulated in a PGA letter on 26 August 2022.

### **3.2.4. Election of the President of the General Assembly**

On 7 June 2022, in accordance with the established principle of geographic rotation and General Assembly resolution 33/138 of 19 December 1978, a candidate from the Group of Eastern European Group of States, H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi of Hungary was elected by acclamation as the President of the 77th session of the General Assembly. Previously, in line with resolution 71/323 an informal interactive dialogue with the candidate was held on 5 May, who submitted his vision statement prior to the dialogue, which was distributed to Member States well ahead of the informal dialogue, in February 2022.

Future PGA candidates are also encouraged to submit their vision statements well ahead of the informal interactive dialogues to allow sufficient time for Member States to examine the documents. Civil society representatives and individuals were invited to submit their questions to the candidate for the position of President of the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly to be answered during the interactive dialogue. Questions were collected via an online form and were asked in-person and via pre-recorded videos.

In accordance with the established principle of geographic rotation, the President of the 78th session is to be elected from Group of Latin America and Caribbean States.

### **3.2.5. The Fifth session of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction**

After an unplanned two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC-4) was held from 7 to 18 March 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters. The process continued to address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and focused on elaborating an international legally binding instrument on the matter, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Upon the conclusion of the deliberations of IGC-4, delegates adopted an amended report of the conference, reflecting that an additional session of the IGC was required as soon as possible to make progress. This was followed by the circulation of an advanced revised draft text of the agreement, incorporating the latest discussions and submissions, and also by the convening of the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the IGC from 15 to 26 August 2022.

On 26 August, the Intergovernmental Conference suspended its fifth session, after delegations, paused their relentless negotiations to seek a compromise. As announced at the meeting, President Rena Lee of the Conference is going to address the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General authorize a resumed fifth session.

### **3.2.6. Open-ended informal consultative process on Oceans & the Law of the Sea**

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 54/33 and 75/239, PGA re-appointed H.E. Ms. Isabelle F. Picco, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Monaco, and H.E. Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga, as co-chairs of the open-ended informal consultative process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea during the seventy-sixth session.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/72, the 22nd meeting of the Open-ended Informal Consultative Process took place from 6 to 10 June 2022, focusing its discussions on the theme "Ocean observing". The discussion panel was organized in two segments: (a) tools, contributions to science-based decision-making in support of sustainable development and challenges relating to gaps in observational data; and (b) international cooperation and coordination in advancing ocean observing and addressing related challenges. The invited panellists gave presentations, followed by interventions from the floor. The outcome of the meeting consisted of Co-chairs'

summary of discussions during the meeting and was circulated as a document of the General Assembly A/77/119, under item 72 (a) of the preliminary list of the 77th session.

### **3.2.7. Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/72 entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”, the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the General Assembly (the “Working Group”) on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, was convened by correspondence from 21 March to 1 September 2022 by H.E. Ms. Yolannie Cerrato, Deputy Permanent Representative of Honduras and H.E. Mr. Mark Zellenrath, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, co-chairs for the duration of the third cycle. As part of the consultations, the Working Group considered four documents of the Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II) and the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021-2025). The Working Group also adopted recommendations to the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, which will be considered during the consultations on the draft resolution on Oceans and Law of the Sea at the 77th session of the General Assembly, following the standard practice.

### **3.2.8. Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States**

Established pursuant to resolution 70/202, the SIDS Partnership Framework continued its work on monitoring and ensuring the full implementation of the pledges and commitments through partnerships for SIDS. The President of the General Assembly appointed the Permanent Representative of Portugal H.E. Francisco Duarte and Permanent Representative of Samoa H.E. Mr Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa’olelei Luteru as the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee on Partnership for SIDS, on 21 January 2022, and as per the working methods adopted by the Committee on 25 February 2021, which states that Co-Chairs may be appointed for a period of one year, with reappointment for only 1 more year. As Ambassador Duarte relinquished his duties as Permanent Representative of Portugal, the newly appointed Permanent Representative of Portugal, H.E. Ms Anala Paula Baptista Grade Zacarias was appointed as a Co-Chair.

During the year, in addition to hosting meetings of the Committee, the Committee oversaw the holding of the SIDS Global Business Network Forum Meeting in Palau, where the PGA also spoke. The 2022 Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue was also held during the High-Level Political Forum. The first UN SIDS Partnerships Awards were awarded during this meeting. This was an initiative launched on 14 March 2022, by the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee, first initiated during the tenure of the previous co-chairs, Permanent Representatives of Malta and Antigua and Barbuda, and established by resolution 76/203.

### **3.2.9. Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States**

According to A/RES/76/203 (OP 8a), on 25 February 2022, the President of the General Assembly appointed the members of the panel to carry forward the work to finalize the multidimensional vulnerability index. In line with the resolution, the work of the panel will continue until December 2022. The interim report of the Panel was circulated to Member States for comments on 5 August 2022. A series of consultations with Member States and are expected to take place in September 2022.

### **3.2.10. Indigenous Issues**

Pursuant to GA resolution A/RES/75/168, PGA is mandated to organize a High-level event during 2022 for the launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. This event was initially scheduled on 25 April, to coincide with the opening of the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the PFII, but the event was postponed to a later date following the advice of the Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples and indigenous representatives.

Informal interactive hearing with indigenous peoples on enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples in UN meetings on issues affecting them - In 2017, the GA adopted resolution A/RES/71/321 on enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples in UN meetings on issues affecting them, requesting the President of the General Assembly “to organize and preside over three informal interactive hearings and to prepare a summary of each hearing, during its seventy-second, seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions, on the margins of the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, with indigenous peoples, ensuring, to the extent possible, balanced regional representation”. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the third informal hearing has been postponed from the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly by GA decisions 74/565 and 75/561. On 8 April 2022, PGA received a letter from the Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples, requesting to postpone the organization of the informal interactive hearing with indigenous peoples to the 77<sup>th</sup> session (GA decision 76/560 adopted on 26 April 2022).

It should be noted that the Chair of the PFII requested OPGA assistance to ensure the involvement of indigenous peoples at the preparation process of the high-level meeting of the GA on the fight against tuberculosis (GA resolution 73/3), to be held in 2023.

### **3.3. List of mandates for the 77th session of the General Assembly**

A summary list of high-level and commemorative meetings, events, informal dialogues, and briefings mandated by the General Assembly for the 77th session of the General Assembly and beyond, as well as upcoming United Nations Conferences is provided in Annex 5.

## 4. Lessons Learned

### 4.1. Management of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

#### 4.1.1. Staffing and Office guidelines

The Office of the 76<sup>th</sup> President of the General Assembly comprised of staff of the United Nations Secretariat, seconded personnel by Permanent Missions, as well as consultants. The Office incorporated a wide variety of nationalities and represented all regional groups.

As per the guidelines, all appointments by the President of the General Assembly were formally communicated to the Secretary-General through a Note Verbale. It further required that the OPGA receives a formal Note Verbale from the Permanent Missions and/or governments on their secondments to the OPGA, which must then be communicated to the Secretary-General promptly.

Terms of reference (TORs) - at the start of the session, each team member must have a precise term of reference. The ToR should be developed based on the expertise, competencies and skills required for the position. It must be shared with the incumbents when they assume a specific role in the office. The responsible manager is expected to monitor their performance and provide regular feedback.

Mandatory trainings for OPGA personnel - adhering to the highest standards of conduct during his tenure, the PGA is expected to conduct his/her duties and responsibilities from the moment he/she is elected in accordance with the values of the UN Organization and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. In this regard, all OPGA personnel completed the following mandatory training courses at the start of the Session, which are recommended for future OPGAs as well:

- BSAFE
- Ethics & Integrity
- Prevention of Sexual Harassment
- I know Gender

The above self-paced training courses are accessible through the Inspira learning management system that can be found at <https://hr.un.org/page/mandatory-learning>.

Leadership Dialogue - OPGA team is required to conduct and participate in the annual Leadership Dialogue. It is a forum for managers to discuss with their direct reporting staff on what to do, where to get assistance and clarify the role of UN personnel in handling ethical dilemmas. The Leadership Dialogue is designed as an interactive discussion between colleagues. All are required to participate, share their thoughts and opinions, and ask questions. The materials and deadline for completion are to be communicated by the Executive Office of DGACM.

Trust Fund - It is customary that the PGA-elect through the current Office of the PGA sends out a Note Verbale addressed to the Member States, seeking voluntary contributions to the trust fund to support the activities of the new session. During the 76<sup>th</sup> session, the Trust Fund received voluntary contributions of \$2.4 million from 20 Member States and the European Union. A more detailed financial report will be provided by the Executive Office of DGACM.

Financial Disclosure - In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/305 (2016) on “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”, upon election and on completion of duties as President of the General Assembly session of the General Assembly, a financial disclosure or declaration of interest statement must be filed with the Ethics Office. Additionally, pursuant to Section 2.1 or Section 2.3 of ST/SGB/2006/6, all UN staff members who meet the criteria must file an annual financial disclosure or declaration of interest statement. It is required that the disclosure be filed at the beginning of the session. For any queries the UN Ethics Office can be contacted at [unfdp.ethics@un.org](mailto:unfdp.ethics@un.org).

Archiving, record keeping and other office matters: The General Assembly has emphasised the need to improve the archiving and record keeping of the OPGA. The Office uses Microsoft Sharepoint as a shared drive to store files, using an established filing structure. It is important that OPGA staff gets access to the Sharepoints of previous 3-4 OPGAs for background materials and information for briefs, as necessary. In line with the established practice, the OPGA has transferred all hard-copy files pertaining to the 76th session to the Archives and Records Management Section (ARMS).

## **4.2. Planning and preparation for Meetings**

Enlisting the support and collaboration of UN System entities for special events based on the entity’s mandate and area of work is a recommended best practice, as it allows the OPGA to crowd-in specific expertise and skills that support the overall success of the initiative at no additional cost. This should be done from the very early stages, allowing the entities to be a part of the process from the ideation stage to execution. A key lesson learned in this regard, however, is to ensure a clear and identifiable lead entity responsible for the overall success of the initiative, while the lead still rests with OPGA. Time-bound, initiative-specific task teams to which the relevant entities are asked to appoint representatives, at the appropriate level, are also extremely effective and valuable.

Assign budget to support special events and initiatives. Each special initiative or event undertaken by OPGA requires a related budget. This includes mandated and non-mandated events. While the amount available per initiative/ event may vary, experience has shown that the most successful and useful events are those for which there is a budget to do things differently, be creative and involve participants outside of the UN who can bring in fresh ideas and perspectives.

Infuse innovation and creativity into meetings, with the collaboration and support of relevant secretariat units. The quality of service provided by the various meetings services departments within DGACM should be assessed to ensure value for money and effectiveness, in line with UN rules and procedures. Innovation and creativity should be encouraged and incentivised to help ensure the highest standards and markers of success for all meetings and special events.

During the resumed part of the session, advance communication of the schedule of the General Assembly meetings, including PGA initiatives, and regular updates in the programme of work on General Assembly website, UN Journal and at the e-delegate portal hugely helps the preparation of results-oriented meetings. Coordination and cooperation with the Secretariat, as well as relevant partner agencies or proponents of the meeting, are also key to successful event and their outcomes. It is important to prioritise the selection of the panellists, moderators, or keynote speakers with due regard to gender and geographic balance. Engaging Member States in the planning process, including the main sponsors of the resolution giving the mandate to the PGA, regional groups, or



other stakeholders, if modalities require so, is relevant. Holding briefings for Members States to facilitate preparation of their delegations for the events is also advisable.

During the 75<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> sessions, the teleprompter was regularly used by the PGAs at high-level events and plenary meetings. It is recommended that this is considered as part of the regular service provided by the Secretariat for future Presidencies and not billed to the OPGA.

**Engaging new audiences through new messages and stakeholder mobilization** - Throughout the session, the PGA has advocated for a hopeful narrative that can counter apathy and motivate more action to leverage all the solutions within our reach. In this regard, the President participated in a number of side events convened by stakeholders in coordination with the Office in order to inform the preparatory processes and increase multi-stakeholder interest and buy in for various events. For example, ahead of the Moment for Nature event, PGA participated in The Hope Forum: ART 2030 for the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development and UNESCO ResiliArt on 22 April 2022 during the 59<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, to engage the art and culture worlds; an informal briefing with journalists and UN accredited reporters was held on 13 July 2022 to receive inputs on how to overcome barriers to greater public and press engagement with UN environmental efforts; and the 19 July side event to the Moment for Nature, the launch of the New Zero World campaign that aimed to communicate our collective journey towards planetary resilience and shift the narrative on climate change by elevating future-focused solutions. The PGA issued endorsement letters regarding the Hope Forum and the New Zero World campaign, in light of their alignment with his Ray of Hope on Responding to the Needs of the Planet. This served to leverage the PGA's convening power, in addition to his participation in the aforementioned meetings, to raise awareness to existing solutions to foster more partnerships. This can provide a model for new forms of strategic stakeholder outreach to energize disengaged sectors or industries to accelerate action.

**Greater focus on communications for behavioural change** - building upon the above, the Moment for Nature event contained the first segment in a UN General Assembly meeting dedicated entirely to messaging.

**Secure connections for hybrid meetings** - given the need to involve numerous stakeholders in different regions, and the difficulty of securing their simultaneous travel to New York, in meetings where hybrid format is prioritized, OPGA team avoided technical issues during the meeting, in large part due to the early onboarding and test calls, as well as a practice of requesting the phone numbers of all virtual speakers in order to urgently reach them for technical tests and to quickly resolve issues. It is recommended to continue this practice.

**Compiling Member State remarks for actionable information** - With UN-Habitat's support, the contents of all statements delivered during the HLM on the New Urban Agenda and submitted to e-statements were analysed and grouped under thematic areas in an annex to the official summary of the meeting, to highlight actions taken by Member States over the past six years to implement the New Urban Agenda, commitments made on future actions, and areas where UN system and international cooperation support were requested. Compiling such annexes in future GA meetings can support efforts to better understand the global state of play and best inform the UN system and stakeholders on what areas to focus on in response to Member States' expressed priorities and requests.

**Information notes to simplify policy & accelerate action** - During the HLM on the New Urban Agenda, the President of the General Assembly requested UN-Habitat to prepare a Supplementary Information Note[4], circulated prior to the meeting, to make the NUA widely accessible to

Member States and stakeholders, by simplifying its contents and identifying avenues of support, knowledge, and resources available to enable accelerating implementation. The President also circulated a [report prepared by the Regional Economic Commissions on the implementation of the NUA](#), including a summary of Member States deliberations on sustainable urbanization in their respective [Regional Forums for Sustainable Development](#) (RFSD). Requesting the UN system to compile such documents to be circulated ahead of high-level meetings can support greater engagement and implementation and more solutions-focused discussions in the General Assembly.

**UN System coordination for impactful meetings** - The [convening of an event](#) on 21 April 2022 by the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Colleen Kelapile, to discuss urbanization issues from ECOSOC's operational perspective, a week before the General Assembly high-level meeting, was timely as it demonstrated a positive message that two major organs of the United Nations are working in parallel in their collective efforts to mobilize actions for the NUA. This message should be noticed and appreciated because it can serve as an example for other similar processes where both organs play a role, with ECOSOC focusing on technical/practical details and those key messages are taken forward to the GA, which provides wider political direction and broadens the scope of the discussion to cover items with wider implications for the future. Furthermore, the guidance in the high-level meeting's mandating resolution regarding engaging the Regional Commissions and the Regional Sustainable Development Forums allowed for focused discussions on practical and results-oriented approaches, which Member States may wish to consider mandating for future General Assembly mandates so that high-level meetings can serve their intended purposes of galvanizing momentum at all levels and through all regions, highlight best practices that serve all regions, and provide an understanding of the global state of play to help chart the way forward.

Providing examples from the ground - Throughout the session, an effort was made to include examples and experiences of initiatives being undertaken in countries, through "Spotlights". This served to bring real examples of action being brought into the discussions and inform the meetings further. It also enhances the connection between the United Nations and the people.

Communications support to high-level events - During the 76<sup>th</sup> session, staff on the communications team provided support to high-level events. Each was assigned as a focal point to work with the lead team responsible for helping coordinate the event. They worked with UN partner agencies, liaising with their counterparts in communications, and suggested strategies on how to strengthen outreach and media engagement for each event. Typical activities included updating Trello boards; creating dedicated webpages and populating them with relevant context and information; drafting tweets; taking pictures; and working with partners to design and procure banners specific to each event. Typically, two or three banners were procured well before the event and placed within the building to advertise the event. It was the responsibility of each focal point for an event to keep their communications colleagues apprised of each event's agenda and the communications items proposed.

Speechwriting - The OPGA speechwriting team consisted of four staff: two full time staff and one part time staff working under the lead speechwriter. Each speechwriter was assigned as a focal point for each of the technical teams devoted to specific areas, such as peace and security, humanitarian affairs, gender, legal affairs, and human rights. In practice this was more flexible, with each of the speechwriters providing drafts for a wide range of events pertaining to different issues. This was to ensure a fair workload distribution. Despite this, assigning speechwriting focal points was helpful in terms of building up speechwriter's knowledge of specific issue areas and building their rapport with the technical teams. The PGA delivered over 300 speeches during the 76<sup>th</sup> session. The fast and efficient clearance process for speeches is important in terms of quality

control and expediting finalization. All speeches were checked against delivery and uploaded to the website. Many speeches were pre-recorded at the studio, because of the PGA's travel commitments, virtual interventions and to broadcast social media messages to commemorate international days marked within the United Nations.

Increasing accessibility of UN GA meetings and events remains a challenge, it is important that quality CART services and sign language is part of the standard servicing of the UN meetings.

Procurement of services - the OPGA is strictly governed by the financial rules of the United Nations. All services required must be fulfilled in compliance with the financial rules and regulations.

### **4.3. Informal processes and appointment of facilitators**

In addition to the usual practice of appointing one or two co-chairs and co-facilitators applied by the PGA for mandated processes, three important aspects are note-worthy from the session:

The PGA used his convening power extensively – he intervened personally to support the processes each time there was a risk of not reaching consensus. Furthermore, during the deadlock in negotiations on the outcome declaration of the HL meeting on improving global road safety, the PGA convened the informal plenary to consult with membership on the way forward and appointed his Chef de Cabinet to lead consultations on a new draft outcome document, which was adopted by consensus, as per the mandate from A/RES/75/308.

The PGA reinvigorated the role of the Vice-Presidents in leading the thematic negotiation processes at the GA and appointed one VP from each regional group to lead consultations on follow-up process for SG's report entitled "Our Common Agenda". Belgium, Dominican Republic, Kuwait, Republic of Slovenia, and Tanzania - each chaired the two-days consultations with Member States, UN system and relevant stakeholders and circulated summaries of the discussions of their relevant clusters.

Unlike previous sessions, OPGA76 simplified and expedited the co-facilitators communication process with Member States, circulating only the first and final texts of the negotiations with PGA accompanying letters, all other intermediate communications would go to Member States via secretariat e-mail, without accompanying PGA correspondence.

### **4.4. Relationship with Member States and other organs**

The PGA Briefed the membership on his priorities on multiple occasions, including in his acceptance speech, at the opening of the 76<sup>th</sup> session, as well as at the start of the resumed part of the session on 19 January 2022. Overall, the PGA held around 600 bilateral meetings only in New York with Member States and other delegations throughout the session.

Meetings with the Secretary-General and the Presidents of ECOSOC and the Security Council:

At the beginning of each month, the PGA held monthly coordination meetings with the Presidents of the Security Council. During the meeting, the President of the Council briefed the PGA on the program of work of the Council. They also discussed relevant developments and dynamics both at the Security Council and the GA. These meetings provided an opportunity for both Presidents to discuss the agendas of the GA. The Presidents of the Council from September 2021 to

September 2022 were Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Niger, Norway, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Albania, Brazil, China, France. The summaries are available at the OPGA website: <https://www.un.org/pga/76/meetings-with-the-president-of-the-security-council/>.

Every month PGA had a coordination meeting with the Secretary-General to share the developments in the work of the General Assembly as well the UN in general. The meetings have been very useful to enhance cooperation and ensure a close working relationship between PGA and SG throughout the session.

Throughout the session, the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council met at regular intervals to discuss ongoing processes and initiatives. These meetings were organized by both Presidents' teams pursuant to Assembly Resolutions on "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", and related efforts to strengthen the ECOSOC. They provided an opportunity for both Presidents to discuss the agendas of the GA and ECOSOC to ensure alignment and coherence, eliminate duplication and enhance efficiency on the work of both organs. The meetings were also used to identify opportunities to collaborate on special initiatives of the Presidents under their respective presidencies. The summaries of those meetings can be accessed here: [January](#), [February](#), [April](#).

Additionally, the Presidents held a Joint briefing on 20 January 2022, providing an update on the ongoing efforts to enhance coherence, synergy, and complementarity in the work of the relevant main bodies, in response to resolutions 73/341, 74/303, 75/325, and related efforts to revitalise the work of the General Assembly and strengthen the ECOSOC. During the session, the Presidents of the GA and ECOSOC also hosted a joint, Special high-level dialogue entitled "The Africa We Want: Reconfirming the Development of Africa as a Priority of the United Nations System" on 20 July 2022.

The ECOSOC President was invited to be part of the relevant Advisory Boards and Committees established by the PGA and to speak at all relevant events of the GA. Similarly, the President of the General Assembly also participated in all relevant meetings and events of the ECOSOC, including the HLPF on Sustainable Development, and the Financing for Sustainable Development Forum.

Meetings with the Chairs of Main Committees - the PGA had regular interactions with the Chairs of the six Main Committees on the progress of their work during the main part of the session, in the format of both bilateral and multilateral meetings. President Shahid encouraged the Chairs of the Main Committees to coordinate with each other and address the modalities of their work in a coherent manner. Consultations were also conducted to encourage the Committees to finish their work on time and allow the recess date by 24 December 2021.

General Committee - During the session, the PGA worked with the General Committee on matters regarding the agenda and the general conduct of the work of the General Assembly. The PGA convened one formal and two informal meetings with the members of the Committee, including the meeting in December 2021 to brief and consult with the Committee on the programme of the GA high-level events during the resumed part of the session. The President recommends cooperation and full use of the General Committee expertise to his successor as well.

## 4.5. Boards of Advisers

The PGA re-constituted Board of Advisers for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (LLS), established by his predecessor, PGA75. The composition was expanded to 16 members, to include more representatives of Member States from the three categories of countries, and more UN agencies relevant to the work. The Board served as a platform to strengthen cooperation and coordination, identify bottlenecks to action, and recommend solutions to maintain focus on 91 most vulnerable UN Member States - LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS in the work of the General Assembly. The Board held 4 meetings under the themes: ‘Recovery from COVID in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS: What more can be done?’, ‘Financing a Sustainable Recovery and the SDGs in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS’, ‘Rebuilding Sustainably in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS’ and ‘Responding to the Needs of the Planet’.

To strengthen delivery and action for gender equality, President Shahid also reconstituted the Advisory Board on Gender Equality with an expanded membership, thereby creating a nexus for synergy and coordination between Member States, UN-Women, UN Secretariat, OHCHR, private sector, and CSOs working on the issue of gender equality. The Advisory Board held 3 meetings to discuss and take forward new initiatives and work together on most prevalent issues that impede progress on gender equality and to strengthen the call for bolder and stronger actions to prevent any pushback on progress achieved up to now.

To provide strategic guidance on the preparations for the high-level meeting on the review of the New Urban Agenda, and to identify key messages for advocacy in the build-up to the meeting and for other strategic engagements relating to sustainable urbanisation during the 76th session, the PGA established an Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization. The Committee held 3 meetings and contributed to raising momentum for the New Urban Agenda, and through its diverse membership, informed preparations and focus areas to ensure inclusivity and impact.

## 4.6. Interaction with EOSG and the UN system

EOSG – Throughout the session OPGA continued close cooperation with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General on business continuity issues related to reopening the UN HQ following the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as on areas related to the follow-up process to OCA report of the Secretary-General. Informal consultations during the early months of the 76<sup>th</sup> session, as well as thematic consultations held in February and March 2022, including summaries of those consultations, were products of an intense interaction between the OPGA, EOSG, and the Vice-Presidents of the session who were overseeing the consultations. Coordination and close cooperation also continued with regards to other thematic issues, including sustainable development.

DGACM – support from GAAB, and the UN protocol liaison Service, coordination, and cooperation with other departments of the Secretariat are essential to ensure successful events and their outcomes. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management provides crucial support to the work of the GA and its President, including with regards to planning the GA processes, scheduling its programme, preparations for meetings and other important services. Chief of staff and Cabinet members of the OPGA kept regular weekly meetings with the representatives of General Assembly Affairs (GAAB) and ECOSOC Branches of the Secretariat to ensure coordination and advance planning of the work of the Assembly throughout the session.

DESA - The President of the General Assembly enlisted the support of DESA on relevant special initiatives, including the special joint High-level Dialogue on the Sustainable Development of Africa held on 20 July, co-convened with the President of ECOSOC at its 2021-2022 session. DESA was also a key institutional partner in the planning of the joint event on debt sustainability (cancelled) as well as the coordination meetings with the President of ECOSOC. Furthermore, DESA – SIDS Unit was a key partner in the MVI process.

DGC –DESA - Throughout the session OPGA worked closely with the Department of Global Communications Civil Society Unit (CSU), Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) and the NGO branch of DESA to ensure civil society participation and inputs in the work of the General Assembly during mandated high-level events or PGA special initiatives. The President also ensured the contribution and participation of CSOs and their representatives to all GA high-level and thematic meetings in various formats. In addition, on 14 June 2022, OPGA convened an off-the-record, informal virtual conversation, under Chatham House rules, with CSO representatives on the topic of meaningful participation of CSOs in UN processes, particularly those related to the General Assembly. During the discussions, the participants highlighted the importance of (1) improving the existing modalities and their implementation, timely announcements, and multiple channels of communication; (2) ensuring greater diversity of speakers; (3) enhancing, in developing the formats for high-level meetings and engagements, space should consistently be made for broad CSO engagement. Further, OPGA organised internal training sessions to review mandates and prospects for CSO engagement throughout the session. It is recommended that OPGA also organise a similar training session and invite Secretariat focal points for their inputs and contributions.

OHRLLS was a partner in addressing the special circumstances of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. This includes coordination on LDC5, and MVI for SIDS.

Partnerships - Throughout the session, PGA continued to meet with the heads and principals of the UN System to reinforce the priorities of his “Presidency of Hope”. A number of key events were convened in partnership with the UN system, including:

- UNCTAD – Institutional partner for the Informal Interactive Dialogue on Commodities held on 31 March;
- UN-HABITAT – key institutional partner for the High-level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda held on 28 April 2022, and in supporting the work of the Advisory Committee on Urbanisation;
- UNWTO, UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD – Key institutional partners for the HL debate on Tourism held on 4 May 2022;
- UNODC – HL debate on Enhancing Youth Mainstreaming in Crime Prevention Policies, held on 6 June 2022;
- The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)– Institutional partner for the Special High-level event on Global Food Security held on 18 June 2022;
- UNEP – Key institutional partner for the High-Level Thematic Debate on Moment for Nature held on 19 June 2022, as well as the preparatory process for Stockholm+50 International Meeting;
- WHO – key institutional partner for the High-level Meeting on Improving Global Road Safety, held on 30 June and 1 July 2022;
- DESA, OSAA, ECA – Key institutional partners for the joint special High-level Dialogue on the Sustainable Development of Africa held on 20 July 2022 (along with the African Union);

- OPGA-UNITAR cooperated closely in launching and implementing the inaugural Fellowship for HOPE (“Harnessing Opportunities for Promoting Empowerment of Youth”) Programme of the President of the General Assembly;
- DGACM – co-organizing a training on accessibility and sensitivity awareness at the UN on 9 June 2022;
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) - The PGA also actively engaged with the parliamentary community including through further strengthening the strategic partnership between the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations. On 17 - 18 February, the President and the IPU co-hosted the 2022 Parliamentary Hearing 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 event, which was the UN’s largest in-person gathering since the high-level week in September 2021, taking place in the General Assembly Hall, for the first time. The hearing included five panel discussions featuring a mix of parliamentarians, ambassadors, and UN officials as well as a special briefing on the role of parliaments at the UN, for a more effective multilateralism to address global challenges. Participants shared best practices on tackling inequality; working towards gender parity; including women, youth, minorities, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups; and on addressing climate change by fighting the interests of industrial conglomerates. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/123, the summary report of the 2022 Parliamentary Hearing was published in all official UN languages under the symbol A/76/805.

#### **4.7. Outreach to civil society**

Engaging civil society, non-governmental organizations, private sector, philanthropic organizations, academia, the scientific community and other stakeholders were one of the main focus points of the Presidency of Hope. President Shahid prioritized bringing civil society in person attendance back to UN Headquarters and ensuring their involvement throughout the session to enrich discussions and strengthen the implementation of decisions.

President Shahid carried out many initiatives as part of his resolve to strengthen the engagement of civil society and other stakeholders in the work of the General Assembly. In the earliest days of the presidency, the PGA appointed a CSO focal point in each of the teams in his office. They were instrumental in facilitating and ensuring that CSOs representatives were present and engaging in the ongoing processes related to consideration of Our Common Agenda report, preparations for the Migration Review Forum, improving the global road safety event, Stockholm International meeting (S+50), Ocean Conference, and many others.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring civil society participation in events was not a simple task. Pandemic-related restrictions drastically limited CSOs presence on UN premises and difficulties to renew their ground passes, other Covid-19-related health and safety restrictions limited their participation to the virtual platforms only. In his continuous efforts to bring civil society back to the meeting rooms and hallways of the United Nations, the PGA convened on 17 November 2021 the first since the outbreak of the pandemic: the Town Hall meeting with civil society organizations in cooperation with NGLS and the Secretariat, with over 150 representatives gathering at the UN, while many other representatives from all parts of the world joined virtually. Five speakers from, different backgrounds and across various age groups delivered statements that covered each of the PGA’s Five Rays of Hope. This was followed by a candid and open Question and Answers session (Q&A) with the President. The event opened up the post-pandemic civil

society in-person participation and renewed the spirit of inclusive, multi-stakeholder approaches to the work and successes at the GA.

Throughout the session, OPGA members continued cooperation with the Department of Global Communications Civil Society Unit (CSU), Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) and the NGO Branch of Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to engage with civil society and ensure their participation through mandated events and PGA initiatives. One specific recommendation to the future presidencies is to engage with the above-mentioned departments of the Secretariat early on during the session and agree on a calendar for announcements of all stakeholder participation processes at the start of the session, as well as the timeline for each process. In addition, the Office organized a number of internal trainings to review the PGA mandates and prospects for CSO engagement in each of the events and processes throughout the session. It is highly recommended that OPGA<sup>77</sup> also organize similar training sessions.

President Shahid organized two multi-stakeholder hearings as per the mandates from the General Assembly, in preparation for the high-level meeting on improving global road safety on 3 December 2021, as well as in preparation for the International Migration Review Forum on 16 May 2022. It should be noted that the civil society presence at the HQ during the inaugural International Migration Review Forum was the highest since the outbreak of the pandemic, and it greatly contributed to the success of the Forum.

Stakeholder participation processes was one of the key highlights of the five rounds of informal thematic consultations on SG report entitled “Our Common Agenda”. Each round included a dedicated panel discussion with stakeholders – academia, youth, civil society, and the private sector. CSO representatives made vital contributions to the landmark report itself and it was important to provide a platform for stakeholder to provide their views and suggestions during follow-up process to the report.

During the Presidency, CSOs were also present and engaged for the High-Level Meeting on Delivering Climate Action in October, offering their views on how to maintain progress towards the goal of 1.5 as stipulated by the Paris Agreement. CSOs were part of the High-Level meeting on vaccine equity, in February, and contributed to calls and commitments to address the immoral divide in vaccine access. CSOs were fully engaged in the High-Level Debate on Sustainable Tourism, in May, which focused on a resilient, build back better approach to the tourism sector. The “multi-stakeholder spotlight” approach (a short video featuring initiatives on the ground) was used to feature work of the CSOs on the ground, during several high-level meetings organized by the PGA.

The PGA met and heard from civil society themselves, in all corners of the globe. From meeting with youth climate activists at COP26 in Glasgow, to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali, to Kenya, Sweden, Angola, Dominican Republic or Georgia, the PGA engaged with civil society to elevate hope in the UN in the true spirit of “We the peoples”.

Finally, on 14 June 2022, the Office of the President of the General Assembly convened an off-the-record, informal conversation, under Chatham House rules, with CSO representatives on the topic of Meaningful participation of CSOs in UN processes, particularly those related to the General Assembly. During the discussions, the participants provided recommendations for consideration in future sessions as well on (1) improving the existing modalities and their implementation; (2) ensuring greater diversity of speakers; (3) enhancing outreach activities; and (4) having clearly identifiable CSO focal points in the OPGA.



The Presidency of Hope was successful in enhancing participation of NGOs, civil society, academia and private sector in the discussions and work of the UN to promote a dynamic, inclusive and relevant General Assembly. Every effort to strengthen such engagement should be pursued. Civil society representatives, in particular, play an important role in shaping the global agenda and serve as potential drivers and amplifiers of key global actions. While preserving the intergovernmental nature of the organization, exchanging views on priorities that matter to people and discovering new ways through which the General Assembly can make a difference is a valuable experience that should be carried on and strengthened in the future.

All high-level meetings and events held during the 76<sup>th</sup> session involved representatives of civil society, academia or private sector, as well as other stakeholders, including:

- High-level meeting on the twentieth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (A/RES/75/237), 22 September 2021;
- High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, (resolutions 72/251 and 75/45), 28 September 2021;
- High-level Thematic Debate: “Delivering Climate Action: For People, Planet and Prosperity”, 26 October 2021;
- Town Hall with Civil Society Organizations, 17 November 2021;
- High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, 22-23 November 2021, A/RES/75/283;
- Informal interactive dialogue of the Assembly on commodity markets, 31 March 2022 (A/RES/76/194);
- Informal Interactive Dialogue with the Candidates for the Position of the President of the General Assembly, 5 May 2022, A/RES/71/323;
- Interactive dialogue on the theme “Harmony with Nature and Biodiversity: Contributions of Ecological Economics and Earth-centered law”, 22 April 2022, A/RES/75/220,
- High-level Thematic Debate on “Putting sustainable and resilient tourism at the heart of an inclusive recovery”, 4 May 2022;
- High-level meeting on improving global road safety and related Interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, 30 June - 1 July 2022, A/RES/75/308;
- High-Level Thematic Debate on “Moment for Nature”, 19 July 2022;
- Informal thematic consultations on the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda” (A/RES/76/6).

Also, stakeholder participation was ensured in the meetings held under the auspices of the Assembly, as per the relevant mandates:

- International meeting "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity – Stockholm, as well as its preparatory meeting on 28 March 2022, A/RES/75/326;
- The International Migration Review Forum, under the auspices of the General Assembly, 17-20 May 2022, A/RES/73/326;
- IMRF Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, 16 May 2022, A/RES/73/326;
- Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 17 March 2022, NY, A/RES/76/251;
- 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, A/RES/73/292.

Upcoming events to take place during the 77<sup>th</sup> session where civil society and other stakeholder participation might be expected based on GA mandates or practice:

- High-level meeting to mark the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/RES/76/168) – As a result of the registration process conducted in August 2022, 119 Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC registered to participate in the High-level meeting;
- United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 (A/RES/75/212) from 22 to 24 March 2023, UNHQ, New York and its preparatory meeting to be held in October 2022 – the first round of special accreditation was conducted during the 76th session and the list of 440 accredited NGOs to participate in the Conference and its Preparatory meeting was circulated by PGA letter on 21 August 2022. According to 75/212 mandate, the second round of special accreditation should take place prior to the Conference and no later than January 2023.
- Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries - the second part of the Conference will take place in Doha, from 5 to 9 March 2023, as per the General Assembly mandate from resolution 76/251. Previously, there were two rounds of special accreditation, in March-April 2021 and in October-December 2021. PGA75 approved the list on 19 May: PGA76 approved an additional list on 17 December 2021.
- Possible consultations on proposals, options, and potential means of implementation related to Secretary-General’s report entitled “Our Common Agenda” (A/RES/76/6).
- High-level plenary to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (A/RES/69/58; A/RES/76/36).
- Informal interactive hearing with indigenous peoples, A/RES/71/321 and decision 75/561.
- Informal interactive dialogue with the candidates for the position of PGA (A/RES/71/323).
- Interactive multi-stakeholder hearing on universal health coverage, to be held before the end of June 2023 (A/RES/75/315).
- High-level interactive dialogue on Culture and Sustainable Development (A/RES/76/214);
- Also, high-level meetings and summits in September 2023 to be prepared during the 77th session.

## 4.8. Communications and media relations

### 4.8.1. Website

The PGA [Website \(https://www.un.org/pga/76/\)](https://www.un.org/pga/76/), which is designed and developed by the Department of Global Communications and maintained by the OPGA Communications team, continued to be an important source of information for Member States and other relevant parties and it will continue to be a legacy for the President of the 76th Session of the General Assembly. The website was regularly updated by the communications team with letters, speeches, readouts, and all official communications. In addition, specific event pages were created for [High-Level events](#). A dedicated page was also created for the [PGA’s Fellowship for HOPE](#).

The PGA76 website also had a section for the OPGA monthly newsletters and the [Deliver for Equality](#) newsletter.

#### **4.8.2. Media**

The PGA spoke directly to the press at UN Headquarters eight times during the Presidency of Hope. These included five sit-down press conferences: 1 October 2021, 14 December 2021, 20 May 2022, 1 July 2022, and 7 September 2022; as well as three stakeouts: 14 September 2021, 2 March 2022, 30 June 2022. During his official travels, the PGA spoke to the press dozens more times.

The Communications Team organized more than 100 opportunities for the PGA to be interviewed by media outlets around the world. In addition, eight opinion pieces were produced and published, in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese, working in coordination with Governments, UN Information Centres (UNICs) and UN Resident Coordinators' offices. The topics included food security, sustainable tourism, preserving the environment and the importance of multilateralism.

The Spokesperson's hybrid Noon Briefings provided a regular platform to promote the PGA's key messages and inform journalists about the workings of the General Assembly. The Spokesperson also made herself available each day in-person, as well as through email, social media, and through telephone, to answer questions.

This accessibility was particularly important during the 11-th Emergency Special Session (ESS). From Friday, 26 February through Thursday, 3 March, the Spokesperson answered nearly 350 questions in connection with the ESS, by email, telephone, and WhatsApp, and an additional 23 on-camera during the noon briefing. This resulted in some 15,700 news items in the six official languages and Portuguese under the keyword "General Assembly."

In addition to direct interactions with the press, the Spokesperson sent daily briefing summaries by email to more than 1,100 journalists, representatives of UN Information Centres (UNICs), UN system staff and communications representatives of Member States. These updates were also posted online on the PGA's website under "Media" to make the information accessible in online search results. The same mailing list was used to share press releases related to all visits, high-level events in the General Assembly and other newsworthy items of interest.

The Communications Team also played a role in informing internal audiences. Six feature stories were created for iSeek, the internal UN website. The Spokesperson's daily notes were emailed to interested OPGA staff. In addition, morning news headlines were shared daily with the OPGA group on WhatsApp.

#### **4.8.3. Social Media Activities**

Twitter continued to be an important channel for OPGA messaging and engagement. Tweets were developed for most PGA activities (including bilateral meetings, high-level events, official travel, recorded video messages for UN Days) – and a majority of posts feature either photo or video content, as well as tagged partner accounts for increased reach.

Dedicated social media campaigns were created around specific events (e.g. a #VaccineEquity pledge for Member States), and often in partnership with UN agencies and other event hosts or UN Country Teams. Those could feature designed social media cards, event-specific hashtags, Trello boards for consolidation and sharing of all assets, and an emphasis on aligning the PGA's

messaging with key global moments and existing online communities (e.g., linking OPGA76's event on tourism recovery with UNWTO's campaign on #SustainableTourism). During official travel, Twitter was the primary means of communication and message capture – as posts, photos, and videos were designed to be uploaded in real-time for transparency and shareability.

With over 50,000 @UN\_PGA Twitter followers added during OPGA76, this has been the largest audience growth of a Session to date. Similarly, the @unpga audience on Instagram grew 25%, with month-on-month engagement steadily increasing throughout the Session (often driven by new features including Reels). Instagram was a key channel for engagement and re-sharing content from collaborators in the wider UN community – and especially youth audiences, with the PGA often tagged in 'Stories' at events in NY and on official travel. As of August 2022, follower counts were 230k (Twitter) and 20k (Instagram). OPGA also maintained a [Flickr account](#) for ready-access to image collections used in social media posts.

#### 4.8.4. Newsletters

PGA Newsletters were prepared to highlight the PGA's engagements, travels, and ongoing focus areas (Rays of Hope). Content for monthly newsletters was compiled with a view to communicating the range and impact of the work of the General Assembly, as well as to strengthen transparency and accountability. Intended audiences were Member States, the wider UN community, and the general public – especially those with an interest in the UN system outside of New York headquarters (a focus on official PGA travel is common throughout these products). Newsletters are developed in Canva, produced as PDFs, and made available on the [PGA website](#) and delivered by email.

Podcasts

OPGA76 initiated a video podcast series, titled "In Conversation With..." where the PGA interviewed guests from a range of thematic areas and backgrounds. Topics have included vaccine equity (interview with Dr. Tedros from WHO); women in science (interview with Dr. Roberta Bondar, Canada's first female astronaut); and the sustainable recovery of the tourism sector (interview with Jacqueline Gifford, Editor-in-Chief of Travel Leisure Magazine). The podcast series was designed to place the PGA in the position of "asking the questions" – seeking insights from experts and bringing new voices and perspectives to the work of the General Assembly. Each conversation lasted 3-5 minutes (edited), and often coincided with a relevant PGA event or official trip. Episodes were typically recorded at the UN studio and by Zoom link, and were made available on Twitter @UN\_PGA or on the [General Assembly 76<sup>th</sup> Session YouTube](#) channel. Suggestions for interview guests and topics were provided by all OPGA teams.

### 4.9. Official Travel

Over the course of the session, President Shahid was invited to undertake numerous official travels to UN Member States and the UN Offices. The PGA visited 37 countries as part of his 21 trips. A full list of overseas engagements is included in Annex 5.

## 5. Annexures

- Annex 1: Meetings convened during the 76<sup>th</sup> session
- Annex 2: List of Co-facilitators / Chairs
- Annex 3: Secondments in the Office of the PGA during the 76th session
- Annex 4: PGA Trust Fund
- Annex 5: PGA's Official Travel Overseas
- Annex 6: Meetings mandated for the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly

## Annex 1: Meetings convened during the 76<sup>th</sup> session

### High-Level Meetings

1. High-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, 22 September 2021.
2. High-level Plenary Meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, 28 September 2021.
3. High-level thematic debate on "Delivering climate action: for people, planet and prosperity", 26 October 2021.
4. High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, 22-23 November 2021.
5. High-level thematic debate entitled "Galvanizing momentum for universal vaccination", 25 February 2022.
6. High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding Financing, 27 and 29 April 2022.
7. High-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, 28 April 2022.
8. High-level Thematic Debate on "Putting sustainable and resilient tourism at the heart of an inclusive recovery", 4 May 2022.
9. High-level debate on the theme "Enhancing youth mainstreaming in crime prevention policies", 6 June 2022.
10. Informal High-level Meeting to mark the commemoration of the first International Day for Countering Hate Speech, 20 June 2022.
11. High-level meeting of the General Assembly on improving global road safety, 30 June - 1 July 2022.
12. High-level Thematic Debate on the theme "Moment for Nature", 19 July 2022.
13. Special high-level dialogue entitled "The Africa We Want: Reconfirming the Development of Africa as a Priority of the United Nations System", Joint event by Presidents of GA and ECOSOC, 20 July 2022.
14. High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace on the theme, "The Culture of Peace: Importance of justice, equality, and inclusion for advancing peacebuilding", 6 September 2022.
15. High-level Plenary Meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests, 7 September 2022.

### Commemorative and other meetings

16. Informal meetings of the plenary to hear briefings on the G20 Summit, 30 November 2021 and 1 April 2022
17. Thematic dialogue on investment in road safety and multi-stakeholder hearing in preparation for the high-level meeting on improving global road safety (resolution 75/308), 3 December 2021
18. Joint briefing by the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, 20 January 2022
19. Annual commemorative meeting of the Assembly for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 18 March 2022
20. Preparatory meeting for the international meeting entitled "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity", 28 March 2022
21. Commemorative meeting of the General Assembly to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 29 March 2022

22. Informal interactive dialogue of the Assembly on commodity markets, 31 March 2022
23. Informal meeting of the plenary to hear an interim oral update on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, 8 April 2022
24. Interactive dialogue on the theme “Harmony with Nature and Biodiversity: Contributions of Ecological Economics and Earth-centered law”, 22 April 2022
25. Informal interactive dialogue with the candidate(s) for the position of President of the General Assembly for the seventy-seventh session, held in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/323, 5 May 2022
26. International Migration Review Forum, 17-20 May 2022
27. Informal meeting of the plenary to hear briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, 13 June 2022
28. Informal meeting of the plenary to mark the observance of “Nelson Mandela International Day”, 18 July 2022.

### **Events convened at PGA’s own initiative or at the request of Member States, the UN system or in partnership with stakeholders**

29. Informal meeting of the plenary on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda" (A/75/982), 25 October 2021 (continued on 29 October and 2 November 2021).
30. Informal meeting of the plenary to hear a briefing on the preparations for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, 30 November 2021.
31. Informal meeting of the plenary to mark World AIDS Day, 30 November 2021.
32. Informal meeting of the plenary to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers Programme and the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, 2 December 2021.
33. President’s Briefing to Member States on priorities for resumed part of the 76th session, 19 January 2022.
34. Briefing by the Secretary-General on his priorities for 2022, 21 January 2022.
35. Informal meeting of the plenary to hear a briefing on the report of the Secretary-General on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, 16 February 2022.
36. Special event on Equiano. Stories, 29 March 2022.
37. Informal meeting of the plenary to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 29 April 2022.
38. Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing in preparation for the International Migration Review Forum (resolution 73/326), 16 May 2022.
39. Informal meeting of the plenary to consider the report of the Group of Governmental Experts, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/304, entitled “Towards torture-free trade: examining the feasibility, scope and parameters for possible common international standards.”, 22 June 2022.
40. High-level special event entitled “Time to Act Together: Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis”, 18 July 2022.
41. Briefing by the Secretary-General on the progress in the implementation of recommendations contained in the report on “Our Common Agenda” (A/75/982), 4 August 2022.
42. Informal meeting on Youth Engagement in UN Processes - Focused discussion on identifying ways and means of more meaningful engagement of youth in the work of the General Assembly, 30 August 2022.

## Annex 2: List of Co-facilitators / Chairs

**Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/237: On 15 September 2021, the President of the General Assembly re-appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Mr. Francisco António Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal,
- H.E. Ms. Mathu Theda Joyini, Permanent Representative of South Africa.

**2021 Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Trafficking in Persons**, pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 75/283: On 17 September 2021, the President of the General Assembly re-appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Mr. José Alfonso Blanco Conde, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic,
- H.E. Mr. Enrique Austria Manalo, Permanent Representative of the Philippines.

**Review of the United Nations Development System**, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 72/279 and 75/233: On 17 September 2021, the President of the General Assembly re-appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Mr. Sofiane Mimouni, Permanent Representative of Algeria,
- H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann, Permanent Representative of Denmark.

**Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee on Accessibility**, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/341: On 1 October 2021, the President of the General Assembly re-appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Mr. Walton Alfonso Webson, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda,
- H.E. Ms. Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Permanent Representative of the United States of America.

Co-Chairs of the **Ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly**, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/325: On 15 October 2021, the President of the General Assembly appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Mr. Mitch Fifield, Permanent Representative of Australia,
- H.E. Ms. Egriselda Aracely González López, Permanent Representative of El Salvador.

**Declaration of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**, pursuant to General Assembly decisions 75/578 and 74/548, and resolution 73/292: On 20 October 2021, the President of the General Assembly re-appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann, Permanent Representative of Denmark,
- H.E. Ms. Keisha McGuire, Permanent Representative of Grenada.

**Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council**, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/569: On 15 November 2021, the President of the General Assembly appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif al-Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar,
- H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann, Permanent Representative of Denmark.



Political declaration of the **HLM on Improving Global Road Safety**, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/308: On 9 November 2021, the President of the General Assembly appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Mr. Désiré Wulfran Ipo, Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of Cote D'Ivoire,
- H.E. Mr. Dmitry Chumakov, Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation.

**International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) Progress Declaration**, pursuant to operative paragraph 25 of the General Assembly resolution 73/326: On 8 February 2022, the President of the General Assembly appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh,
- H.E. Mr. Olivier Maes, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg.

**Open-ended informal consultative process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea**, pursuant to General Assembly Resolutions 54/33 and 75/239: On 17 January 2022, the President of the General Assembly re-appointed as Co-chairs:

- H.E. Ms. Isabelle F. Picco, Permanent Representative of Monaco,
- H.E. Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē, Permanent Representative of Tonga.

**Steering Committee of SIDS Partnership Framework**, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/202: On 21 January 2022, the President of the General Assembly appointed as Co-chairs:

- H.E. Mr. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal,
- H.E. Mr. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru, Permanent Representative of the Independent State of Samoa.

Note: On 3 June 2022, the PGA appointed a new co-chair: H.E. Ms. Ana Paula Baptista Grade Zacarias, Permanent Representative of Portugal.

**Intergovernmental process towards a negotiated outcome for peacebuilding financing**: On 20 May 2022, the President of the General Assembly appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Ms. Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden,
- H.E. Mr. Martin Kimani, Permanent Representative of Kenya.

Intergovernmental process on the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/6: On 1 June 2022, the President of the General Assembly appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Mrs. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Permanent Representative of Guyana,
- H.E. Mr. Osama Mahmoud Abdelkhalek Mahmoud, Permanent Representative of Egypt.

Intergovernmental consultations related to the **modalities for the “Summit of the Future”**, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/6: On 2 June 2022, the President of the General Assembly appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Ms. Carolyn Schwalger, Permanent Representative of New Zealand,
- H.E. Mr. Mohamed Al Hassan, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman.

Intergovernmental process on a **Declaration on Future Generations**, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/6: On 6 June 2022, the President of the General Assembly appointed as Co-facilitators:

- H.E. Ambassador Ms. Yoka Brandt, Permanent Representative of The Netherlands,
- H.E. Ambassador Mr. Satyendra Prasad, Permanent Representative of Fiji.

## **Annex 3: Secondments in the OPGA76**

### **A. Member States**

1. Algeria
2. Azerbaijan
3. Bahamas
4. Bahrain
5. Bangladesh
6. Brazil
7. China
8. Dominican Republic
9. Equatorial Guinea
10. Germany
11. Hungary
12. India
13. Indonesia
14. Iraq
15. Kiribati
16. Kuwait
17. Maldives
18. Mauritania
19. Philippines
20. Saudi Arabia
21. Switzerland
22. Tuvalu
23. Ukraine

### **B. UN Departments / Agencies**

24. Department for Global Communications
25. Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
26. Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
27. United Nations Development Programme
28. International Organization for Migration

## Annex 4: PGA Trust Fund

To date has received the below mentioned contributions and pledges beginning August 2021. Unspent contributions from previous sessions of \$726,631.96 USD have been made available to PGA 76.

Azerbaijan	\$ 50,000	Philippines	\$ 10,000
Brunei Darussalam	\$ 50,000	Portugal	\$ 34,700
China	\$ 421,319	Qatar	\$ 300,000
Hungary	\$ 20,000	Saudi Arabia	\$ 120,000
India	\$ 150,000	Serbia	\$ 9,206
Ireland	\$ 150,000	Slovak Republic	\$ 33,900
Italy	\$ 50,000	Trinidad and Tobago	\$ 10,000
Japan	\$ 26,244	Türkiye	\$ 61,697
Kuwait	\$ 150,000	United Arab Emirates	\$ 300,000
Morocco	\$ 50,000	European Union	\$ 406,890

## Annex 5: PGA's Official Travel Overseas

The President of the General Assembly disclosed information about his official visits overseas on the website of the PGA:

### Prior to assuming Office:

1. 21-24 July 2021: New Delhi, India at the invitation of the Government of India in his capacity as PGA-elect. The visit was supported by the Government of India.
2. 25-28 August 2021: Tokyo, Japan at the invitation of the Government of Japan in his capacity as PGA-elect. The visit was supported by the Government of Japan.
3. 6-8 September 2021: Vienna, Austria in his capacity as PGA-elect, to participate in the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament on the invitation of the President and Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The visit was supported by the IPU.

### From 14 September onwards:

1. 1-5 October 2021: Dubai, United Arab Emirates to attend "Expo Dubai 2020"
2. 6-9 October 2021: Malé, Maldives at the invitation of the Government of Maldives
3. 10-12 October 2021: Belgrade, Serbia to participate at the "High-level Commemorative Meeting to mark the 60th Anniversary of the First Conference of Non-Aligned Countries"
4. 31 October – 2 November 2021: Glasgow, United Kingdom to participate at the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) on the invitation of the Government of United Kingdom and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
5. 23-27 November 2021: Huzhou, Zhejiang Province, China at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China
6. 23-25th January 2022: Bahrain at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain
7. 3-5 February 2022: Beijing, China to attend the Opening of the Winter Olympic Games
8. 6-7 February 2022: Singapore at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore
9. 26- 27 March 2022: Doha, Qatar at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar to participate at the 20th Annual Doha Forum
10. 13-14 April 2022: Koror, Republic of Palau to participate in the 7th "Our Ocean Conference" at the invitation of the Governments of the Republic of Palau and the United States of America.
11. 8-10 May 2022: Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire to participate in the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
12. 11 to 14 May 2022: Luanda, Republic of Angola, at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Angola.
13. 22 to 24 May 2022: Bangkok, Thailand to participate at the seventy-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
14. 24 to 27 May 2022: Bali, Indonesia to participate at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.
15. 27 to 29 May 2022: Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam.
16. 2-3 June 2022: Stockholm, Sweden to participate in Stockholm+50 international meeting
17. 11-14 June 2022: Baku, Azerbaijan, at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan
18. 14-16 June 2022: Geneva, Switzerland to participate in a high-level commemorative event on the occasion of the 50th session of the Human Rights Council

19. 16-19 June 2022: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
20. 23-24 June 2022: Kigali, Rwanda to participate in the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting
21. 25 June-1 July 2022: Lisbon, Portugal to participate in the 2022 United Nations Oceans Conference
22. 10-11 July 2022: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
23. 14-17 July 2022: Guatemala City, Guatemala, at the invitation of the Government of Guatemala
24. 21-23 July 2022: Riga, Latvia at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
25. 23-26 July 2022: Tbilisi, Georgia, at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
26. 26-27 July 2022: Yerevan, Armenia, at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia
27. 8-9 August 2022: Antigua and Barbuda, at the invitation of the Chair of AOSIS to participate at the Wadadli Action Platform
28. 9-13 August 2022: Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan
29. 14-19 August 2022: Libreville, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe, at the invitation of the Governments of the Gabonese Republic and São Tomé and Príncipe
30. 20-22 August 2022: Phnom Penh, Cambodia, at the invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia
31. 22-24 August 2022: Kuwait City, Kuwait, at the invitation of the Government of the State of Kuwait
32. 25-27 August 2022: Dushanbe, Tajikistan, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
33. 28-29 August 2022: New Delhi, India, at the invitation of the Government of India
34. 3-5 September 2022: Kingston, Jamaica, at the invitation of the Government of Jamaica
35. 9-11 September 2022: Georgetown, Guyana, at the invitation of the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

## Annex 6: Meetings mandated for the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly

This is a summary list of high-level and commemorative meetings, events, informal dialogues and briefings mandated by the General Assembly for the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly and beyond, as well as some of the relevant United Nations Conferences. Further details on each mandate can be found in the listed resolutions.

1. 20-26 September 2022: General debate (A/Res/57/301)<sup>1</sup>
2. 21 September 2022: High-level meeting to mark the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/Res/76/168)
3. 26 September 2022: High-level plenary to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (A/Res/69/58)<sup>1</sup>
4. 8-9 December 2022: Plenary commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption and opening for signature of the Convention on the Law of the Sea (A/Res/76/72)
5. By end 2022: Launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (A/Res/75/168)
6. Early 2023: Informal briefing on the Group of 20 (A/Res/71/327)<sup>1</sup>
7. 21 March 2023 Commemorative meeting for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination<sup>2</sup>
8. 25 March 2023: Commemorative meeting to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (A/Res/70/7)<sup>1</sup>
9. By April 2023: Informal interactive hearing with indigenous peoples (A/Res/71/321 and decision 76/560).
10. May 2023: Informal interactive dialogue with the candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly (A/Res/71/323)<sup>1</sup>
11. 18-19 May 2023: High-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework (A/Res/76/204)
12. May/June: Pledging Conference for Development Activities (A/Res/45/125 and decision 75/511B)<sup>1</sup>
13. By end of June 2023: Interactive multi-stakeholder hearing on universal health coverage (A/Res/75/315)
14. 29 August 2023: High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day against Nuclear Tests (A/Res/72/51)<sup>1</sup>
15. On or around 13 September 2023: High-Level Forum on a Culture of Peace<sup>2</sup>
16. During 77<sup>th</sup> session: One-day high-level interactive dialogue on Culture and Sustainable Development (A/Res/76/214)
17. During 77<sup>th</sup> session: Meeting on the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (A/Res/76/215)

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<sup>1</sup> Mandated to reoccur annually

<sup>2</sup> Mandated by annual resolutions of the General Assembly.

## Meetings mandated for the seventy-eighth and later sessions of the General Assembly

1. September 2023: Two-day high-level political forum on sustainable development (A/Res/67/290) – every four years
2. September 2023: High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, (A/Res/69/313) – every four years
3. 18 September 2023: Preparatory ministerial meeting for the Summit of the Future (A/Res/76/307)
4. 21 September 2023: High-level Meeting on universal health coverage (A/Res/74/2 and A/Res/75/315)
5. By 25 September 2023: High-level Meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (A/Res/76/301)
6. By end 2023: High-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis (A/Res/73/3)
7. 22-23 September 2024: Summit of the Future (A/Res/76/307)
8. By end 2024: High-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance (A/RES/76/257)
9. September 2025: High-level meeting to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth (A/Res/76/137)
10. By end 2025 (80<sup>th</sup> GA): High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons (A/Res/76/186)
11. By end 2025: High-level meeting on non-communicable diseases (A/Res/73/2)
12. 2026 (end of 80<sup>th</sup> session): High-level meeting on HIV/AIDS (A/Res/284)

## Mandated United Nations Conferences<sup>3</sup> and other meetings

1. 25 October 2022: One-day preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 (A/RES/75/212)
2. 5-9 March 2023: Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (second part) - Doha (A/Res/76/251)
3. 22-24 March 2023: United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 (A/Res/75/212)
4. 2024 Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (A/Res/74/15)
5. 2024 Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (A/RES/76/203).

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<sup>3</sup> See the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations, submitted by the Committee on Conferences and approved by the General Assembly, for more. <https://conf.un.org>.