

# United Nations Nations Unies

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

12 June 2023

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honour to write to you regarding our current planning for the upcoming High-level Week of the seventy-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2023.

With the World Health Organization having declared an end to the global health emergency due to COVID-19, it is expected that occupancy at United Nations Headquarters will increase significantly this year, particularly in the meeting rooms and in the General Assembly and Conference buildings. We therefore recognize that there is a continuous need to be prudent in our facilitation of the General Debate and the High-level Week writ large.

With this in mind, and in order to protect delegates and staff alike, Permanent Missions are once again encouraged to manage any COVID-19 cases that may still occur and determine any subsequent action regarding case exposures among their own attendees and guests.

The schedule for the upcoming session will be exceptionally challenging due to the large number of mandated high-level meetings already scheduled to take place during the high-level period, as well as the Climate Ambition Summit to be convened by the Secretary-General. Relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, inter alia, have underlined “the urgent need ... for ... the United Nations system to singly and collectively limit the number of side events held in parallel with or in the margins of the general debate”, and stressed the need to limit the number of high-level events held in the margins of the General Debate “to those of key significance that require immediate attention from Heads of State and Government”.

His Excellency  
Mr. Csaba Kőrösi  
President of the General Assembly  
New York

Requests for side events from Member States will again be coordinated and scheduled by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in accordance with the established procedures, on a first-come, first-served basis, and according to precedence to meetings that are being organized by regional groups or other major groupings.

The List of Speakers for the General Debate of the seventy-eighth session opened today at 10 a.m. (New York time), and will remain open until Friday, 23 June 2023, at noon (New York time). Delegations were invited to submit requests for inscription through the “General debate speaker registration” system on the e-deleGATE platform in line with the procedure outlined in the Note Verbale from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of 12 May 2023, that was sent to all Permanent Missions of Member and Observer States and the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Further information on arrangements for the high-level meetings and the General Debate of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly will be communicated to delegations in due course.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Rattray', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

E. Courtenay Rattray  
Chef de Cabinet