



SECOND MEETING OF THE PGA'S ADVISORY BOARD ON GENDER EQUALITY

1 FEBRUARY 2024

INFORMAL SUMMARY

On 1 February 2024, the President of the General Assembly for its seventy-eighth session, H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, convened the second meeting of his Advisory Board on Gender Equality.

Introduction by President of the General Assembly

The President welcomed new members of the Advisory Board and acknowledged the presence of the Permanent Representatives of Germany and Namibia, who were invited as guests to the meeting in their capacity as Co-facilitators of the intergovernmental preparatory process of the Summit of the Future.

The President highlighted certain activities that he has undertaken since the last Advisory Board meeting, namely, participation in the Global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, convening the informal GA meeting to mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and co-organizing a ceremony to honour the legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt at the monument dedicated to her at the UNHQ.

President Francis also underlined the start of the 2nd phase of the training campaign on gender equality and the prevention of sexual harassment, which was recently also launched in Geneva in collaboration with UN Women and the President of the Human Rights Council during his visit at the end of February. The President added that he successfully instituted gender parity in the appointment of co-facilitators and co-chairs for ongoing GA processes and placed priority on gender equality during his recent official visits, including to Uganda, India and China.

The President shared upcoming plans such as the convening of a high-level side event during the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, a special edition of the *Gayap Dialogue* featuring a Barbershop theme in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Iceland, and an event on the occasion of the International Day of Women in Diplomacy. He expressed commitment to establishing an emergency daycare center in UNHQ during the 78th session.

Key points from the interactive discussion

1. Gender mainstreaming in the preparatory process of the Summit of the Future

The co-facilitators of the intergovernmental preparatory process of the Summit of the Future shared their thought process and approach in mainstreaming gender into the zero draft of the Pact for the Future. Members of the Board expressed support for the zero draft which prominently features gender throughout the text and welcomed the linkage with sustainable development, among other issues.

Members noted the importance to retain strong references to gender equality in the final outcome. It was noted that women and girls' education as well as gender and technology are among elements that can be included or strengthened. The need to highlight the link between gender equality and the eradication of poverty was also noted as a means to gain support across the membership.

2. Upcoming opportunities and activities on gender equality

68th Commission on Status of Women

Members of the Board expressed support for the preparatory work towards CSW68 and discussed its priority theme ("Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective"). It is expected that the negotiations of the agreed conclusions will be challenging due to the theme, difficult environment on gender issues and the current geopolitical situation. Participants also shared their plans to hold events around CSW.

Gayap Dialogue featuring a Barbershop Theme

The Permanent Representative of Iceland introduced the Barbershop Initiative - the guiding theme of the Gayap Dialogue on 7 March 2024, in the context of International Women's Day and in the lead up to CSW. The Barbershop Initiative was launched by the Permanent Missions of Iceland and Suriname to the United Nations in 2015 as a "training camp for men" who can become agents of change for gender equality. The purpose of the initiative is to engage men in the conversation about gender equality.

3. Update on initiatives aimed at promoting an inclusive and equal workplace (establishment of an emergency daycare at UNHQ)

The Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support updated the Board on the options for the establishment of an emergency daycare in UNHQ following consultations with the Office of Legal Affairs. OPGA will continue to work with the Department of Operational Support to identify and operationalize the most viable option. The President stressed the importance of selecting the option that will take into account the longevity of the center. The need and preference for expediency was once again highlighted.

Annex:

List of participants

- H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the General Assembly
- Amb. Collen Kelapile, Chef de Cabinet, Office of the President of the General Assembly
- Amb. Keisha A. McGuire, Special Advisor to the President of the General Assembly on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- H.E. Ms. Christina Markus Lassen, Permanent Representative of Denmark
- H.E. Mrs. Egriselda Aracely González López, Permanent Representative of El Salvador
- H.E. Ms. Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative of Germany (Guest)
- H.E. Mr. Jörundur Valtýsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland
- H.E. Mrs. Agnes Mary Chimbiri Molande, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi
- H.E. Mr. Neville Melvin Gertze, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia (Guest)
- H.E. Mr. Antonio Manuel Revilla Lagdameo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines
- H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar
- H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of Republic of South Africa
- H.E. Mrs. Pascale Christine Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland
- Mrs. Krassimira Tzoneva Beshkova, Chargé, Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Permanent Representative, on behalf of H.E. Ms. Lachazera Stoeva, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria
- Ms. Sima Sami Bahous, Executive-Director of UN-Women
- Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support (Observer)
- Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, CEO and Executive Director, UN Global Compact
- Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in New York
- Ms. Pamela Morgan, Co-chair of NGO Committee on the Status of Women
- Ms. Saloni Sethi, First Deputy Commissioner, on behalf of Ms. Cecile Noel, Commissioner of the NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence.