



# President of the General Assembly 79<sup>th</sup> Session



***“Unity in diversity for the advancement of peace, sustainable development, and human dignity for everyone, everywhere”***

The priorities of the President of the General Assembly H.E Philemon Yang encompass the three pillars of the UN: Peace & Security, Human Rights, & Sustainable Development and are guided by his vision for the 79<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

## **Priority: Combatting the Illicit use of Small Arms and Light Weapons**



**The issue explained:** Illicit small arms and light weapons fuel and sustain armed conflicts around the world, causing devastating impacts on peace and development worldwide. They continue to be the primary cause of violent deaths globally – in conflict and non-conflict settings alike.

About 260,000 people were killed back in 2021 by small arms, amounting to 45% of all violent deaths in a single year. The illicit spread of light weapons is accelerating due to new developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms – including 3D printing. This proliferation impedes socioeconomic development and their misuse accounts for human rights abuses.

**Signature Event: A Joint General Assembly and ECOSOC meeting** supported by the Office of Disarmament Affairs on challenges posed by the spread of small arms and light weapons to peace and sustainable development.