



## THIRD MEETING OF THE PGA'S ADVISORY BOARD ON GENDER EQUALITY

29 APRIL 2024

### INFORMAL SUMMARY

On 29 April 2024, the President of the General Assembly (PGA) for its seventy-eighth session, H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, convened the third meeting of his Advisory Board on Gender Equality.

#### **Introduction by the President of the General Assembly**

The PGA welcomed Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain to the Board in her new capacity as Director of the Regional Commissions, New York Office.

The PGA provided updates on his activities undertaken since the last meeting of the Board, namely, the *Barbershop Special Edition of the Gayap Dialogue* co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of Iceland (7 March), the *CSW68 side event* co-hosted with UN-Women on the theme of “**Closing the gender gap in education: How to address long-term barriers and emerging challenges in a world of complex crises?**” (12 March) and his meeting with the *Circle of Women Ambassadors* (8 March).

The PGA sought the views of the Board members on the preparation of the commemoration of the *International Day of Women in Diplomacy*, to be held on 24 June 2024. He shared his intention to organize a workshop with UN-Women aimed at Permanent Missions on preventing and addressing online harassment against women in public life. He further sought support from members of the Advisory Board in increasing the number of Missions who pledged to undertake the training campaign on gender equality and the prevention of sexual harassment.

The PGA reiterated his commitment to establishing an **emergency day care centre at UN Headquarters**, with the hope of making progress before the end of the 78<sup>th</sup> session. In conclusion, the PGA reiterated his hopes that the **Pact for the Future** will reflect a strong gender perspective.

#### **Key points from the interactive discussion**

##### **1. Establishment of a daycare centre at UNHQ**

The Special Advisor on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and the Director of Administration of the Department of Operational Support provided updates for the Advisory Board.

The Board of Directors of the *UN Child Care Centre (UNCCC)* has been reconstituted and has been engaging with the Secretariat as well as the childcare provider to discuss the resumption of services.

The Board of Directors has taken note of the request to explore having emergency drop-in option at the childcare center for delegates who may have last minute needs for childcare.

The Department of Operation Support raised the pending issue of securing the space for the childcare, while being mindful of the planned renovations of the DC-2 Building. The Board of Directors has issued a Call for Nominations and Terms of Reference to expand the membership of the Board to its previous level. Individuals from Permanent Missions are encouraged to apply.

Members of the Board commended the efforts made to establish the daycare center and emphasized the critical role the service will provide to ensure a more equal and inclusive work environment for working parents.

A member of the Board expressed their readiness to financially support the establishment of the center. Some members also expressed their preliminary interest to nominate a representative to the Board of Directors.

The PGA reiterated the importance of prioritizing the sustainability of the operations of the childcare center during its reestablishment.

## **2. International Day of Women in Diplomacy**

This year will mark the second commemoration of the *International Day of Women in Diplomacy*. The Office of the PGA has begun the preparation for an event in the morning of 24 June 2024. The PGA and his Special Advisor sought the inputs of the Board members regarding the format and potential theme of this year's event.

Members of the Board expressed full support for the initiative and provided suggestions, including:

- Selecting a specific theme for the commemorative event.
- Some Board members suggested a discussion on initiatives aimed at advocating for a woman Secretary-General;
- Inviting high-level women diplomats as speakers as well as representatives from informal groupings focused on gender equality, such as the *Feminist Foreign Policy Plus Group*;
- Engaging young women diplomats to promote youth inclusion and empowerment;
- Convening a brief flagship event on 24 June and a series of thematic events on or around 24 June, organized by various groups, contributing to the commemoration.
- It was noted that the *Circle of Women Ambassadors* is planning to host an event as well.
- Need to coordinate among the sponsors of various events to avoid overlaps in terms of timing and topics.

\*\*\*

Annex:

**List of Participants**

- H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session
- Amb. Keisha A. McGuire, Special Advisor to the President of the General Assembly on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- H.E. Ms. Lachazera Stoeva, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria
- H.E. Mr. Erik Laursen, Deputy Permanent Representative, on behalf of H.E. Ms. Christina Markus Lassen, Permanent Representative of Denmark
- H.E. Mrs. Egriselda Aracely González López, Permanent Representative of El Salvador
- H.E. Mrs. Agnes Mary Chimbiri Molande, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi
- H.E. Mr. Antonio Manuel Revilla Lagdameo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines
- Ms. Sharifa Yousef A. S. Alnesf, First Secretary, on behalf of H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar
- H.E. Mr. Ernest Rwamucyo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda
- H.E. Mrs. Pascale Christine Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland
- Mr. Jonathan Passmoor, Counsellor, on behalf of H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representatives of the Republic of South Africa
- Ms. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Deputy Executive Director, on behalf of Ms. Sima Sami Bahous, Executive Director of UN-Women
- 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. Sanda Ojiambo, CEO and Executive Director, UN Global Compact
- Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Director, Regional Economic Commissions New York Office
- Mr. Miguel Mourato Gordo, Director of Office of Human Resources, on behalf of Ms. Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (*Observer*)
- Mr. Patrick Carey, Director of Administration on behalf of Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, (*Observer*)
- Ms. Pamela Morgan, Co-chair of NGO Committee on the Status of Women