

## **Open Letter**

ATT: H.E. Hon. Abdulla Shahid  
President of the United Nations General Assembly

H.E. António Guterres  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations

### **Re: Civil Society and “Our Common Agenda”**

Excellencies,

We are writing as national and international civil society organizations and networks regarding the need for open, transparent and inclusive modalities for the follow up processes to the Secretary-General’s Our Common Agenda (OCA) report.

We view the OCA report as a necessary and important catalyst for a revitalized United Nations system. Moreover, we are encouraged by the support governments have demonstrated for the report following its launch September 10, during the High-level statements at the opening of the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, and at recent plenary meetings.

At the same time, we are concerned over reports that, as UN participation arrangements adapt to hybrid meeting rules, the pandemic is being used to unnecessarily limit opportunities for constructive engagement with civil society representatives at the United Nations.

Experience over many multilateral processes, not least the development of the Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrates the importance of broadly inclusive multistakeholder processes. Indeed, the OCA report also emphasizes the importance of meaningful, broad and inclusive consultations with civil society and other stakeholders.

As upcoming General Assembly meetings prepare the modalities for engaging discussions on the various OCA proposals, particularly the proposed 2023 Summit of the Future, we take this opportunity to signal our readiness to participate in the follow-up processes for this important and necessary roadmap for a revitalized UN system.

Civil society participation and consultation mechanisms that are open, inclusive and transparent will be essential.

Sincerely,

ORGANIZATION NAME (and country where headquartered, if necessary)