

FELLOWSHIP FOR HOPE 2022

76th Session of the UN General Assembly



With generous support from





This is a flagship initiative of the Presidency of Hope – one that is particularly close to my heart. I am a firm believer in the importance of engaging with youth and enhancing the role of young people at all levels of decision making. To invest in the future of multilateralism, we need to invest in our future generations and bring them closer to the work of the UN.

Abdulla Shahid
President of the 76th Session of the General Assembly

FOREWORD

The **PGA's Fellowship for Hope** was one of the signature initiatives of my Presidency, and I am very glad to have seen it through to its successful conclusion. I am also very proud of the talented and eager group of young diplomats who joined my team and contributed invaluable to our work.

I was inspired to launch this Fellowship from my own experiences as a junior Maldivian diplomat, sent on assignment to New York by my government, many years ago. I was excited and eager – but also intimidated: by the sheer scale and grandeur of the building; its history and prestige; and its seemingly labyrinthine bureaucracy.

It was only with guidance and through experience that I became familiar with the multilateral setting and gained a deeper appreciation of the work being done by this great organization and of its guiding principles.

This is what I wanted to provide through the HOPE Fellowship. I wanted young diplomats particularly from underrepresented countries at the UN to come work within the United Nations system. To gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of both the technical work being done at the United Nations and of the values and principles that sustain global multilateralism.

It is my sincere hope that they have immensely gained from this exposure, both personally and professionally; that they will apply the knowledge and insights gained at OPGA76 to benefit their respective countries; and that they will help instill the values of multilateralism into their peers and future generations of young diplomats.

I thank all the HOPE Fellows for being a part of my team, and I wish them the best of luck as they move onwards and upwards in their careers.

Abdulla Shahid
President of the 76th Session of the General Assembly

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BACKGROUND

The President of the General Assembly's Fellowship for Harnessing Opportunities for Promoting Empowerment of youth (PGA's Fellowship for HOPE) was born out of the core belief in the importance of youth participation. Young people must have a role in shaping the decisions that shape their lives in the present, and in the future.

The UN@75 declaration and the subsequent report of the Secretary-General entitled, "Our Common Agenda", clearly emphasized the need to invest in future generations, and the importance of empowering young people in the work of the United Nations. To invest in the future of multilateralism, we need to invest in young people and bring them closer to the work of the United Nations.

A key bottleneck faced by young people is the lack of opportunities available to gain relevant experience. This capacity constraint is even more acute in developing countries, which often do not have the resources to support young people's aspirations.

The Fellowship brings together young professionals from underrepresented countries at the United Nations, particularly from Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), while ensuring gender balance in representation.

The programme for the Fellows includes three main components:

- (1) A training component led by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), imparting information and interactive discussions on the United Nations, its organs, subsidiary bodies, and processes.
- (2) Work Experience with the teams in the Office of the President of the General Assembly as well as with their respective Permanent Missions.
- (3) A support and mentoring component to ensure that Fellows are adequately supported throughout the tenure of the programme.

PROGRAMME

The Fellowship partners with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to impart training on the United Nations, its organs, and subsidiary bodies. The trainings cover topics of importance such as sustainable development, climate change, peace and conflict resolution, and human rights as well as skills development in negotiation, drafting, and public diplomacy.



Meeting with Nikhil Seth, UNITAR Executive Director – UNITAR-curated training is a core part of the Fellowship.



Launching the HOPE Fellowship alongside UNITAR at UNGA, January 2022.



Training on Cybersecurity Awareness with Mr. Abdul Alim and Mr. Mashkurul Haque.

UNITAR TRAINING SESSIONS



Financing training with Ms. Sharon Spiegel, Ms. Mariangela Parra-Lancourt, Mr. Daniel Platz, Ms. Anjali Rangaswami, Mr. Mathieu Verougstraete, Mr. Sander Glas, Ms. Cornelia Kaldewei, Mr. Peter Chowla and Ms. Natalia Aristizabal Mora.



Training on Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development with Ms. Larisa Schelkin.



Training on WTO Processes with Tatiana Yanguas and Cherise Valles.



Training on Personal Branding and Networking with Michele Clarke-Ceres.

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UNITAR TRAINING MODULES

JANUARY

- Intro to Security Council and Principal Organs of the UN
- Multilateral Negotiations

FEBRUARY

- Overview of General Assembly and DGACM Work
 - UN Protocol
- Drafting Skills and Report Writing
- Climate Change – Kyoto to Paris

MARCH

- SDGs and the 2030 Agenda
- Regional Organization, Regional Commissions, and Conflict Resolution
- Democracy and Pillars of UN Work
 - Peace and Security Issues

APRIL

- International Criminal Justice and Diplomacy
- International Law and the Sixth Committee
- UN Budgetary Processes and the Fifth Committee
 - Disarmament, International Security and the First Committee
 - UN Funds and Programmes

MAY

- Drafting Resolutions
 - UN Elections
- Financing for Sustainable Development
- The Work of UN Resident Coordinators

UNITAR TRAINING MODULES

JUNE

- Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development
 - Food Security
- The Situation in the Middle East
- The Peacebuilding Commission

JULY

- WTO Processes
- Refugees, Migration and the Global Compact on Migration
 - Human Rights
 - Humanitarian Relief and Assistance
- Oceans and the Law of the Sea

AUGUST

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery
- International Crime Prevention and Drug Control
- Global Environmental Outlook, Science Diplomacy and NASA Globe
 - UN Career Coaching

SEPTEMBER

- Networking and Personal Branding in the Diplomatic World



HOPE Fellows with the President of the General Assembly.

Fellows are attached on a rotational basis with the various teams of the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA) - Peace and Security; Human Rights; Humanitarian; Sustainable Development; Reform, Legal and Budget; and Communications.

Through their work in the Office of the PGA, the Fellows gain an in-depth understanding of the workings of the United Nations system, ranging from the Secretariat to United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies, and other entities and bodies.

The Fellows also spend two days each week with their respective Permanent Missions to the United Nations to gain real experience of working in the six committees of the UN and following other UN processes.

Eleven Member States (Qatar, Italy, Kuwait, China, Slovak Republic, Portugal, Türkiye, Japan, Brunei, Switzerland, Australia) and the European Union contributed financially for the Fellowship during the 76th session of the UN General Assembly.



HOPE Fellow Diedra Sealey interviewing the UN Road Safety Fund's Nneka Henry about how road safety impacts everyone.



HOPE Fellows Jigme Wangmo and Mohamed Fofana speaking to Reuters' Vision 2045 project about climate action.

PERSPECTIVES FROM PERMANENT MISSIONS

UGANDA

The Mission is very supportive of the Fellowship programme as it enables capacity development and knowledge sharing amongst the Fellows as well as knowledge transfer. The programme also exposes the fellows to how the UN works, and gives them exposure to multilateralism and international diplomacy. The Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN strongly supports its continuity.

GRENADA

The United Nations is enormously complex – the daily volume of work is large and the flow incessant. Even when selecting a limited number of areas of work based on national interest and responsibility, the volume of work still dwarfs the capacity of small Missions to respond. The facilitation of this programme and the opportunity to increase capacity has helped. The Grenada Mission fully supports the continuance of this Fellowship programme.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

The Fellowship has given opportunities to young and aspiring foreign service officers, and exposed them to a variety of issues in multilateralism and diplomacy. The insights, knowledge and experience gained through this Fellowship strengthen capacity building mechanisms in home offices immensely.

GUINEA

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea to the United Nations is in full support of this esteemed Fellowship programme and its continuance, which empowers and gives exposure to young diplomats from underrepresented countries at the United Nations, namely LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.



HOPE Fellows with the President of the General Assembly at UN Headquarters.

PERSPECTIVES FROM PERMANENT MISSIONS

ZIMBABWE

The Fellowship programme is a welcome development that equips and prepares young diplomats for the interesting, but also challenging field of diplomacy. It offers young diplomats, especially from developing countries, a lifetime experience. Being attached at UN Headquarters, the Fellows will be very effective in future diplomatic postings. To this end, the Mission fully supports the Fellowship programme, and is appreciative of the initiative and the leadership of the President of the General Assembly and UNITAR.

LAOS

The Lao Permanent Mission regards the Fellowship an excellent opportunity for early-stage diplomats from under-represented countries. It has proven that the Fellowship can contribute to building capacities for our country's civil servants, especially those who pursue a career in diplomacy and multilateral affairs. The Mission highly commends the initiative and offers full support in advocating for its objectives and continuation.

NAURU

The Permanent Mission of Nauru remains committed to supporting the Fellowship, its goals, and its continuation and wishes to express appreciation for the selection of our HOPE Fellow. For a small country with limited capacity opportunities like these, the Fellowship goes a long way in strengthening the Mission's engagement in the multilateral system.

BHUTAN

The Fellowship provides participants with an unparalleled opportunity for professional enrichment in multilateral diplomacy. This is particularly valuable for small developing countries, who may not have Foreign Service Institutes for professional training of their diplomats, nor specialized capacity and resources to provide focused attention on the UN and multilateralism. For smaller Missions in New York, the opportunity to supplement existing human resources of our delegations, even on a time-shared basis, is an invaluable asset. It is also noteworthy that the programme strengthens inclusiveness and diversity within the OPGA.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES



HOPE Fellows interacting with Obama Fellows on achieving the SDGs and youth participation in multilateralism.



A briefing by the Belgian PR to the UN, Ambassador Philippe Kridelka and Special Representative Mr. Yves Wantens on the Belgian Federal System and how it contributes to the UN's multilateral work.



Reflecting on multilateralism, life in the foreign service and women's empowerment over an afternoon tea with UK Ambassador Barbara Woodward at her residence.



Meeting with EU PR Ambassador Olof Skoog at the EU Mission premises on the topics of EU priorities and youth empowerment.



Discussing Youth, Peace and Security and the role of youth in humanitarian action with EU experts.



Learning about the UNDP Lab accelerator and how UNDP is working in their countries to drive innovation, accelerate SDGs and build partnerships.

EUROPEAN STUDY TOUR



Visiting the European Parliamentarium.

With the generous support of the European Union and the Swiss Government, the HOPE Fellows undertook a study tour from 10-25 May 2022 to Brussels, Geneva, and Florence.

In Brussels, the Fellows learned about the work of the European Parliament, European Commission, Climate Diplomacy, and EU relations with their respective countries and others.

The Fellows met Ms. Eva Kaili, Vice President of the European Parliament and Mr. Stelios Makriyiannis, Chair of the European Union Working Party on the United Nations (CONUN), among other officials.



Swiss President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ignazio Cassis welcoming the HOPE Fellows.

In Geneva, with the support of the Swiss Government, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy conducted a training course tailored for the Fellows, titled: "International Geneva: Managing 21st Century Peace and Security Challenges."

Over the course of five days, the Fellows were exposed to EU efforts/approaches in the areas of mediation and peace, human rights mechanisms, global migration and refugee challenges, COVID response, disarmament, and violent extremism.



Enjoying an excursion with Mr. Joseph Diess, former PGA and former Swiss President.

The Fellows also had the privilege of paying a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Ignazio Cassis, President of the Swiss Confederation and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and had an informal interaction with H.E. Mr. Joseph Diess, former Swiss President and PGA65.

In Florence, the training sessions took place at the School of Transnational Governance, which is part of the European University Institute (EUI).



Mr. George Papaconstantinou, Director of the School of Transnational Governance welcoming the Fellows at the Palazzo Buontalenti, European University Institute in Florence.

The Fellows learned about the evolution of transnational governance and its context in the African, Caribbean, and Pacific regions. The sessions also covered sustainable business, global governance, and the European Climate Agenda.

The Fellows also had an opportunity to interact with Mr. Marco Del Panta, Secretary General of EUI, and concluded their study tour with an informal exchange with EUI Policy Leader Fellows on data as soft power.



Fellows engaging with Ms. Kalypso Nicolaidis, Chair of Global Affairs at the School of Transnational Governance (EUI) on Democracy, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law.



Fellows in discussion with Ms. Eva Kaili, Vice President of the EU Parliament on EU priorities.



Fellows witnessing a meeting of the Committee of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety in the EU Parliament.



Fellows looking through their respective national files during a visit to the EU Historical Archives at Villa Salviati.



Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Director, and Ms. Fleur Heyworth, Head of Gender and Inclusive Security at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy welcoming the HOPE Fellows.



Ambassador Yannick Roulin, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland in Geneva discussing the Swiss approach to multilateral issues.



President of the Swiss Confederation and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Ignazio Cassis sharing his reflections on Switzerland's unique culture and political system with the HOPE Fellows.

REFLECTIONS AND TAKEAWAYS

The PGA HOPE Fellowship programme provided the opportunity to be at the heart of multilateralism. I was able to gain a first-hand understanding of the UN and its response to cross-cutting global risks and challenges. As a young diplomat, the programme has made an indelible contribution to my professional development. It has further reignited my personal commitment to preserve and safeguard multilateralism against ominous threats.



Javier Spencer (Antigua and Barbuda)

A truly life changing experience which took me from having minimal knowledge to now gaining hands-on experience of the work of UN and multilateralism, understanding my country's priorities, and discovering my areas of interest. It has instilled in me a strong value for cooperation. I feel empowered and ready to take up substantial roles as I return to my Ministry.



Jigme Wangmo (Bhutan)

The PGA HOPE Fellowship is a unique opportunity that gave me exposure to the multilateral system. It is a fruitful programme that combined the theory and practice of multilateral diplomacy. As we conclude this programme, I feel empowered and ready to take action towards achieving our global goals.



Mohamed Fofana (Guinea)

Through a highly immersive programme, the PGA Fellowship for HOPE has significantly contributed to my development both as a person and as a professional. Such practical exposure to the multilateral system, specifically the work of the United Nations, is invaluable in building the capacity of young diplomats like myself.



Diedra Sealey (Grenada)

Outstandingly as one life-changing opportunity, the PGA HOPE Fellowship offers young diplomats unique practical experience in serving and delivering for multilateralism.

Along with value added through working for our respective Permanent Mission, Fellows benefit from UNITAR workshops, covering an extensive range of topics necessary to reinforce our future career path.



Phongsavath Mahathilath (Lao PDR)

I am honored to have been given this opportunity to represent my country as a HOPE Fellow. The Fellowship provided a rich learning experience that bolstered my growth and expanded my skills as a young diplomat as well as an individual. I come out of this experience with fresh insights, a refined perspective, and a greater sense of multilateral awareness, which I am eager to implement.



Jaala Jeremiah (Nauru)

I had the opportunity to learn and engage in a wide range of global issues that pose a threat to humanity.

The exposure and skills acquired in negotiations, networking, and diplomacy among others have prepared me to drive change in our multilateral system. I commit to advancing multilateralism, and not isolation, as the key to addressing these global challenges.



Stella Kamukama (Uganda)

This Fellowship gave me a unique opportunity to immerse myself in the inner workings of multilateralism. I return home with enhanced competence in public speaking, writing, and negotiation, among other skills that have made me a better diplomat. Coming from an LLDC, such an opportunity might not ordinarily have been afforded to me, so I do not take lightly the responsibility to share the value I gained with colleagues at home to enhance Zimbabwe's participation in the multilateral system.



Margaret Tatenda Chikawa (Zimbabwe)



Presidency *of* Hope

76th session of the
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