30 August 2021

Letter to UN Missions to encourage Strong UN75 Declaration Follow-through at the UN General Assembly’s High-Level Week (21-27 September 2021)

Your Excellency,

To take forward the UN75 Declaration’s twelve commitments and the Secretary-General’s vision of a more inclusive and networked multilateralism, a dedicated intergovernmental process to strengthen and reform the institutional machinery of the UN system—as called for by fifty former ministers of government and senior United Nations officials—is imperative. Creatively mobilizing UN Member States and diverse non-governmental actors worldwide, the proposed intergovernmental process would seek to upgrade and equip the United Nations and broader global governance system to better address major issues confronting the international community, and to accelerate international cooperation that has fallen further behind during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help ensure that the commitments of the UN75 Declaration and the proposals of Our Common Agenda are transformed into action, we respectfully ask you to encourage the President and/or Prime Minister of your country to highlight the urgent need for global leadership and vision to fully realize the UN75 Declaration’s promise in their UN General Assembly High-Level Week statements, and to boldly call for a follow-on intergovernmental process to achieve an upgraded UN system to better meet 21st century challenges.

Complementary to this request, we encourage world leaders to:

- Lend your support to specific recommendations which will no doubt be put forward in the Secretary-General’s Our Common Agenda report designed to advance the twelve UN75 Declaration commitments and “respond to current and future challenges.”
- Convey that a rights-centered, inclusive, green and gender-sensitive recovery from COVID-19 and United Nations’ revitalization go hand-in-hand. Recovery from the pandemic presents an opportunity for rethinking and innovating global governance to better address contemporary global challenges, such as inequality, climate change, violent conflict, and injustice worldwide.
- Welcome your country’s participation in a number of relevant Member States groups that champion and monitor the UN75 Declaration’s implementation.
- Underscore the importance and necessity of global civil society engagement in a follow-on intergovernmental process to strengthen and increase participation within the UN system.

We thank you for your careful consideration of this request and for your commitment to maintaining the momentum generated in 2020 (UN75) towards a shared future of inclusion, dignity, prosperity, and peace.

Sincerely,

Maria Fernanda Espinosa
Former President of the United Nations General Assembly (73rd session) and Co-Chair, Coalition for the UN We Need

Danilo Türk
President of the Club de Madrid. Former President of Slovenia, and Former UN Assistant Secretary-General