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**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up
to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and
summits in the economic, social and related fields**

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Summary report of the 2019 parliamentary hearing

Note by the President of the General Assembly

The present document contains the summary report of the 2019 parliamentary hearing, held in New York on 21 and 22 February 2019, which is circulated pursuant to General Assembly resolution [65/123](#).



Emerging challenges to multilateralism: a parliamentary response

Summary report of the 2019 parliamentary hearing, jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office of the President of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters, 21 and 22 February 2019

Opening session

1. The 2019 annual parliamentary hearing served as an opportunity to discuss growing challenges to multilateralism and share ideas about how to reform the United Nations and strengthen the multilateral system in order to better respond to global challenges.
2. The President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, paid tribute to women parliamentarians. She said that the United Nations was born out of the ashes of the Second World War, with the understanding that multilateralism is the only way to achieve peace. It has seen many achievements in peace and security, development and human rights, but in order to solve increasingly complex global challenges, the Organization must be revitalized. Isolationist forces and extreme nationalism threaten the rules-based international order, but problems such as terrorism, transnational organized crime, nuclear threats, pandemics, the migration crisis and climate change cannot be solved by any single country.
3. The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Gabriela Cuevas Barron, argued that there is no real contradiction between sovereign rights and multilateral solutions, because the national interest is always best served by participating in global processes that bring all countries together. She stressed that parliaments are where international policies are translated into national frameworks. Parliamentarians play a key role because they represent people and can ensure that global ambitions apply to local realities. They can hold their Governments accountable by following up on commitments made at the United Nations and monitoring the implementation thereof, passing relevant national legislation and approving budgets.

I. Multilateralism, emerging challenges and the role of parliamentarians

A. Successes of multilateralism

4. The United Nations system has achieved many successes, including in areas such as assistance to migrants and refugees, peacekeeping, global security, economic and social development, dispute resolution, finance, and research and data collection. It has helped to defeat smallpox, restore the ozone layer, secure vital freedoms for women, establish rules for air safety, international shipping and mail, create Internet domain names, vaccinate many millions of babies, save millions of lives, and prevent nuclear powers from going to war. It has also led to key societal changes, for example, most companies today understand the importance of going green.
5. At the same time, the multilateral system of the United Nations should not be romanticized. As a former Secretary-General famously put it, the United Nations was not created to take humankind to heaven but to save humanity from hell. The Organization is nothing more than an expression of the collective will of Member

States. They own the Organization, and so they must empower it with the necessary resources and institutional tools.

B. Challenges

6. Participants said that nationalism and populism are increasingly threatening multilateralism, as are growing isolationism and political polarization. The disconnect between voters and mainstream politics has led some to support more extreme parties. Some citizens feel that control and responsibility for ensuring accountability have been given over to supranational bodies, with which they do not identify. Globalization has increased prosperity for many, but created hardship and uncertainty for others.

7. Participants stressed that multilateralism is good for State interests – including national security and prosperity – but it can be perceived as being in conflict with sovereignty. Similarly, although nationalism that reflects patriotism can be a positive force, nationalism that is extreme, aggressive or chauvinistic is harmful.

8. There is, in some quarters, a crisis of trust in multilateral institutions, and democratic values and the rule of law are under attack. Some people do not trust their own Governments and, by extension, the intergovernmental organizations to which they belong. The distance between these global institutions and the people has grown instead of narrowing, despite the need for the United Nations to be more direct in tackling global challenges. Opponents of multilateralism are using disinformation and social media to spread false arguments and undermine the work of the United Nations and other international institutions. Limited resources for multilateral work and a growing funding gap at the United Nations are also cause for concern.

9. As some great powers retreat from multilateralism, power dynamics become less clear and the world more unstable. With some States deciding to modernize their weapons and abandon long-standing non-proliferation treaties, the threat of a nuclear arms race is growing.

C. Strengthening multilateralism

10. While multilateralism is greatly needed as the world faces increasingly complex cross-border challenges, the United Nations and others must adapt to become more relevant, transparent and responsive. In this regard, the debate highlighted the following points:

(a) The fundamentals of the international system must be strengthened to help States manage competition productively and peacefully;

(b) It is important to have rules, but they should be well-thought out rules that work for everyone and allow the benefits of global processes to be shared equally;

(c) The United Nations and other institutions should embrace new forms of communication and technology, and work outside traditional structures; the international community must be open to new models and be willing to commit to deep change;

(d) There should be recognition that multilateralism does not apply to everything and that some issues are best handled at the national level; however, it is worth exploring whether multilateral processes should be broadened to deal with issues such as health, education and the protection of personal data;

(e) Whenever there is political willingness to move forward, multilateral institutions should strive to go beyond bureaucratic approaches in order to implement the changes needed at a practical level;

(f) The parliamentary pillar of the United Nations should be strengthened, and parliaments should have a greater role in the conduct of foreign affairs; this can be done, for example, through the Inter-Parliamentary Union Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, by creating similar committees within national parliaments, or fostering interaction between parliamentary foreign affairs committees and the United Nations; the fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in 2020 would provide a good opportunity to further consolidate the partnership between the United Nations, parliaments and IPU;

(g) In addition to parliamentarians, new and diverse actors and constituencies must be actively engaged, including young people, women, mayors, business and labour leaders, academia and civil society representatives, and there should be an acknowledgment that in areas such as technology, the private sector often has more power than Governments.

Box 1

Engaging young people

Surveys show that youth believe in diversity, inclusion and tolerance more than other demographic groups. Here are some suggestions for better engaging young people:

(a) United Nations associations, which have many young members, could be better linked with parliaments; partnerships could also be established with national youth associations and other groups comprised of young people;

(b) Traditional societal structures must find ways to interact with youth; which could include through social media and virtual interactions;

(c) Parliamentarians, United Nations officials and others should listen to young people and implement their ideas; for example, some of the proposals raised in the Youth Assembly could be considered each year;

(d) Initiatives such as the United Nations Association of the United States of America Global Engagement Summit, the Model United Nations and the Model United Nations Parliament should continue to serve as opportunities to engage young people in, and foster their enthusiasm about, the work of the United Nations and multilateralism.

D. Role of parliamentarians in promoting global goals and fostering multilateralism

11. Parliamentarians can champion multilateral work in a variety of ways, such as the following:

(a) Bring the views of people, including women and marginalized groups, to the table; make sure that policies reflect their perspectives;

(b) Align global priorities with the national agenda; in France, for example, a Senate committee has established indicators on the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure that local and regional budgets are in step; Pakistan has established centres to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c) Ensure accountability by monitoring compliance with resolutions and treaties; techniques such as parliamentary inquiry can be used to question a government ministry's interaction with a multilateral institution; this could involve public hearings and reports, which may generate publicity and exert pressure on authorities to comply;

(d) Build trust in the international system and multilateralism by communicating the relevance of the United Nations to ordinary people and promoting political dialogue that includes discussions about the local impact of global challenges; share success stories and inform constituents about the tangible benefits of such work; inform taxpayers of what the United Nations is doing and explain why it is a worthwhile investment;

(e) Help engage citizens in good governance, which may involve opening up committee systems to virtual interaction and allowing people to participate in government in ways that do not require in-person meetings; representatives should make themselves available in creative ways and help inform citizens about the impact of their participation;

(f) Distribute evidence-based public information and foster political dialogue to engage all constituents and strengthen a culture of democracy.

Box 2

Remarks by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General, a former parliamentarian and prime minister, emphasized the need for “networked multilateralism”, which includes close cooperation of the United Nations with organizations such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, regional development banks and the World Trade Organization, as well as regional bodies. He also called for “inclusive multilateralism”, which involves not only the executive branches, but also the business community, civil society, academia and, of course, parliaments.

Global problems can no longer be addressed through fragmented responses. The Secretary-General said that it is important to demonstrate that multilateralism can deliver and to highlight the added value of the United Nations, such as its role in recent ceasefires, humanitarian aid and the adoption of agreements such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Paris Agreement on climate change. He discussed reforms under way at the United Nations in areas such as gender parity, management, and peace and security, and how those reforms will make the United Nations more transparent and responsive to the needs of Member States.

II. Increasing the political participation of women

12. Women represent about 23 per cent of parliamentarians globally. Only 19 countries have women as heads of State or Government, and just 18 per cent of the world's government ministers are women. Excluding women from decision-making leads to polarization and insecurity. Furthermore, women are often the hardest hit by austerity measures when budgets are cut.

13. For its part, the United Nations is showing the way forward with a policy that has brought gender parity to the Organization's leadership. Furthermore, gender equality principles pervade nearly all dimensions of the Organization. A higher degree of gender equality at the United Nations will help the Organization think and act more inclusively and therefore more effectively.

14. Many obstacles keep women from ascending to leadership positions, including patriarchal structures, the lack of socioeconomic means, the multiple roles that they play (as workers, caregivers, mothers, etc.), low education levels and confinement to the domestic sphere. Female politicians face more risks, including online harassment and sexual violence, which cause some to leave politics and deter others from participating in the first place.

15. When women are represented in decision-making roles, there are anti-discrimination laws, gender-sensitive budgets, sustainable development policies and positive changes in societal behaviours and cultures. Gender diversity produces new perspectives and solutions, leads to more resources and greater cooperation, and ensures that all relevant issues are heard. It improves policy implementation and creates institutions that better represent the population.

16. Tools and strategies to improve gender equality in politics include the following:

(a) The use of quotas:

(i) **Reserved seats.** Many countries have reserved a certain number of seats for women: in Kenya, for example, it is stated in the Constitution in a 20-year sunset clause that no more than two-thirds of the members of the National Assembly may be of one gender; the reservation of 47 seats for women increased their participation from about 7 per cent to 30 per cent over nine years;

(ii) **Voluntary party quotas.** Parties can commit to nominating a certain percentage of women candidates for their electoral lists;

(iii) **Candidate quotas.** Country laws may require that a certain number of candidate positions be reserved for women;

(b) Electoral system reform: since electoral systems determine who gains power, how it is shared and the nature of representation, reforms can increase the participation of women;

(c) Political party reforms can also have an impact: most parties are controlled by men and they decide who is assigned to which seat, when and why; changing such structures can lead to increased inclusion of women;

(d) Building local networks and mentorship programmes for women, which may include targeted training courses for women interested in taking on leadership positions, as well as partnerships with successful female politicians and other mentors;

(e) Changing social norms and structures:

(i) **Eliminating rigid roles.** Research shows that when society holds on to rigid roles about what men and women should and should not do, gender inequality increases, which may manifest itself in behaviour such as violence against women and sexual harassment; changing these attitudes helps to promote gender equality;

(ii) **Public and private domains must work together.** Policies on parental leave should involve both men and women, and social expectations should include an equal distribution of domestic work and caregiving;

(iii) **Changing men's attitudes.** Greater accountability is needed for the harm caused by gender inequality over generations; men need to listen to women, trust them, and hold men who resist gender equality accountable for their actions; more men need to engage in household work and caregiving so that women in their lives can thrive in the public domain;

(iv) **Amending laws that hinder women’s political participation.** In some countries, for example, women cannot inherit property, which has a negative impact on their economic power; since running for office is often expensive, such laws inhibit women from competing with men; laws focusing on cyberbullying, sexual violence and other harmful behaviours can also help to remove obstacles;

(v) **Support conversation and action on gender equality.** Representatives can promote gender equality in their parliaments, and the issue should be taken up at the highest levels; people take notice when leaders pay attention to issues such as sexual harassment, violence against women and caregiving; it is also important to insist on specific strategies and to push for the inclusion of benchmarks and indicators.

III. Revitalizing the United Nations

17. The Secretary-General has made United Nations reform one of his key priorities, and Member States have been encouraged to support these changes. The seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations in 2020 is an opportunity to reflect on and push for modernization. One panellist said that the rift between countries of the developing world and wealthy nations must be resolved in order for comprehensive and meaningful reforms to be achieved.

A. Revitalization of the General Assembly

18. As the world’s only body in which almost all States are represented on an equal footing, constituting a “parliament of humanity”, the General Assembly deals with a range of critical issues that affect the lives of people everywhere. However, it must become more transparent, effective and relevant, avoid political polarization and promote inclusiveness for all stakeholders, including parliamentarians, representatives of academia, civil society and the private sector, youth and women. It must tap into the power of twenty-first century communications technologies and non-traditional approaches in order to share its work. Revitalization of the General Assembly may include:

- (a) Enhancing its role and authority;
- (b) Improving its working methods;
- (c) Aligning its agenda with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (d) Strengthening its role in the election of the Secretary-General;
- (e) Strengthening the selection process for the President of the General Assembly and ensuring better continuity between presidents;
- (f) Extending the one-year term of the President of the General Assembly;
- (g) Improving the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

Strengthening General Assembly resolutions

19. Each year, the General Assembly passes some 300 resolutions. While they are not legally binding and are often based on the lowest common denominator, they carry symbolic and political weight and have an impact on international law. The responsibility for the implementation of and follow-up to resolutions rests with the Member States. Parliamentarians can ratify treaties, pass laws that make resolutions legally binding and monitor the implementation of decisions to ensure that they reach the most vulnerable populations. A suggestion was made to form ad hoc committees within IPU to monitor the implementation of international agreements.

B. Security Council reform

1. Membership

20. Participants raised concerns about the Security Council's inability to stop conflicts and the paralysis that stems from the exercise of veto powers by its five permanent members. They said that the body needs to be more inclusive and transparent, more fairly represent different regions of the world and better reflect current power dynamics. It was pointed out, however, that permanent membership and the accompanying veto powers have been in place since the beginning, as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations, and any amendments to the Charter would require the approval of those members.

21. The 10 elected members should be bold and united and work together to include important issues in the agenda. They should think of their two-year terms not as sprints, but rather as relays, so that others can continue what they have started.

2. Streamlining the agenda

22. The Security Council's agenda is packed; its members spend 56 hours a month in formal meetings, and often move on from an issue as soon as a resolution is adopted. A suggestion was made about parliamentarians filling this gap by providing information on how to best help a country or a particular operation and by sharing in-country expertise.

C. Conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy

23. After years of decline, the number of civil wars almost tripled between 2005 and 2015, and the number of related deaths increased sixfold between 2011 and 2015. The international community must focus on conflict prevention, which saves lives and is estimated to result in savings in the range of \$5 billion to \$70 billion a year, as every dollar invested in prevention saves \$16 down the line. With respect to health, for example, insufficient funds for preventative care lead to more illnesses and diseases, which then require more expensive medical and surgical treatments. The United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel was brought up as an example of efficiency, as it operates on a fairly small budget of \$12 million, but has repeatedly prevented conflict and diffused tension.

24. Parliamentarians can address some of the fear and sensitivity around prevention, such as concerns that it will be used as an intervention tool. Another area for improvement could come from revising the development assistance frameworks, which are key agreements between the United Nations and Governments, so as to make them more risk-informed. Multilateral and cross-pillar approaches are encouraged, so that prevention is not just about peace and security, but also about development and human rights.

D. Peacekeeping

25. Since 1948, the United Nations has established more than 70 peacekeeping operations and, over the years, many have expanded in scope and size. Peacekeeping mandates should become more focused, deadlines more realistic and deep-rooted causes taken into account. One proposal involves two-step mandating, so that an operation starts with a preliminary mandate and is then reviewed to see if it is working, perhaps after six months. The Security Council and the Secretariat could hold more strategic and analytical discussions earlier in the process, rely on more data-based information and have more inclusive consultations.

26. Peacekeepers must be held accountable for crimes committed during missions, and parliaments of the countries involved should conduct public hearings and other inquiries in response to allegations of serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse.

E. The growing funding gap

27. The United Nations regular budget for 2018–2019 is \$5.4 billion; \$0.5 billion of which had not been received at the time of the hearing. Of the \$6.7 billion peacekeeping budget, outstanding contributions amounted to \$2.85 billion. Over the past two years, the United States of America has not paid more than 25 per cent of the peacekeeping costs and has withheld portions of the regular budget. Only 34 of the 193 Member States had paid their contributions for 2019 on time (by the end of January).

28. The ensuing cash shortfall and funding gap are hindering the ability of the United Nations to work and respond in emergencies and may harm the Secretary-General's reforms. Troop-contributing countries are also not being reimbursed appropriately. While the United Nations produces an "honour roll" of those who pay on time, a parliamentarian suggested using IPU meetings as an opportunity to discuss who has not paid.

29. Greater transparency about multilateral efforts and the impact thereof could help parliamentarians explain the importance of United Nations funding, as taxpayers wish to ensure that their funds are used efficiently. Reforms that cut down on micromanagement of the Secretary-General's budget and focus on results could help, as would allowing the Secretary-General to use any savings for other areas of work. While participants discussed different funding mechanisms, several agreed that an international tax would not work, and that voluntary private sector funding of United Nations operations (as opposed to the regular budget) must be subject to strict accountability criteria.

F. Role of parliamentarians in strengthening the conflict prevention and resolution mandate

30. With a view to strengthening the conflict prevention and resolution mandate of the United Nations, parliamentarians might:

(a) Help prevent conflict by allowing societal grievances to be aired in a peaceful and constructive manner; show political flexibility, with the goal of reaching compromise solutions;

(b) Work on mediating, within and among States, to prevent conflict, and broaden partnerships with the private sector, regional and financial institutions and other stakeholders;

(c) Help people to understand that conflict prevention is a sovereignty-enhancing mechanism, as it prevents foreign troops from conducting in-country operations;

(d) Learn about the impact of conflict prevention and peacekeeping, and share that knowledge with constituents; for example, members of the United States Congress travelled to Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to see the value added by peacekeeping efforts there over the past 15 years;

(e) Ensure that United Nations contributions are paid in full and on time;

(f) Invest in conflict prevention by increasing support for entities involved in peacekeeping; incentivize cross-pillar collaboration by funding joint initiatives or tying assistance to an expectation of cooperation across the United Nations system;

(g) Commit to preventative strategies such as the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and build resilience instead of primarily focusing on crisis situations;

(h) Acknowledge national experiences with conflict prevention and share success stories;

(i) Increase interactions between parliamentarians and the General Assembly; between parliamentary foreign affairs committees and United Nations representatives; between United Nations and IPU; and between regional and subregional organizations;

(j) Work closely with the resident coordinators, and report back to the United Nations, through IPU, on any successes and failures;

(k) Embrace reform at the United Nations and consider forming a parliamentary committee to discuss the reforms.

IV. The multilateral system in the current communications environment

31. In the 24/7 media environment, there is an increasing amount of disinformation, oversimplification and inflated rhetoric. The United Nations and others must respond to those who use social media and disinformation to undermine the multilateral system. In order to control the narrative, it is important to have positive messages instead of merely being on the defensive. Multilateral institutions should avoid vague terms and jargon and find better ways to communicate about their work, including by using emotional language and stories about the impact of the work. They must recognize that individuals are not just consumers of mass communications, but active participants.

32. Finland was mentioned as an example of a country with good practices for handling complex information warfare, while Ukraine's young activists are responding to online misinformation by issuing corrective messages. The European Union has set up a rapid response unit to handle information on issues such as security and migration online. Education is key for fighting disinformation; oversimplified solutions and inflated language should be treated with scepticism.

33. Parliamentarians can help the United Nations communicate by sharing success stories about its work, clearly distinguishing between the various United Nations system entities and corresponding subject matters. Parliamentary commissions could invite United Nations officials to share information, which can then be used for outreach to local communities. Parliaments can also consider laws and policies that can help to stop the dissemination of information that is clearly false.

34. Open networks, applications and digital commons, which are organized systems with their own rules, have created an environment where anyone can start a new movement. International institutions should consider partnering with such initiatives, which can provide valuable on-the-ground experience and compensate for some of the inherent limits of a bureaucratic multilateral system. Communities are doing relevant work, such as creating an open-source community of farmers who have increased their rice yields by exchanging knowledge, or producing maps with hospital locations in Haiti, which proved helpful following the earthquake in 2010.

Recommendations to enhance the impact of United Nations decision-making processes

35. United Nations officials and parliamentarians should:

- (a) Go beyond traditional structures and means of mass communication in order to reach out to people;
- (b) Create different ways for people to be heard, such as through listening tours or by allowing them to submit questions;
- (c) Engage with people on the ground to build trust, better understand local issues and communicate more authentically;
- (d) Include the voices of women, young people and others who are often left out of the conversation;
- (e) Avoid technical, vague and broad language; use emotional and targeted stories.

V. Conclusion

36. The hearing emphasized the need for multilateralism in a world grappling with increasingly complex cross-border challenges. Nationalism, populism and isolationism pose a growing threat to the global order. The international system, with the United Nations at its core, must become more relevant, responsive and transparent. It must do a better job of including women and youth, and partner with the private sector, business, labour, civil society and regional and financial institutions. It should embrace innovation, technology and modern communication tools to share its work and engage with the public.

37. Parliamentarians play a critical role, as they are the bridge between ordinary citizens, local governments and global institutions. In order to build trust in the United Nations and the international system, they must champion multilateralism, support deep reforms and relate the importance of global policies for improving livelihoods. By overseeing the implementation of international treaties, agreements and resolutions, they can ensure that the global agenda is integrated into national frameworks and reaches local communities.

38. As a close partner of the United Nations, IPU must continue to bring parliaments and parliamentarians closer to United Nations processes, bringing the voices of the people to bear in all major agreements and reforms and ensuring stronger accountability for the implementation thereof.

Annex

List of speakers

Moderator: Richard Wolffe

Day one

Opening session

President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Gabriela Cuevas Barron

Multilateralism at a crossroads: overall assessment and emerging challenges

Member of Parliament, Grand National Assembly (Turkey), Ravza Kavakci Kan

Member of Parliament, Bundestag (Germany), Peter Beyer

Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations, Luis Gallegos

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, United Nations Foundation, Elizabeth Cousens

The national dimension of multilateralism: institutional reforms for better politics

Member of Parliament (Norway), Hege Liadal

Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations, Milica Pejanović-Durišić

Team Leader, Inclusive Political Processes, Governance and Peacebuilding, United Nations Development Programme, Charles Chauvel

Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, United Nations University, Richard Gowan

Address by the Secretary-General

Gender equality at the United Nations and beyond

Member of Senate (Kenya), and President, IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Susan Kihika

Under-Secretary-General and Senior Adviser of the Secretary-General on Policy, United Nations, Ana María Menéndez Pérez

Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Åsa Regnér

Senior Research Officer, Promundo, Brian Heilman

Investing in multilateralism: the United Nations funding gap

Member of Parliament, Riksdagen (Sweden), Cecilia Widegren

Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations and Chair of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly (Administrative and Budgetary Committee), Gillian Bird

Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, United Nations, Miroslav Jenča

President, Better World Campaign, Peter Yeo

Day two

Towards more responsive global governance: the revitalization of the General Assembly

Member of Senate (Pakistan), Farooq Hamid Naek

Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations and Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, Sima Sami Bahous

Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations and Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, Michal Mlynár

Executive Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office, Luise Rürup

Making conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacekeeping more effective

Member, Chamber of Deputies (Spain), José Ignacio Echániz

Member, National Assembly (Kuwait), Safa Al-Hashim

Chief, Financing for Peacebuilding Branch, United Nations, Marc-André Franche

Executive Director, Security Council Report, Karin Landgren

Deputy Director, Center on International Cooperation, New York University, Paige Arthur

The multilateral system in the public eye: the impact of mass communications

Speaker of the Senate (Australia), Scott Ryan

Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, Stéphane Dujarric

Chief Executive Officer, Foreign Policy Interrupted, and Faculty Member, Bard College, Elmira Bayrasli

Director, Reinventing the Commons Program, Schumacher Center for a New Economics, David Bollier

Closing session

President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Gabriela Cuevas Barron
