



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

24 JUNE 2024

INFORMAL SUMMARY

On 24 June 2024, the President of the General Assembly for its seventy-eighth session, H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, convened the fourth meeting of his Advisory Board on Gender Equality.

Introduction by the President of the General Assembly

The President (PGA) welcomed members of the Advisory Board to the fourth and final meeting during the 78th session, and expressed his deep gratitude for their support and guidance during his tenure.

The PGA acknowledged the *International Day of Women in Diplomacy* and thanked in particular UN Women for co-hosting the commemorative event, focusing on women's leadership in multilateral diplomacy.

The PGA recalled that in the upcoming 79th session of the General Assembly, there will be gender parity among the Chairs of the Main Committees. He also noted the new "gender alternation" initiative, championed by a group of Member States, which aims to increase the number of women Presidents of the General Assembly.

The PGA encouraged Member States to join the reconstituted **Board of Directors of the UN Child Care Centre** to ensure that their perspectives are represented in decisions on this important topic.

In the remaining months of the 78th session, the PGA expressed his intention to work with the PGA-elect and his team to ensure a seamless transition and sustained focus on gender, including for the preparation of the annual *Platform of Women Leaders* meeting during high-level week.

Key points from the interactive discussion

1. International Day of Women in Diplomacy 2024 (Theme "Women's Leadership in Multilateral Diplomacy")

Members of the Board congratulated the PGA on the success of the commemorative event of the *International Day of Women in Diplomacy*. Many highlighted the crucial importance of having role models, as well as mentorship, to inspire young women and girls in their diplomatic journeys.

Some Board members raised the importance of using special measures, such as quotas, and the key role of media in increasing women's participation in politics, governance, and leadership. Some stressed the need to increase women's leadership in the finance sector, including as Chief Finance Officers, which will allow for more investments on gender, such as through social bonds.

Male allyship was also raised as a crucial element in achieving gender equality and women's participation in politics and leadership.

Some initiatives on gender equality in the UN were mentioned such as *United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan*, launched by the Secretary-General, and the *Senior Women Talent Pipeline* under the Department of Operational Support.

2. Update on initiatives aimed at promoting an inclusive and equal workplace

Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operation Support, provided updates on the plan to reestablish the *UN Child Care Centre (UNCCC)*. The Board of Directors of the UNCCC have been in talks with the childcare provider and will continue to consider their proposal once the Board of Directors is expanded with more members.

Members of the Advisory Board expressed appreciation on the significant progress made during the 78th session towards the reopening of the daycare at UNHQ under the focused leadership of the PGA and underlined the importance of continuing the good momentum in the transition to the 79th session of the General Assembly.

3. Conclusion of the work of the Advisory Board on Gender Equality and future opportunities for gender mainstreaming in the General Assembly

The PGA thanked all members for their active engagement on gender equality throughout his tenure.

While the reconstitution of the Advisory Board on Gender Equality is fully under the purview of each President, PGA committed to strongly encourage the PGA-elect to continue the good work of the Board and the promotion of gender equality during the 79th session of the General Assembly.

Members of the Advisory Board commended the PGA for his leadership and commitment to advancing gender equality in the United Nations.

Annex:

List of Participants

- H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the General Assembly at its 78th session
- 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. Lachazera Stoeva, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria
- H.E. Ms. Christina Markus Lassen, Permanent Representative of Denmark
- H.E. Mr. Thordur Aegir Oskarsson, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., on behalf of H.E. Mr. Jörundur Valtýsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland
- H.E. Mr. Antonio Manuel Revilla Lagdameo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines
- H.E. Mr. Ernest Rwamucyo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda
- H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa
- 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. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support, (*Observer*)
- Ms. Pamela Morgan, Co-chair of NGO Committee on the Status of Women