



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



## **THIRD MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S ADVISORY BOARD ON GENDER EQUALITY**

**25 July 2025**

### **INFORMAL SUMMARY**

On 25 July 2025, H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang, President of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, convened the third and final meeting of the Advisory Board on Gender Equality focused on “supporting gender mainstreaming in the work of the General Assembly: reflections and recommendations”.

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

In his opening remarks, the President of the General Assembly thanked members of the Board for their contributions during past meetings which had ensured that gender equality was not a peripheral issue – but rather, was recognised as central to the goals and values of the United Nations at key moments this year. He stressed that this was an important year, because of the convergence of historic milestones – such as the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-fifth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325, on Women and Peace and Security.

The PGA invited Board members to share their reflections on how to further strengthen gender mainstreaming in the General Assembly's work to advance both the normative standards that shape global discourse and to influence the institutional practices of the General Assembly. PGA encouraged members to share recommendations for concrete actions to strengthen the work of future Advisory Boards. He committed to sharing their recommendations as part of his handover report to the incoming PGA.

#### **Key takeaways from the interactive discussion**

Board members thanked PGA for his leadership on gender equality including the re-establishment of the Board. They reiterated their support for the aims of the Board, noting alignment with their own national priorities on gender equality as well as issues they champion such as the promotion of gender parity. They cited several good practices taken by the PGA to advance gender equality particularly the focus on women's economic empowerment. Members also highlighted other practices such as having a Gender Advisor to support mainstreaming of gender. The Advisory Board was itself a good practice to support gender mainstreaming across other UN bodies, as

demonstrated by the establishment of a gender advisory board by the President of the Human Rights Council.

With growing pushback against gender equality, members stressed the need to keep working towards consensus on this issue. Mainstreaming gender equality as a priority at the heart of the UN80 initiative was deemed important to ensure that the Organization has the capacity to respond to the pressing challenges facing women and girls globally. The UN's moral and political influence must be leveraged not only to advance gender equality but to also encourage others to do so. Strengthening meaningful engagement and effective participation of civil society organizations, promoting engagement with men, and finding ways to keep stakeholders engaged are all crucial to advance gender equality.

On strengthening gender mainstreaming in the work of the General Assembly, the Board members' proposals centered on capacity building, use of gender disaggregated data in considering the items on its agenda, drawing on evidence to demonstrate how achieving gender equality could help address other development issues, promoting women's representation in decision-making and facilitating the participation of women's civil society organizations.

The Board members also highlighted several opportunities available during high-level week in September to continue the advocacy and dialogue to advance gender equality in defense of women and girls. These include the high-level meeting on Beijing +30 and the Women Leaders Platform.

## **Recommendations**

### **Concrete steps to strengthen gender mainstreaming in the work of the General Assembly**

1. Ensuring adequate resourcing for gender mainstreaming in the work of the General Assembly.
2. Strengthening the use of gender disaggregated data in the work of the General Assembly and providing delegations with data on gender equality.
3. Promoting gender mainstreaming across all the General Assembly structures including applying gender analysis across the various areas of its agenda to support decision-making by Member States and the UN.
4. Establishing a permanent structure to support gender mainstreaming in the General Assembly.
5. Conducting a review of historical documentation of the General Assembly to identify gender biased language and promote gender neutral language.
6. Conducting a gender equality impact assessment of GA resolutions before adoption.
7. Strengthening accountability mechanisms by, inter alia, requiring annual reports of committees to reflect on their contribution towards gender equality.
8. Encouraging Member States to nominate more women Permanent Representatives and to have more balanced delegations.
9. Building capacity for delegates on gender equality for use in their work.

10. Ensuring adequate technical capacity to assist the PGA to further advocate for and advance gender equality.
11. Adopting indicators to measure and monitor the General Assembly's work on gender equality and communicating progress on gender equality in the work of the General Assembly.
12. Supporting meaningful participation of women's rights civil society organizations including those from the global South and youth led organizations, including by providing travel grants and simplified accreditation processes.

#### **Recommendations to reinforce the strategic and advocacy role of future Advisory Boards**

13. Continuing the practice of having an Advisory Board
14. Having a gender equality theme for the Board and holding a signature event related to the theme.
15. Designing the size and composition of the Board to foster frequent and frank exchanges during meetings.
16. Identifying concrete projects and ideas in advance of the establishment of the Board.
17. Collaborating with the Office of the Special Coordinator on improving the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse (OSCSEA) to tackle the scourge of sexual harassment and technology facilitated violence through concrete initiatives for delegates, building on the 79<sup>th</sup> session's workshop held in May.
18. Exploring means of ensuring that the Board's initiatives are sustained after the end of its term.

#### **Conclusion**

The President of the General Assembly expressed his deep appreciation to all members for their insights. He reiterated his intention to share the insights from the meeting with the next PGA in the handover report. As with previous Board meetings, a summary will be circulated to all member states.

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## **Annex: List of Participants**

1. H.E. Mrs. Marie-Thérèse Abena Ondoa, Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family of Cameroon
2. H.E. Ms. Mayra Sorto, Deputy Permanent Representative of El Salvador
3. Ms. Deivi-Päivi Jahami, Permanent Mission of Estonia
4. Ms. Almaha Al-Thani, Permanent Mission of Qatar
5. Mr. Robert Kayinamura, Deputy Permanent Representative of Rwanda
6. Mr. Mr. Hotam Qurbonzoda, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Tajikistan
7. Ms. Sima Bahous, Executive Director, UN Women
8. 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
9. Ms. Chigozirim Bodart, Chief of Staff, UN Global Compact
10. Ms. Analisa Leonor Balaes, CEO, Womensphere Global Institute and Humansphere Foundation
11. Ms. Pamela Morgan, Co-chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women
12. Ms. Hana Brixi, Global Director for Gender, World Bank