



General Assembly

Seventy-fifth session

3rd plenary meeting

Monday, 26 October 2020, 10.15 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Bozkir (Turkey)

The meeting was resumed at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 26 October.

Excellency Mr. Javad Zarif, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

High-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations

Agenda item 128

Strengthening of the United Nations system

(a) Strengthening of the United Nations system

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil to introduce a statement by the Minister for External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Mr. Costa Filho (Brazil): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Ambassador Ernesto Araújo, Minister for External Relations.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 1 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Iran to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Takht Ravanchi (Islamic Republic of Iran): I have the honour to introduce the statement by His

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran..

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 2 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of El Salvador to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador.

Mrs. González López (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador, Alexandra Hill Tinoco.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 3 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Czech Republic to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

Mrs. Chatardová (Czech Republic): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement by His

In accordance with decision 74/562, and without setting a precedent for mandated high-level meetings planned for future high-level weeks, the official records of the General Assembly will be supplemented by annexes containing pre-recorded statements submitted by Heads of State or other dignitaries, submitted to the President no later than the day on which such statements are delivered in the Assembly Hall. Submissions in this regard should be made to estatements@un.org.



Excellency Mr. Tomáš Petříček, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 4 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Mauritania to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritanians Abroad of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Mr. Mohamed Laghdaf (Mauritania) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritanians Abroad of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Ismael Ould Cheikh Ahmed, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritanians Abroad of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 5 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Slovakia to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

Mr. Mlynár (Slovakia): It is my honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Ivan Korčok, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 6 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan.

Mr. Siddig (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement by His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Omer Gamareldin Ismail.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 7 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ecuador to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of the Republic of Ecuador.

Mr. Espinosa Cañizares (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): On this special occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Ambassador Luis Gallegos.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of the Republic of Ecuador.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 8 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Saudi Arabia to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Al-Mouallimi (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the pleasure to introduce the pre-recorded statement of His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 9 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Timor-Leste to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Mr. Da Costa Tilman (Timor-Leste): It is my distinct honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement of Her Excellency Ms. Adaljiza Magno, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 10 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

Mr. Kpayedo (Togo), Vice President, took the Chair.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Panama to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama.

Ms. Concepción Jaramillo (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Alejandro Ferrer López, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 11 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Congo to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Congolese Living Abroad of the Republic of the Congo.

Mr. Balé (Congo) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Jean-Claude Gakosso, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Congolese Living Abroad of the Congo, on the occasion of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Congolese Abroad of the Republic of the Congo.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 12 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Estonia to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia.

Mr. Auväärt (Estonia): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement by the Foreign Minister of Estonia, His Excellency Mr. Urmas Reinsalu, on the occasion of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 13 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Burkina Faso to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burkina Faso.

Mr. Tiare (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Alpha Barry, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burkina Faso, on the occasion of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burkina Faso.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 14 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Kuwait to introduce a statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait.

Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait): It is my honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait in commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 15 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Suriname to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname.

Ms. Sweeb (Suriname): It is my honour, at the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, to introduce the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation, His Excellency Mr. Albert Ramdin, of the Republic of Suriname.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 16 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Rwanda to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda.

Mrs. Rugwabiza (Rwanda): It is my pleasure to introduce the pre-recorded statement of The Honourable Vincent Biruta, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 17 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Trinidad and Tobago to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Barman (Trinidad and Tobago): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded message by Senator the Honourable Amery Browne, Minister for Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 18 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Montenegro to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Montenegro.

Mrs. Pejanović Đurišić (Montenegro): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded video statement by His Excellency Mr. Srđan Darmanović, Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the occasion of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Montenegro.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 19 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of Morocco.

Mr. Hilale (Morocco) (*spoke in Arabic*): It is my honour to present the pre-recorded statement of His Excellency Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates on the occasion of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 20 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Paraguay to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay.

Mr. Arriola Ramírez (Paraguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to present the pre-recorded statement of His Excellency Ambassador Federico Alberto González Franco, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay, on the occasion of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 21 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Adom (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to present the pre-recorded statement of His Excellency Mr. Ally Coulibaly, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, on the occasion of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 22 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Madagascar to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar.

Ms. Andriamiarisoa (Madagascar) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Madagascar, His Excellency Mr. Djacoba A. S. Oliva Tehindrazanarivelo, on the occasion of the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 23 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the United Kingdom to introduce a statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Mr. Roscoe (United Kingdom): I have the great privilege to introduce a pre-recorded statement by Mr. Dominic Raab, First Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 24 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Japan to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Mr. Ishikane (Japan) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to present the pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Motegi Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 25 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Nicaragua to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua.

Mr. Jiménez (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is an honour and a pleasure to introduce the pre-recorded statement of His Excellency Denis Ronaldo Moncada

Colindres, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 26 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Bahrain to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Mr. Alrowaiei (Bahrain) (*spoke in Arabic*): It is my honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement of Mr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, at this high-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 27 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Chad to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Chadians Abroad of the Republic of Chad.

Mr. Mouctar (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement of His Excellency Ambassador Amine Abba Sidick, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Chadians Abroad, on behalf of the Field Marshal of Chad, Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic, Head of State, at the high-level meeting dedicated to the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Chadians Abroad of the Republic of Chad.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 28 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Guatemala to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala.

Mr. Castañeda Solares (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): I hereby present the pre-recorded statement of His Excellency Pedro Brolo Vila, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 29 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Uzbekistan to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Ibragimov (Uzbekistan): I have the honour to present a pre-recorded video statement by His Excellency Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 30 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Angola to introduce a statement by the Minister for External Relations of the Republic of Angola.

Ms. Ferreira (Angola): It is my distinct honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement of the Minister for External Relations, Mr. Tété António, on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for External Relations of the Republic of Angola.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 31 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Yemen to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen.

Mr. Al-Saadi (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): On the occasion of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, it is my pleasure to introduce the pre-recorded message of Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Hadhrami, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 32 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Jamaica to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica.

Mr. Rattray (Jamaica): I have the honour to introduce Senator Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, who will deliver a pre-recorded statement.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 33 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Lithuania to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania.

Mr. Petkus (Lithuania): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded video statement by His Excellency Mr. Linas Linkevičius, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 34 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The meeting was suspended at 1.15 p.m. and resumed at 3.05 p.m.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Algeria to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Mr. Mimouni (Algeria): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement of His Excellency Sabri Boukadoum, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, for the high-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 35 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Cameroon to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon.

Mr. Ngouambe Wouaga (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): On the occasion of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement of His Excellency Mr. Lejeune Mbella Mbella, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 36 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Libya to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Libya.

Mr. Alshames (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): It is my pleasure to introduce the pre-recorded statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mohamed Siala, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Libya.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 37 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina to introduce a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic.

Ms. Squeff (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): On the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, I have the honour to present the pre-recorded statement of Foreign Minister of the Argentine Republic and engineer, Felipe Solá.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 38 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mongolia to introduce a statement by the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia.

Mr. Vorshilov (Mongolia): It is my great honour and privilege to introduce the pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Munkhjin Batsumber, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 39 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, permit me to convey, on behalf of my country the Syrian Arab Republic and its people, our sincere wishes for the health, safety and prosperity of the peoples of the world and the entire humankind.

As we speak about humankind and its security and prosperity, we recall the founding fathers, who established the Organization after the tragedies of the Second World War. Today, we celebrate their great achievement in establishing the Organization to grant hope to all humankind for a better world, where we all work within the framework of multilateral diplomacy to end colonialism, hegemony, occupation and aggression as well as to reduce the threat of war, poverty, disease, famine and desertification.

However, as we take stock of the past 75 years and our legitimate fears about the future, we must do more than celebrate and have the courage to acknowledge that we have not met the hopes of all humankind at the United Nations. Yes, the Organization has achieved much in terms of confronting numerous socioeconomic, security, humanitarian, health and environmental challenges. It has saved hundreds of thousands of lives, provided education for millions of children and fostered fundamental freedoms and rights for everyone, including gender equality.

Nevertheless, the United Nations has not succeeded in coming up with the means necessary to prevent the outbreak of conflict and war or end colonialism, occupation and aggression. The United Nations has not succeeded in resolving every crisis, while in many cases it has surrendered to the will of certain States that maintain their hegemony and arrogance over the world. The United Nations also has been unable to stand up to Governments that create hotspots of tension and chaos, fuel conflict and war and spur the more dangerous phenomena of the times, namely, terrorism and radicalism. The same Governments have invested in spreading anarchy through proxy wars.

None of us can deny that the past three decades have led, inside the United Nations and within the framework of international relations, to political and financial polarization as a result of policies inimical to the provisions of the Charter. Such policies were governed by the selfish interests of certain Governments with political, economic, military and financial influence. First and foremost, they targeted the rights, territorial integrity, political independence and self-determination of many countries in the world and disregarded non-interference in their internal affairs — to the extent that today, the prevalent pattern in international relations reveals that a powerful country and its allies occupy the land of others without hesitation or fear from the repercussions of violating the Charter of our

Organization. They continue to use or threaten to use military force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, of course in tandem with imposing unilateral coercive economic measures to starve peoples and break their will.

The achievements are manifold. We are deeply indebted to the United Nations and its staff, and also to those who have sacrificed their lives in peacekeeping operations. However, the coming years will be very difficult and decisive in forging a free and safe world in which everyone enjoys health, prosperity and sustainable development and respects differences without the threat or use of military force and without imposing certain Government models on other States or punishing their peoples economically.

I would like to conclude by underscoring that only our actions will judge our commitment to the slogan “We the peoples of the United Nations”. Failing that, we will be held hostage to commemorating anniversaries, while some Governments apply their own slogans, such as “We the donor Governments possess the sociopolitical influence and military force”. We will then be unable to address current events and their implications on our world, which will lead the Organization to undergo a fate similar to that of the League of Nations before we celebrate its centennial.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Hungary.

Ms. Bogay (Hungary): Seventy-five years ago, delegates in San Francisco signed the Charter of the United Nations without the presence of Hungary.

At the outbreak of the revolution of 1956, Hungary was still a novice in the Organization, having joined it just one year earlier. When the Security Council was paralysed on the issue, the General Assembly took the lead, and, with the tireless efforts of Danish diplomat and United Nations official Povl Bang-Jensen, the Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary was established in the General Assembly.

The case and fate of the Hungarian revolution remained on its agenda long after the revolution was suppressed. The United Nations showed us that, although it is not omnipotent, it truly is persistent, responsible and sensitive to suffering. These are among the driving values of the United Nations of our times, too.

Multilateral diplomacy is similar to gardening. You plant. You wait. You sow the seeds, wait, dream and

then harvest at some point, as George Shultz put it. In multilateralism, you invest in networking, relationships and trust, and you build a base you can rely on.

Based on national sovereignty, Member States will always be the first responders in any crisis. As problems arise more rapidly and people turn to their own Governments for help regarding specific answers at the national level in times of global challenges, such governmental help needs to be supported by the United Nations and other international organizations. And since its foundation, the United Nations has always been a cornerstone of our world order.

Seventy-five years later, it remains our duty to preserve and fight for these achievements. We should also support the United Nations to adapt to new challenges, evolve and improve. Hungary proudly supports multilateralism by playing an active role in UN bodies and hosting an increasing number of United Nations offices in Budapest. Hungary is striving to ensure that Budapest become a growing regional hub of the United Nations in Europe.

In our work within the United Nations, we also place particular emphasis on preventive diplomacy, human rights, women’s empowerment, supporting counter-terrorism, fighting violent extremism, ensuring accountability, promoting disarmament and non-proliferation, and the maintenance of peace and security.

The United Nations, as a framework, needs reforms, but the framework itself is secondary to the principles, the intention and the political will of Member States. We need to ensure our willingness to reform and share the burden. We need global cooperation and the ability to galvanize international consciousness and collective responsibility not only to fight the pandemic, but also to emerge stronger in the post-coronavirus disease era.

Happy Birthday, United Nations.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Eritrea.

Ms. Tesfamariam (Eritrea): Allow me to congratulate Mr. Volkan Bozkır, on behalf of my delegation, on his assumption of the presidency of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly. He can count on Eritrea’s full cooperation and support during his tenure.

Allow me to also express my delegation's deep appreciation to the outgoing President, His Excellency Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, for having successfully conducted the previous session despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

We are commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations amid a global pandemic that has cost the lives of thousands, brought trade and commerce to a virtual halt and affected the livelihoods of millions. This year was expected to bring an especially large number of leaders to Headquarters to celebrate the founding of the Organization, but, instead, the events at the seventy-fifth session have scaled down with most taking place virtually.

Unfortunately, not all States have enjoyed the rights and privileges envisioned in the Charter of the United Nations. Eritrea joined the United Nations in 1993 but spent the better part of its 75 years appealing to the United Nations for justice and respect for rights, enshrined in the Charter. The lives lost and opportunities lost in Eritrea's quest for peace are, needless to say, incalculable.

COVID-19 has exposed the inequalities in our world today, including the digital divide. It has also in many ways forced us to work together to find solutions to many of our shared problems. It has illuminated the need for multilateralism to solve global issues. No country can defeat this scourge and its economic and social effects alone. Our interconnectedness and interdependence illustrate an even greater need today for an invigorated multilateral system that will leave no voice unheard.

As we enter the decade of action to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is imperative that we all work together and, redouble our efforts to mitigate setbacks due to COVID-19 in order to fully realize the aspirations of our peoples, as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Addis Ababa Plan of Action. Twenty-five years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, it is a stark reminder that women still bear the brunt of most calamities, and, with COVID-19, it is no different.

The United Nations, in order to meet the aspirations of the world's peoples, will need to modernize, strengthen solidarity among nations, big and small,

achieve the SDGs and respond to environmental issues brought on by climate change. It will need to end conflicts, promote peace and stability and address international crimes, such as trafficking, terrorism and the rise in humanitarian emergencies around the globe — a very tall order for a 75-year-old organization, whose scorecard remains wanting, which is mostly owing to lack of political will from those who wield global power and influence.

But where there is hope, there are possibilities. Let us take the bull by the horns and make tomorrow a better place for all of humankind. We are indeed in this together. To paraphrase the theme for this year, the future we want and the United Nations we need will require political will and the reaffirmation of our collective commitment to multilateralism.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of New Zealand.

Mr. Hawke (New Zealand): When the world gathered in San Francisco 75 years ago, we stood together in the shadow of global war at the crossroads of a historical moment, when the need for multilateralism was undeniable.

As we have gathered over the past month to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, we should remind ourselves how remarkable it is — this place where the world comes together to discuss problems that are greater than any of us alone. How remarkable it is that through collective action we give practical effect to the vision of the Charter of the United Nations and that, when we speak of the United Nations, we speak of ourselves.

Together we, the United Nations, have achieved extraordinary things over the past 75 years. The recent high-level events of last month offered us further milestones on biodiversity, gender equality and disarmament. Each event served as an example of our enduring collective commitment to overcome the significant challenges we face. We must not stop striving for more collective action.

For New Zealand, the future we want and the United Nations we need is both a call and a question. It is a call that demands that all of us step up to lead in shaping our collective future. It also requires us to question, listen and reflect on our past to see how we

can reimagine a United Nations that can best serve the world today.

The @UN75 global dialogue has given us the chance to hear the voices of people around the world, especially youth. The common themes of improved basic services, addressing inequality and meeting the challenge of climate change are clear. We hear their voices, and we would be wise to listen to them. The United Nations we need to face our current and future challenges is not the same one that was founded in 1945. The United Nations must continue to adapt and remain relevant as the world around us changes at an ever-faster rate.

New Zealand is proud to have been among the founders of the Organization, but we are prouder still to be part of an organization whose membership today reflects the world as it is — a diverse planet with untold challenges but also with untold potential. We have all the tools to address our shared challenges; we just need the collective will to use them.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mali.

Mr. Coulibaly (Mali) (*spoke in French*): Mali welcomes the holding of this high-level meeting, devoted to the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations, which came into force on 24 October 1945 as the legitimate framework for our collective action for peace, development and human rights.

In its 75 years of existence and daily work, the United Nations has made considerable progress in addressing the deep and legitimate aspirations of the peoples of the United Nations.

Despite legitimate questions about its effectiveness, the United Nations continues to quintessentially embody multilateralism and international cooperation in responding to our world's multiple challenges. It remains the ideal framework within which all the nations of the world — be they powerful or less powerful; at peace or in crisis; or developed or developing — have the opportunity to express themselves freely and participate equally in debates, negotiations and decisions on the major international issues of the day.

Those great achievements of multilateralism and the United Nations foster mutual trust and understanding among nations and reduces the risk of tensions and even conflict among Member States.

The United Nations is the ideal embodiment of international solidarity for a country or nation facing challenges beyond its capacities to address them.

Mali remains a fervent advocate of such multilateralism and international solidarity under the auspices of the United Nations. My country's unwavering commitment to the Organization has been reflected in the active participation of Malian citizens in the peaceful settlement of conflicts around the world and the deployment of Malian troops in peacekeeping missions of the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel).

Today, in return, Malians welcome the benefits of international solidarity, demonstrated by the presence on their territory of forces and civilian personnel from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union, the G-5 Sahel and several other friendly nations, with a view to restoring peace and lasting stability, not only in Mali, but throughout the Sahel and even beyond.

However, we know that the United Nations cannot do it all alone. It must strengthen its cooperation with countries and other international and regional organizations concerned. I welcome the steps taken in this regard with the African Union, ECOWAS and the G-5 Sahel.

Today's multiple and complex challenges, in particular the persistent threats to international peace and security, including terrorism, violent extremism, climate change, the coronavirus disease, economic and social inequalities and human rights abuses, leave us no other option but to work together and unite our efforts to breathe new life into the multilateral framework of the United Nations.

This collective responsibility demands that international issues be addressed in a transparent, equitable and fair manner. It requires that we finally agree to move forward on the reform of some of the principal organs of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council and the General Assembly, including their composition and working methods. Lastly, it requires us to support the various reforms undertaken by the Secretary-General, in particular those related to the peace and security pillar and the development system.

Mali remains committed to supporting all initiatives aimed at strengthening multilateralism and the primary role of the United Nations.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming Mali's support for the political declaration that we adopted within the framework of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Organization.

I thank you.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan.

Mrs. Ataeva (Turkmenistan) (*spoke in Russian*): Seventy-five years ago, the victory in the war against fascism was won in a heroic struggle. The tragedy of the Second World War, which left devastation and an enormous loss of life in its wake, must not be repeated. The victor countries showed far-sightedness in founding the United Nations, which gave people hope for the future and ushered in a new era of cooperation. The main goal set for the United Nations was to maintain peace.

Over the past 75 years, the Organization has done much to promote peace, security and development, and we have actively supported such efforts. During the same period, the United Nations has significantly expanded the scope of its mandate to include the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the protection of the environment, human rights, disarmament, the eradication of poverty, economic and social development and access to quality services, while highlighting issues concerning women, children, youth and race. Over the years, the Organization has evolved to meet emerging concerns and challenges. Reform has enabled it to make improvements and become stronger and more resilient. The process of United Nations reform must continue. It is a demand of our time.

We extend our thanks to all the Presidents of the General Assembly and all the Secretaries-General for their contributions to the United Nations.

The global community today is on the threshold of entering the decade of action to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a decade of confronting new challenges and threats. One of the challenges is the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has already claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and continues to pose a serious threat to everyone on the planet. The realization of the SDGs

has also come under threat. They must remain the focus of our attention. We will be able to counter the threat if we remain united in solidarity through close cooperation and multilateralism. It is imperative to provide access to vaccines, treatments and personal protective equipment to prevent the virus from spreading.

For our country, the United Nations has been, and remains, a critical strategic partner. With the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, Turkmenistan reaffirms its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, the great ideals enshrined therein and its dedication to peace, dialogue and preventive diplomacy. Everyone needs this Organization, which is the only universal organization of its kind, and we believe that the United Nations ideals and values will remain relevant.

Let us congratulate the United Nations and the entire international community on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Organization. We wish it and all of us every success in achieving our shared goals.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Israel.

Mr. Erdan (Israel): My grandfather Chaim, his wife Bracha and their eight kids were sent to Auschwitz. Upon arrival, Bracha and the kids were ripped away from my grandfather, as the Nazis separated men from women and children from parents. Bracha and seven of my aunts and uncles were brutally murdered by the Nazis.

In 1945, as the world was rebuilding from the ruins of the Second World War, my grandparents were rebuilding their lives after surviving the horrors of the Holocaust and the terrors of Auschwitz.

As the international community established the United Nations with the goal of maintaining international peace and security, my grandparents immigrated to Israel with the goal of starting a new, better and safer life for themselves and for the Jewish people.

When I was first elected to the Israeli Knesset, my grandmother Rachel told me that, in the hell of Auschwitz, she could never have imagined that Jewish sovereignty would one day be renewed in our ancient homeland, let alone that her grandson would serve in the Parliament of that sovereign State.^[P.P.] Today, her grandson proudly represents the world's only Jewish State before the Organization, mandated with guaranteeing that never again will anyone have

to endure the pain and suffering that my family and millions of others endured.

I speak before you today on behalf of the State of Israel and the Jewish people to ensure that this institution honours that promise. In its early years, the United Nations was a force for good in the world. Over time, politics has steered it away from the goals enshrined in its mandate. The United Nations has neglected its primary purpose of promoting peace and security and defending human rights.

Iran is the biggest threat to peace and security in the Middle East. Yet instead of extending the arms embargo on Iran, the Security Council has chosen inaction and to allow the world's top State sponsor of terrorism to purchase weapons. In response to the historic peace treaties between three Member States and Israel, this institution again chose inaction. Rather than use this achievement as a catalyst to advance peace, the United Nations has responded with indifference. Inaction should not be an option for an organization created to guarantee peace and security.

Ms. Mudalalli (Lebanon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Allowing human rights violators to serve on the Human Rights Council or enabling subsidiaries that perpetuate, rather than resolve, conflict begs the question of whether this body can remain relevant for another 75 years.

We must all work together to help the United Nations fulfil its primary purpose of promoting peace and stay on the correct path in the future.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Iraq.

Mr. Bahr Aluloom (Iraq) (spoke in Arabic): At the outset, I wish once again to express my sincere congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Volkan Bozkir on his election as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session and on his efforts to convene this meeting. We also commend the work of His Excellency Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, in view of the major challenges facing the United Nations, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the representative of the Republic of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the

representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and thanks to the delegations of Sweden and Qatar for their efforts as co-facilitators in the drafting process for the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations.

My country, Iraq, was a founding State Member of the United Nations and contributed to the drafting of the Charter. We therefore believe that it is important at this critical stage for the membership of the United Nations to speak with a united voice in order to address the crises facing the international community today. We should send our peoples a message of optimism and hope for the future, inspired by the theme of our session for the seventy-fifth anniversary, entitled "The future we want, the United Nations we need".

Iraq reaffirms its commitment to a multilateral international order based on the Charter of the United Nations and international law. We believe that the United Nations must remain the cornerstone of a multilateral international system. The United Nations and its agencies must work in partnership with all stakeholders to implement their mandates and decisions, guided mainly by the Charter.

Our Organization has played an important role in ending decolonization, achieving the independence of and granting freedom and dignity to millions of people around the world, and we appreciate that historic effort.

Despite our frustration that the COVID-19 pandemic has undermined many of our development gains over the past decades, we are encouraged by the continuation of United Nations fieldwork. We are grateful for its support in our response to the pandemic and in our efforts to pursue the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during this decade of action.

It is appropriate to point out the interdependent relationship between sustainable development and peace, as neither one can be accomplished without the other. In that regard, we believe it necessary to highlight the negative role of terrorism as a threat that jeopardizes the plans and policies of States aimed at achieving sustainable development. We emphasize the importance of achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

There is an urgent need to build partnerships and mobilize financing for sustainable development. In that regard, we must focus on the ongoing need to improve the United Nations development system so that we can provide a future of sustainable development for all our peoples.

Drawing on lessons from the past 75 years, it may be appropriate to stress the need to reform and strengthen the main bodies of the United Nations — including the Security Council — in order to render them more fit for the purposes for which they were established. It is also important to emphasize the critical importance of fostering the role of the United Nations in conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Iraq therefore renews its support for the initiative of Secretary-General António Guterres for a global ceasefire in all conflict areas.

Iraq considers it necessary to address the urgent need for the United Nations to respond to new and emerging issues in the future by revitalizing debates on the norms and standards related to cross-border water resources and cybersecurity.

In conclusion, we stress that the United Nations system must strengthen its regional organs as effective partners for sustainable development. We also express our appreciation for the vital role of the United Nations in combating climate change as an existential threat to everybody.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Namibia.

Mr. Gertze (Namibia): On this historic occasion in the life of our Organization, I have the distinct honour to deliver my country's message, through the words of His Excellency Mr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia. The statement reads as follows,

“It has been 75 years since the establishment of this global body in the interest of upholding the values of humanity and the principles of equality. Indeed, for the past 75 years, the United Nations has become the guarantor of human dignity for millions of people across the world. The fact that for 75 years we have averted a Third World War is testament to the success of this great human experiment in multilateralism.

“We recognize the pivotal role this distinguished Organization has played to promote and sustain world peace, and in the decolonization

of Africa. As Namibians, we can attest to this fact, given our own history.

“In 1960, Ethiopia and Liberia instituted proceedings against Apartheid South Africa at the International Court of Justice regarding the interpretation and application of the country's mandate over Namibia, then South West Africa. On 18 July 1966, the International Court of Justice dismissed the case due to a technicality. Based on that technicality, the International Court of Justice did not deal with the merits of the case and failed to rule on the legality of Apartheid South Africa's occupation of Namibia. However, in the same year, the General Assembly passed resolution 2145 (XXI), which declared the mandate terminated and that the Republic of South Africa had no further right to administer Namibia. Therefore the United Nations assumed direct responsibility for Namibia.

“Thus, we are grateful that the United Nations was able to accompany us to independence and it was a proud day, when on March 21, 1990, we received the instruments of power from Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, to commence a new chapter in Namibia's history. May his soul rest in peace.

“Not only did the United Nations contribute to the establishment of democracy in a free and independent Namibia, it also laid a cornerstone for our democracy by establishing the United Nations Institute for Namibia, known as UNIN, where [His Excellency Mr. Geingob] had the privilege to be a director for 12 years. This institute helped train young Namibians in order to equip them with the requisite expertise and knowledge to become leaders and administrators in an independent Namibia. To date, Namibia continues to reap the benefit from this extraordinary organization, whose alumni include the Chief Justice and Deputy Chief Justice, among other key figures in the political, public and commercial spheres.

“Indeed, the commemoration of this seventy-fifth anniversary is a great day for Namibia. Given the illustrious history of the United Nations and the realities of the modern-day world, it is unacceptable that Africa remains excluded from the Security Council. It is time that the Security Council's representation reflects the current global geopolitical formations and security threats. In this

regard, Africa is a capable partner, and therefore Africa should occupy its rightful position at the United Nations, in the interest of global peace and stability.

“The United Nations has always championed equality and, therefore, Africa cannot continue to be silenced and sidelined. Let us make this anniversary an ideal moment for us to engage in collective introspection and take this Organization to the next level. Let us embrace multilateralism in order to augment the values and ideals upon which the United Nations was founded”.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of the Bahamas.

Ms. Carey (Bahamas): For 75 years, the United Nations has been a source of hope for humankind to develop a better world, even in the most challenging of times. The Bahamas takes this opportunity to congratulate the United Nations on its seventy-fifth year since the signing of the Charter of the United Nations. This anniversary is a stock-taking moment, where we can reaffirm our dedication to the principles and values enshrined in the Charter. The Bahamas is proud to be a part of this Organization, which we joined on independence in 1973 and we are very pleased to witness the commemoration of this milestone.

This provides an important occasion to reflect on the successes of the past and to discuss our hopes for the future. The legacy of the United Nations has been solidified by its vital role as the lead organization in supporting and encouraging collective security and promoting peace and security and in its decades of success in fighting colonization and providing development support and assistance. The United Nations continues to champion the protection and promotion of human rights.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and salute the many dedicated United Nations staffers and pay particular homage to those who sacrifice their lives to uphold the principles of the United Nations.

We remain dedicated to supporting and furthering the mission of the United Nations, while also recognizing the complexities of the many tasks ahead.

The relevance of the Organization was reaffirmed with the emergence of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic as the United Nations, through the World Health Organization, helped to lead the

fight against the disease and its aftermath. As we noted in the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, which we adopted on 21 September, COVID-19 has led to a global economic recession, increased poverty, anxiety and fear. It has put enormous pressure on our societies, economies and health systems. The impact of COVID-19 threatens our ability to meet the Sustainable Development Goals we agreed are necessary to help build a more equitable and just world. The effects of the pandemic exacerbate the complex problems small island States, like The Bahamas, face in the wake of dangers linked to climate change.

The Declaration we adopted by consensus reaffirms our commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter. This Declaration sets out 12 action points which, if implemented, will improve and enhance the lives of all our citizens. COVID-19 has reminded us how vulnerable the world is. It has demonstrated that we need united, determined action if we are to succeed.

In celebration of this auspicious occasion, The Bahamas reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations and commends its 75 years of support to Member States.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mr. Empole (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): As we commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, first and foremost, I would like to pay tribute to the founders, as well as all staff, of the United Nations, an Organization created to serve and promote the common good, in accordance with our shared human values for a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

Indeed, by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by its founding Charter, the United Nations has worked throughout its years of existence to foster the well-being of the world through its tireless efforts to maintain international peace and security and development and to promote human rights. It has been able to unite the world and has achieved enormous progress in several areas. In particular, it has helped to eliminate colonialism and apartheid, which are now but tragic memories, and has also contributed to legislation at the international level, through treaties and other key legal instruments put in place for the good of humankind.

For several decades, the United Nations has also played a major role in dialogue between peoples and communities, as well as in contributing to conflict prevention and resolution, the fight against sexual violence, the provision of humanitarian assistance and the promotion of sustainable development, notably through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Given the exceptionally difficult circumstances faced by many countries, such as natural disasters, armed conflict and, more recently, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the United Nations is always there to provide the necessary support to affected populations.

That is the case in particular for my country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On its behalf, I would like to express my gratitude to the United Nations for its tireless efforts in the quest for solutions to consolidate the peace and stability needed to enable it to complete its reconstruction and fulfil its development goals. The solidarity of the United Nations with the Democratic Republic of the Congo is tangible, inter alia, by the presence of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We commend the Mission's work over the years, alongside the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Congolese people.

Nevertheless, those achievements cannot escape other persistent challenges, including terrorism, violent extremism, climate change, poverty, the lack of financing for development, gross inequalities, armed conflict and disease, including the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges of the global financial crisis, too, have not yet been fully addressed.

With regard in particular to the pandemic, which continues to plague our planet, sowing death and desolation throughout the world, the vulnerability of the international health system has been laid bare, as have certain other weaknesses in the functioning of our Organization, which requires reform.

Against that backdrop, I welcome the efforts undertaken in that regard by the Secretary-General within the framework of the process to revitalize the General Assembly and strengthen the Economic and Social Council, as well as the adaptation of the Security Council to ever-increasing changes and the emergence of new Powers around the world.

Africa, for example, should not remain the only continent not represented in the Security Council by a permanent seat. My delegation wishes to reiterate the urgent need for the international community and Africa's partners to take into account the African position set out in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration on the expansion of the permanent membership of the Security Council.

In that same vein, my country supports the principle of an effective and modernized United Nations that is capable of anticipating events and adapting to today's realities. The United Nations must enhance its partnerships with civil society and the private sector and work not only for women and young people but with them, as well as with regional and local organizations. A strong United Nations, at the epicentre of multilateralism, will ensure a better world for all, leaving no one behind.

In order to achieve those goals, we must reiterate our commitment to the United Nations and to multilateralism, as well as to international solidarity. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that it is vital to cooperate across borders, groups and generations. Therefore, today's adoption of the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations constitutes a major step towards guaranteeing the success of our joint action.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Togo.

Mr. Kpayedo (Togo) (*spoke in French*): Togo welcomes the holding, on 21 September, of the high-level meeting to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of our common Organization under the theme: "The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism".

Today's event, along with its debate, which continues today, comes at a time when the world is in the throes of profound upheaval, amplified by an unprecedented global health crisis with serious economic and social repercussions. It has laid bare the vulnerability of our States and their interdependence. Never before has the need to promote a responsible, open and supportive multilateral system been so evident.

In view of the successes it has achieved, the United Nations remains the only global organization with the required legitimacy to govern world affairs.

Today's meeting therefore gives us the opportunity to stress the importance of multilateralism, which is under greater threat than ever before, due to the temptation to retreat into nationalism and unbridled unilateralism. It also allows us to boldly take stock of our Organization's work and look ahead to the future.

In its 75 years of existence, the achievements of the United Nations are undeniable. It has contributed, *inter alia*, to accelerating the decolonization process in several territories by liberating peoples from foreign domination; to mitigating many conflicts through its various peacekeeping operations; and to saving hundreds of thousands of lives, thanks to its commendable humanitarian actions. Furthermore, it has spared no effort in guaranteeing the well-being of populations through various development plans, the most ambitious of which to date remains the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted five years ago.

It has also contributed to the universal promotion of human rights and has worked tirelessly for quality education for all, including for millions of children and, in particular, girls around the world, especially in developing countries.

However, despite its many achievements and advances, our Organization continues to face a myriad of challenges. Indeed, our world is far from the one its founders envisioned 75 years ago. Our world continues to face persistent inequalities, poverty, hunger, armed conflict, terrorism, climate change, discrimination of all kinds, migration problems and pandemics, such as the coronavirus disease, which has revealed our collective fragilities and called into question all we believed to be certain. All those challenges highlight the importance of pursuing and accelerating the reforms undertaken by the Organization, *inter alia*, that of the Security Council, where Africa has played its role by supporting the Ezulwini Consensus and other related texts.

All those challenges demand that we take swift and resolute action. The Togolese delegation welcomes the fact that Member States have been able to agree on a strong and consensus-based Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations that looks to the future and unequivocally expresses our common vision and collective commitment to the United Nations and therefore to multilateralism.

Here we should be sure to recall that multilateralism is by no means a given. It is a dynamic of collective action that must be protected and promoted through an inclusive approach, aimed at maintaining the long-term stability of the international system.

It is therefore a matter of urgency, here and now, to implement the 12 core actions set out in the aforementioned Declaration to ensure that it is not simply yet another Declaration. To do so, we must demonstrate greater solidarity and commitment within the framework of multilateralism, of which the Organization remains the appropriate embodiment.

My country, Togo, would like to take this solemn opportunity to reaffirm its full commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of our common Organization. That is why, since its accession to the Organization on 20 September 1960, it has continued to engage fully with other Member States and assumed important roles, including in building international peace and security, combating terrorism and promoting human rights and sustainable development.

In conclusion, as in the past, Togo will continue to play its full part. We reaffirm the importance and relevance of multilateralism and international law, which alone will enable us to promote a just, prosperous and united international community.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe.

Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe): The commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of United Nations provides the community of nations with an opportunity to reflect on the history of the Organization, take stock of its accomplishments and seek ways to redouble efforts to meet current and future challenges in relation to peace, security, human rights and sustainable development. In the face of other complex global challenges, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has amplified the urgency of delivering on sustainable development, anchored on multilateralism. Working together will no doubt enable the international community to bring about hope in the face of adversity.

Zimbabwe firmly believes in a fair and just community of nations, guided by the mutual respect and sovereign equality of all Member States and the observance of the cardinal principles of the Organization. We therefore note with concern mounting nationalist sentiments, protectionism and

unilateralism, which are being used as blunt weapons by some of the more powerful nations, under the guise of protecting human rights to subvert the legitimacy of constitutionally elected Governments.

We are deeply concerned about the continued imposition of illegal unilateral coercive measures against States. Such draconian measures not only compromise our ability to access capital for investment and development, which are so critical to enabling us to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, but also our ability to fully participate in the global economy. Such measures are a blatant breach of the basic tenets of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and must be immediately removed.

As we look to the future, we must promote a recovery process that will produce sustainable and inclusive economies, in which both women and men participate on an equal footing. Adequate and predictable funding will be key to building a more equal and sustainable world for all. The world needs a fair economic order that benefits all States, big and small, and a global development system that promotes the development of poor countries.

The theme of this commemoration, entitled “The future we want, the United Nations we need”, has been the guiding principle of dialogues from classrooms to villages, boardrooms and international forums. The main messages from across the spectrum is that the world needs a strong United Nations to deliver on the ambitious goals that we set for ourselves in the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other multilateral arrangements.

Peace is inextricably linked to development, and, as Nelson Mandela observed, “Peace is not only the absence of conflict; peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish, regardless of race, colour, creed, religion, gender [and] class”.

For the world to be able to deliver on sustainable development, we need an environment free of wars and conflicts. That is why the global community should rally behind Africa’s campaign to silence the guns to help create conditions conducive to the development of the continent.

In conclusion, as we strive to seek peace and security, the protection of human rights and sustainable development, as well as build a better world for our peoples, let us draw inspiration from the founding

fathers and the spirit of the United Nations, espoused in the purposes and principles of the Charter. The Charter must remain the firm foundation for our shared destiny.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Tanzania.

Mr. Gastorn (Tanzania): The seventy-fifth anniversary provides a unique opportunity for the international community to reaffirm our shared commitment to maintaining peace and security in the world, thereby fostering social and economic development, as well as the protection of human rights across the world.

As we dwell on the theme, “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism — confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral action”, it is important to underscore the role that the United Nations has played, including the adoption and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We commend the efforts of the Organization to reduce hunger, gender inequality, maternal and child mortality rates and the prevalence of HIV, as well as to increase access to clean and safe water, among others.

We are very much aware that despite the achievements, several challenges, which need international cooperation in addressing them, such as protracted conflicts, inequality, poverty and climate change, remain.

Ten per cent of the world’s population still lives in extreme poverty today, struggling to fulfil the most basic needs such as health, education and access to water and sanitation. Moreover, the effects of the coronavirus disease crisis are expected to worsen the situation. In that regard, more coordinated and deliberate efforts are imperative within the United Nations system.

In a period of 75 years, the United Nations has demonstrated what we can accomplish when we work together. The increasing trend of unilateral decisions taken by some Member States is certainly imposing a negative impact on the multilateral system and undermining the profound principles of the establishment of the United Nations. If we desire to achieve the future we want and the United Nations we need, we as Member States ought to reaffirm our collective efforts in support of multilateralism.

We welcome the ongoing reforms within the United Nations system aimed at making the Organization

more relevant to the twenty-first century. We are very much convinced that such initiatives are highly critical in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization in order to make it even more fit to address the underlying challenges that continue to confront our world. In that connection, Tanzania is committed to the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform and urges all Member States to continue engaging constructively in that regard.

Tanzania is proud to have been participating actively in United Nations activities. My country remains committed to the Charter of the United Nations. We pay much gratitude and respect to those who have paid the ultimate price in the line of duty. Tanzania has been a steady contributor of men and women who are serving under the United Nations flag in peacekeeping operations for the purpose of making life better for all.

We look forward to a successful adoption of the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations.

Address by Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the observer of the State of Palestine to introduce an address by the President of the State of Palestine.

Mr. Mansour (Palestine): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded message of His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the State of Palestine.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 40 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

Agenda item 128 (continued)

Strengthening of the United Nations system

(a) Strengthening of the United Nations system

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the observer of the Holy See to introduce an address by the Secretary of State of the Holy See.

Mr. Caccia (Holy See): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded message of His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now hear an address by the Secretary of State of the Holy See.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 41 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to introduce a statement by the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Mr. Motter (Inter-Parliamentary Union): I have the honour to introduce the video message of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron of the Parliament of Mexico.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 42 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President took the Chair.

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the League of Arab States to introduce a statement by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

Mr. Abdelaziz (League of Arab States) (*spoke in Arabic*): On this historic occasion for our Organization, I am honoured to present the pre-recorded statement by His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 43 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean to introduce a statement by the President of the Board of Directors of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Aguilar Colindres (Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to

introduce to the General Assembly a pre-recorded message from the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean on the occasion of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the President of the Board of Directors of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 44 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to introduce a statement by the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Organization of Islamic Cooperation): I have the honour and privilege to introduce the pre-recorded statement of His Excellency Mr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 45 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the Commonwealth of Nations to introduce a statement by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Ms. McLaren (Commonwealth of Nations): I have the honour to introduce a pre-recorded statement by Her Excellency Ms. Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 46 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the International Criminal Court to introduce a statement by the President of the International Criminal Court.

Mrs. Mosoti (International Criminal Court): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement by Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji, President of the International Criminal Court, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the President of the International Criminal Court.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 47 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the International Development Law Organization to introduce a statement by the Director-General of the International Development Law Organization.

Mr. Civili (International Development Law Organization): I thank you, Mr. President, for giving committed observers the opportunity to partake in this commemoration.

I now have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement of the Director-General of the International Development Law Organization, Ms. Jan Beagle.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Director-General of the International Development Law Organization.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 48 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance to introduce a statement by the Secretary-General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

Mr. Tommasoli (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded message by His Excellency Mr. Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary-General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Secretary-General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 49 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of INTERPOL to introduce a statement by the Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organization.

Mr. Roux (INTERPOL): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement by Mr. Jürgen Stock, Secretary-General of INTERPOL.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organization.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 50 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the Caribbean Community to introduce a statement by the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community.

Ms. Sherman-Peter (Caribbean Community): I have the honour to introduce the pre-recorded statement by the Caribbean Community Secretary-General, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque.

The President: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community.

A pre-recorded video statement was shown in the General Assembly Hall (annex 51 and see A/75/557/Add.1).

The President: We have heard the last speaker for this meeting.

The exercise of the right of reply has been requested. May I remind members that statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to ten minutes for the first intervention and five minutes for the second intervention, and should be made by representatives from their seats.

I now call on those representatives wishing to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. Warraich (Pakistan): My delegation is obliged to take the floor in exercise of our right to reply to the statement made by the representative of India during the high-level plenary meeting on 21 September (see A/75/PV.3).

It is beyond shameful that a country that misses no opportunity to flaunt its so-called credentials has the temerity to question fundamental tenets of international

law, including resolutions of the Security Council. Perhaps the Indian representative needs reminding that permanent membership of that very same organ is what India covets with such gruelling ambition.

However, we are not surprised, for the international community is used to such duplicitous Indian behaviour. After all, in a country where history can be rewritten to suit a saffronized version of reality; where laws can be enacted with the sole objective of legitimizing religious discrimination; where dissident voices can be cowed into submission; more still, where reputable human rights organizations such as Amnesty International can be brazenly forced to shut down their operations for shining a spotlight on the human rights situation in India in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir; and where perpetrators of pogroms and massacres can be rehabilitated as the face of modern India, every inconvenient truth can surely be dressed up and garnished in that milieu.

The tired and tried rhetoric on Jammu and Kashmir as part of the self-delusional and unlimited Indian appetite for peddling an alternative reality. The truth is that Jammu and Kashmir is not part of India. It never was and it never will be. The Indian representatives can cry themselves hoarse, but their shenanigans cannot do away with the Kashmiris' right to self-determination, as enshrined in Security Council resolutions — binding commitments that India signed up to — nor with the unwavering resolve of the Kashmiri people to rid themselves of the oppressive yoke of the Indian occupation.

Tomorrow marks the seventy-third anniversary of the illegal Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir — the first act in the tragedy of Kashmir that continues to this day. While India continues to occupy the land and resources of Jammu and Kashmir, it does not rule over the hearts and minds of the valiant people of Kashmir. They will be free one day. Deep down, the occupier is fully aware of that.

Meanwhile, to its much-touted “five ‘S’” approach to diplomacy, India would in fact do well to consider and address *satya*, or “truth”. The truth of fascist India is a destabilizing role in the region. The systematic marginalization of its minorities, especially Muslims, and the reign of oppression and terror in occupied Jammu and Kashmir cannot be covered up by false espousals.

Mr. Ghadirkhomi (Islamic Republic of Iran): I am obliged to take the floor to exercise my right of reply

with regard to this statement made by the representative of the Israeli regime today.

I will be brief, as I do not intend to dig deep into the hypocritical statement made by the Israeli Permanent Representative. As usual, the representative of the regime made unfounded claims contradicting the situation on the ground and against a number of countries, including Iran. His fallacies are used as tools to divert attention from the expansionist policies and brutalities of his regime.

The Israeli regime has a long history of opportunistic policies misleading others and diverting attention from its inhumane and savage actions against innocent Palestinians and other nations in the Middle East. Israel continues to flout all international regimes governing weapons of mass destruction, including by refusing to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Further, it continues to seriously hamper the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, as proposed by Iran in 1974. Nevertheless, it attempts to portray Iran's conventional weapons capabilities as a challenge to regional stability. That is

but a hypocritical move to distract attention from the real danger posed to regional peace and security.

Indeed, nuclear weapons in the hands of the Israeli regime pose the most serious threat to the security of all States in the Middle East and to the non-proliferation regime as well.

The Israeli regime should be reminded of its record of flagrantly violating at least 86 resolutions adopted by the Security Council between 1984 and 2016 as a result of its acts of aggressions and occupation, as well as its well-documented atrocities and war crimes committed against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Therefore, Israeli has no right to cry wolf on non-compliance with international law. It must stop lying and accusing other countries.

The President: I declare closed the high-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 128.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

Annex 1**Statement by Mr. Ernesto Araújo, Minister for External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil**

Dear friends,

The 75th anniversary of the United Nations, three quarters of a century after the Allied victory over Nazi-fascism, marks a singular opportunity for nations of the world to enhance their commitment to the principles and the spirit of the UN Charter.

According to the UN Charter, Chapter 4, the UN is called to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of certain goals.

The UN, therefore, is not supposed to rise above the nations that compose it. The attainment of its goals cannot be built upon denying the capacity of nations to act individually or collectively in pursuance of legitimate objectives.

Among these goals, we find, in Article 3 of the UN Charter, the goal of promoting fundamental freedoms for all.

The UN was thus built not only on the concept of peace and sovereign equality of nations, but also on the principle of freedom for every human being.

Nevertheless, along the decades, the purpose of promoting freedom for all has, unfortunately, being neglected in its work.

That deviation from the original design of the Charter, 75 years ago, must be urgently corrected.

In face of the tremendous challenge of COVID-19, it is often said that the world's response should be more multilateralism, but we have to discuss what that concept means. We certainly need better multilateral institutions.

We certainly need the UN to follow its original mandate and be a center for harmonizing the action of nations. And, also, it must fulfill its original commitment of pursuing freedom.

The UN cannot be manipulated by ideologies. It must be a space to discuss international problems with sincerity, good faith and a sacred respect for truth, which is the opposite of ideology.

The post-COVID-19 world needs more freedom. And the United Nations is called to gather the efforts of all nations in the attainment of this objective.

Thank you.

Annex 2

Statement by Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,

Seventy-five years ago, the United Nations was founded to restore international peace and security in the aftermath of two horrific wars. But how successful have we been?

According to a new study, since 2001 — ironically, the “United Nation’s Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations”—37 million people have been displaced as a result of the U.S. “Forever Wars”.

The eight violent wars that the US initiated or joined since 2001 — under the rubric of “War on Terror” — have resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of innocent lives, countless broken societies and families, failed and failing states and unprecedented extremism.

So today, we should be asking ourselves:

Whether our world is more — or less — secure than it was in 1945;

How we can counter the unilateralism and disdain for international law by a bully that only knows wielding a big stick and speaking arrogantly;

And how we can contain a power that has spent over 220 of its total 244 year-history in war: from the wars on its native population, to the war on its enslaved population — which continues with extreme brutality — and to the 39 military conflicts and nearly 120 economic wars — it deceptively calls “sanctions” — since 1945. Against any entity that hasn’t submitted to its whims.

Ironically, it keeps losing its “Forever Wars”.

In fact, no one wins in a war.

It’s time to change tack — saving American blood and treasure and sparing the world from further misery.

Dear Friends,

Complacency is the oxygen that the US needs to continue its bullying. U.S. appetite only grows by appeasement; by submitting to its unlawful measures against others, in the hope of avoiding its wrath. It does not work, my friends.

Our United Nations at 75 needs to recommit itself to stand up — united — against unilateralism and war.

I thank you.

Annex 3**Statement by Ms. Juana Alexandra Hill Tinoco, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador**

[Original: Spanish]

Your Excellency President of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its seventy-fifth session,

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,

Your Excellency Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Your Excellencies Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

Distinguished Representatives of Member States,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, let me first convey the warmest greetings from the Government and the people of El Salvador at this historic session to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations (UN).

Seventy-five years ago, the human spirit was awakening from its most horrendous nightmare. We were put to the test as humankind, and we emerged victorious. Our wounds were deep, but we were determined to heal them.

We have made it to 75 years, now facing a global public health threat and other serious challenges of no lesser scale in the areas of climate change, respect for human rights, threats to international peace and security and other acts of aggression. The multilateral system continues to be tested, as it has been since the birth of the Organization. But it remains the best tool to face the ever-changing challenges of this ever-changing world.^[P.P.]As the Secretary-General said some time ago, multilateralism is more vital than ever, and I would add that our best arsenal continues to be democracy, solidarity and international cooperation — the same cooperation which, when the time comes, will allow us equal access to an eventual vaccine so that we can turn the page on this dark chapter of the pandemic.

The situation that lies ahead is not the most encouraging. We all know that. It bears repeating. Improving the lives of people in situations of vulnerability, inequality, poverty and extreme hunger must give momentum to renewed efforts by the international community to fulfil the pledge of leaving no one behind.

The journey has begun. Investing on the potential of new and current initiatives is our great multilateral task. In avoiding the temptation to use old and ineffective solutions for new and constantly evolving problems, we ourselves need to change. President Nayib Bukele said just that last year in this very Hall. The use of technology must be a reality that allows us to streamline processes and give meaningful momentum to the revitalization and the reform of the various UN bodies.

Mr. President,

Today more than ever, as stated in the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations, We the peoples of the United Nations have determined to unite our efforts to achieve those goals.

May this commemoration serve as the impetus for the international community to reaffirm our commitment to all the principles and values of the Organization, while remaining conscious of new threats and concerns facing humankind.

May God enlighten and bless us all.

Thank you very much

Annex 4**Statement by Mr. Tomáš Petříček, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic**

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

75 years ago, a new world system was set up. Multilateral cooperation and respect for a rules-based international order, human rights and fundamental freedoms were placed at its core. I am proud that Czechoslovakia was one of the 50 countries, which originally signed the UN Charter. Unfortunately, for many countries, the aftermath of the Second World War did not bring freedom and democracy. Czechoslovakia was one of them until the Velvet Revolution of 1989.

Today's meeting is an opportunity to recall the key principles and values of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Our principles! Time and again, we have witnessed their breaches, including blatant violations of human rights, of State sovereignty and territorial integrity, or even use of chemical weapons. Undermining the rules-based international order has far-reaching repercussions for all. We stress the need for accountability and fighting impunity. We acknowledge the commitment of the United Nations to these principles and call for upholding them further on.

I am deeply concerned by the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on people's lives, our societies and economies. It jeopardizes efforts to achieve the SDGs and risks deepening other existing problems. In an increasingly interconnected world, effective actions — that our citizens have every right to expect — require multilateral solutions. Only by working truly together we can “build back better, fairer and greener”.

Promotion and protection of peace, security and human rights and achieving sustainable development requires integrating gender equality into all our policies and practices. We see human rights as the core value of open, inclusive and free societies worldwide.

The Czech Republic is a firm supporter of the UN Secretary-General in his reform efforts, in particular his emphasis on conflict prevention and mediation. For the UN to deliver lasting solutions, we have to ensure political support, efficient tools and necessary funds.

No other global organization gives rise to so much hope of so many people who wish to live their lives in freedom, safety and dignity, as does the UN. In our deliberations about how to make “the future we want” happen, we need to involve young people. It is them who will live with the consequences of our decisions and our actions.

Let me wish the UN on its birthday that it regain the youthful energy of its early days, while preserving the acquired wisdom of a 75-year old.

Many happy returns, United Nations!

I thank you.

Annex 5**Statement by Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritanians Abroad of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

[Original: Arabic]

Mr. President,

Excellencies

Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate each and every one of us on this important occasion. I also thank His Excellency Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Mr. António Guterres, for his efforts in the service of the Organization. I also thank the entire the staff of the Organization and all those who have contributed in one way or another to the building this prestigious temple over the past 75 years.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This commemoration comes at a time when the world is dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has created an unprecedented health crisis in the world, the repercussions of which include the global and other health systems.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The economic and health crises caused by the pandemic have strained existing UN mechanisms for dealing with crises. The pandemic has demonstrated more than ever the need for an organization like ours to strengthen multilateral cooperation frameworks, while ensuring the effectiveness of the Organization's central role.

It is my great honour to congratulate you, Your Excellency Secretary-General António Guterres and your staff for your leadership and vision and assure you of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania's full support for your efforts to reform the Organization.

Thank you and may peace be upon you.

Annex 6**Statement by Mr. Ivan Korčok, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic**

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to participate in this event. Slovakia congratulates the United Nations (UN) on its seventy-fifth anniversary. Our Government is organizing a set of events throughout the year to use this unique opportunity to bring the UN and its work closer to its citizens. I therefore welcome the adoption of the joint Declaration today to commemorate the special occasion.

The United Nations has shaped the world as we have known it over the past 75 years. Despite some shortcomings, the Organization has indisputably made the world a better place over these years. The relevance of the Charter of the United Nations and the need for international cooperation is increasing. Global challenges require multilateral solutions. We strongly believe that the United Nations continues to be an indispensable platform where joint action should take place.

Mr. President,

The global trends are all too familiar — inequality, exclusion, wars, violence, persecution and discrimination in various forms. At the same time that multilateralism and the rules-based international order are being challenged, all of these, as you know very well, are being aggravated by the climate emergency. In order to provide for a sustainable future for all of us, it is our shared responsibility to tackle those challenges today. Slovakia will work with its partners in the European Union to reach the goals of the Charter to achieve international peace, sustainable development and the universal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

At present, we are all facing the unprecedented challenge to beat the COVID-19 pandemic. This global matter urgently demands our collective effort. In the Declaration just adopted, we are making a strong commitment to build a post-pandemic world that is more equal, promotes dialogue and cooperation and protects the planet. The Government of Slovakia is determined to take the country exactly in that direction and is equally committed to supporting similar efforts on a regional and global scale.

Last but not least, we need a strong United Nations for the benefit of all. The process for renewing the United Nations, initiated by the Secretary-General, must therefore continue. We must ensure that existing UN reform processes are advancing on the right track and that outstanding reform commitments are moving forward.

Mr. President,

I want to conclude by saying that the firm and earnest resolve that guided the deliberations in San Francisco in 1945, which brought about the agreement on the Charter and started our journey as nations united, must be met with the same determination to ensure the future we want and the United Nations we need.

Thank you for your attention.

Annex 7**Statement by Mr. Omer Gamareldin Ismail, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan**

[Original: Arabic]

Majesties,
Highnesses,
Excellencies,
Heads of State and Government,
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Heads of Delegation
May the peace of God be with you.

We are speaking to you today more than a year after the glorious December revolution in which the Sudanese people manifested their desire to live free and break the yoke of force and humiliation to build a nation in the pursuit of freedom, peace and justice.

We take this opportunity to pay tribute to the United Nations (UN), which supported the Sudanese revolution and condemned the acts of violence committed by the former regime. We commend the United Nations for its support of the transitional Government, as well as for its call for the removal of the Sudan from the list of States sponsoring terrorism, the lifting of sanctions against it and the cancellation of its debts.

We also commend the UN's commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of the Sudan, particularly during the process of political transition and democratic transformation, as well as its commitment to peacebuilding and the marshalling of resources for its development. In its Charter, the UN pledged to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to safeguard the equal rights of all and to settle disputes by peaceful means. Its values and its purposes are undeniably the foundation of today's international relations and the quintessential embodiment of peace and justice. Its values and goals have helped prevent the threat of a new world war.

Majesties,
Highnesses,
Excellencies,
Heads of State and Government,
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Heads of Delegations,

The cross-border existential threats facing us require a unified response in the framework of multilateral action if we truly want to avoid being left behind. In that regard, the Sudan reaffirms the importance of the United Nations reform process under resolution 34/99 of 1975, with a view to strengthening democracy within the

principal organs, achieving an equitable world order, promoting socioeconomic development and maintaining international peace and security.

Majesties,

Highnesses,

Excellencies,

Heads of State and Government,

Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Heads of Delegation,

The Sudan is resolutely moving forward on its path leading towards the future, as a friend and partner to all peace-loving peoples of the world, as it enters a new era in its history — an era that has broken with the approach taken over the past 30 years in international relations and upholds the principles of international law and human rights.

We are celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, as the world is facing daunting challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, which has spared no one, hence the importance of taking collective action to translate the theme of this session, entitled “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment of multilateralism — confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral action”, into a reality.

Thank you.

Annex 8**Statement by Mr. Luis Gallegos Chiriboga, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of the Republic of Ecuador**

[Original: Spanish]

We are remembering 75 years of the United Nations. For Ecuador, this commemoration has special meaning. Ecuador was one of the founding countries of the United Nations. Ecuador actively participated in the San Francisco negotiations so, that at least in terms of war and peace, the United Nations would have the strength and ability needed to find a new horizon after the Second World War.

Ecuador was also among the first countries to introduce a draft resolution on nuclear disarmament. At this point in time, 75 years later, we have not yet succeeded in banning or eliminating weapons of mass destruction or nuclear weapons. It remains inconceivable that the world has such a large stockpile of nuclear weapons, which represent 30-fold the resources needed to tend to world health.

We are now living through a pandemic, which has affected all the countries of the United Nations and has led to the first international crisis, affecting all human beings — the life and death all, men, women and children — it reminds us that international crises far surpass what the founders of the United Nations had envisioned as the objective to eliminate war among States.

Today, as global trends have changed, we are in need of strengthened multilateralism, given the impossibility of resolving international problems without the consensus and support of all. Countries must be aware of the fact that the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations is a time to reflect on a new world full of challenges and seek paths that will enable us not only to overcome war and achieve peace, but also overcome poverty, hunger, and development limitations so as to bring about a more balanced world where human rights are respected and all human beings are able to enjoy what the peoples of the world sought in the Charter of the United Nations — peace, well-being and, above all, respect for individual and collective rights, human rights and the meaning of human rights.

Annex 9**Statement by Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

[Original: Arabic]

President of the General Assembly,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Peace be upon you.

At the outset, I have the pleasure to congratulate Ambassador Volkan Bozkir on his election as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session and thank Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande for his diligent efforts during his presidency of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session. I also thank His Excellency Secretary-General António Guterres for his distinguished and tireless efforts to achieve the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

We celebrate today the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, an organization that was founded on noble principles and foundations and established to achieve peace and security around the world. The Charter affirmed the need for concerted efforts and closer cooperation among States to advance the world, so that the nations of the world could enjoy stability, prosperity and peace. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is proud to be one of founding Members of the United Nations. It has extended its hand to forge partnerships and cooperation since the inception of the Organization in 1945, as we believe in the importance of joint international cooperation. Since then, my country has assumed the responsibility of achieving the purposes of the Charter with regard to maintaining the peace, security and safety of the nations of the world.

We continue our efforts under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques — King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud — and our noble pursuit to achieve stability, prosperity, peace and growth in the region and the world. We have spared no effort in responding to humanitarian appeals throughout the world. We have spared no effort in extending a helping hand to the afflicted countries in need. We have dedicated efforts to rid the region of malign elements to achieve prosperity and stability for our neighbours. My country has been a peace mediator, together with the United Nations and its many bodies, to end many international conflicts for the common good of humankind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Global cooperation and concerted international efforts to achieve stability and prosperity have an effective and positive impact on the lives of peoples. My country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has sought to achieve that through its constructive participation in United Nations initiatives, starting with participation in defining the Sustainable Development Goals and coordinating joint efforts to combat terrorism. We have also cooperated with the United Nations to combat the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its health, social and economic consequences, as we believe in our global leadership role. We also feel that it is important to care for people everywhere.

As President of the G-20 in 2020, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques convened a virtual summit to bring together the leaders of the G-20 countries and other invitees, such as the United Nations, to address ways to move forward in coordinating global efforts to combat the coronavirus disease pandemic, mitigate its humanitarian, social and economic impact, safeguard the global economy and enhance international cooperation. The summit was followed by the Kingdom's announcement that it would donate \$500 million to bridge the financing gap in the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan of the WHO to actualize the outcome of the G-20 summit where members agreed to marshal the funds needed by the response programmes of international organizations.

As the President of the G-20, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia participated in the international pledging conference to respond to the coronavirus with the European Union, which resulted in bridging the financing gap. We called for a meeting of Finance Ministers and governors of central banks of the G-20 countries to address the consequences of COVID-19 on the global economy.

We also presided over an extraordinary meeting of the G-20 Foreign Ministers to coordinate efforts to confront the global challenge. The meeting stressed the importance of raising the level of preparedness for future crises and ways to coordinate precautionary measures across borders to protect lives, based on the Kingdom's belief in the importance of cooperation, to move forward in meeting global challenges and mitigating the effects of crises on the peoples of the world.

Mr. President,

It is a pleasure to celebrate the long-standing and intergenerational relations my country has maintained with the United Nations for three-quarters of a century. We work in partnership with the United Nations to support security, stability and prosperity around the world. That partnership has achieved a coalition of ideas and actions that derives from a common commitment to make the world a better place for all of humankind.

Yet the world continues to suffer from the persistence of many ongoing crises in many parts of the world. The Palestinian people continue to languish under occupation, and sectarian and ethnic cleansing against Muslims continues in Myanmar. Many issues remain on the United Nations agenda that have yet to be resolved.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are meeting today to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. We renew the commitment of Saudi Arabia to pursue the noble goals underpinning the Organization as we prize international peace and security and stand ready to elevate human dignity, protect the vulnerable peoples of the world and promote friendly relations among nations. There should be concerted efforts to improve standards of living. My country's message is peace. We hope that cooperation will prevail among us to build a better world enjoying stability, prosperity, security and peace.

Annex 10**Statement by Ms. Adaljiza Magno, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste**

[Original: Portuguese; English translation provided by the delegation]

H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the General Assembly

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen

It is an honour and privilege to address the General Assembly during the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

Since its establishment 75 years ago, the United Nations has exercised a fundamental role in the maintenance of international peace and security, respect for the international rules based order and the principles enshrined in the charter of the United Nations which guides international cooperation in providing solutions to global problems ranging from economic, social, and cultural to humanitarian matters.

Timor-Leste is a proud example of what the United Nations can achieve when it combines common sense of purpose and action to ensure the fundamental right of peoples to self-determination. 2020 Also marks the end of the third decade for the eradication of colonialism and we are reminded that we the United Nations have unfinished business in this regard. Many of our brothers and sisters in non-self governing territories, including the people of Western Sahara, have not exercised their fundamental right to self-determination.

The 75th anniversary commemoration, happens at a time when the world faces unprecedented challenges. Climate change and the global COVID-19 pandemic, are crucial calls to attention, that our survival and the survival of our planet, require us — all the member states of the United Nations, to join force in collective action.

The theme of the 75th anniversary commemoration invites us to reflect on “the future we want, the United Nations we need”. Whilst Timor-Leste reaffirms its commitment to multilateralism and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, we are also conscious that we need a reformed United Nations, so that it can be at its best to respond to today’s challenges. This includes the needed reform of the Security Council, so that its composition and membership may reflect more fairly the changes that have taken place since the founding of the UN to enable the security council to discharge its duty effectively.

We are also reminded that for the United Nations to be effective, we must build our actions on previous gains and hard earned agreements, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development and the Paris Agreement. Indeed, as is referred in the political declaration adopted today, “the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us in the most powerful way that we are closely interconnected and only as strong as our weakest link”. Now is not the time for us to retreat from our commitments — it is a time for solidarity and collective action.

To conclude, Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to all those who have given their lives to uphold the values and principles of the United Nations and its Charter and in this respect we recall the late Sergio Vieira De Melo, who served in Timor-Leste as Special Representative of the Secretary-General from 1999 to 2002.

I thank you.

Annex 11

Statement by Mr. Alejandro Ferrer López, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama

[Original: Spanish]

Despite the fact that 75 years have passed, the Charter of the United Nations (UN) remains highly relevant.

Its principles and values continue to be valid at a time when global trials and tribulations — although they are different in nature from those that gave impetus to founding the Organization — remain fundamental and demand a greater commitment from every one of our countries to fulfill its purposes — to maintain peace and security, promote the peaceful settlement of disputes, foster equality and equity in human rights, and achieve social progress for our peoples.

In such a diverse world, solidarity unites peoples and has been the road map that has brought about consensus and paths leading to security and peace. In the 75 years of the work of the Organization, countless realities on the ground and situations have put the effectiveness of multilateralism to the test, and, although the United Nations continues to face challenges and needs to adapt to new realities, it is undeniable that that it enjoys a unique convening power at the global level and consequently the broadest platform to promote global cooperation, solidarity and a means for taking effective action among nations.

Significant achievements have been recorded over the past seven decades, which are reflective of our collective will in the areas of human rights, inclusion, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further challenged the effectiveness of multilateralism and our institutions, but we are confident in the unique value of global collective action to overcome the crisis. This is also a turning point that judiciously calls for readjustments, including a new UN architecture that responds to a new global context and a list of key issues requiring attention, such as better access to education, our health-care system, environmental protection and the fight against transnational crime and cybercrime, among others.

We must also understand that the world has changed, that it will never be the same again and that relations based on inequalities and privileges cannot be sustained. We have a duty to work together to build a better world, based on solidarity and cooperation, where human rights are once again at the centre of all United Nations programmes and projects.

As a country that has demonstrated its mission to achieve peace and consensus, Panama renews its commitment to inclusive multilateralism, which contributes to strengthening this global forum so that it may be relevant and beneficial to all the nations and peoples of the world.

Annex 12**Statement by Mr. Jean-Claude Gakosso, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Congolese Living Abroad of the Republic of the Congo**

[Original: French]

Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations (UN) today needs a new lease of life. It must become more open, transparent, democratic and effective. Only then can it continue to fully play its role in global governance. But it will be able to play its role, only if it does so, based on its three main pillars, namely, peace and security, socioeconomic development and human rights.

On this day of commemoration, on behalf of the Republic of Congo, my country, I would like to pay tribute to the memory of the founding fathers who left for posterity a precious instrument of dialogue and consultation; an irreplaceable space for friendship and solidarity among the peoples of the world; and a tool whose purpose — we must remember — is to create an unshakeable human brotherhood, which is free from recondite prejudices and the vestiges of the past.

Mr. President,

In the face of rampant unilateralism, which is dangerously eroding the foundations of the beautiful edifice that so many generations have worked to build since 1945, the Republic of Congo, through me, reaffirms its dual commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation — a pledge to ensure social justice, equity and shared development.

Needless to say, multilateralism will prosper only in a fair and equitable global system that no longer reflects the fantasies of the past but the changes and realities of our time, hence the urgent need to reform its most emblematic body — the Security Council — to ensure a fairer and more honest representation of all continents.

With regard to that project, Africa has a common position, monumentalized in Ezulwini, which is conciliatory and consensual, and my country has steadfastly continued to advocate it for more than a decade. My country's delegation reiterates here and now the African demand, which is legitimate in every respect, to be represented by one or two of the continent's Member States in the category of permanent member of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I fervently hope to see the nations of the world unite once again in solidarity as they did in 1945, and commit to the struggle to build a world of true justice, equality and progress, which definitively turns its back on war, even

its commercial form, which we see today — a world, which is far removed from insincere and empty catch phrases and instead works to pool its collective efforts to fight with determination the endemic poverty that accounts for the dangerous frustrations of our global society.

Long live the United Nations!

Long live international solidarity!

I thank you.

Annex 13**Statement by Mr. Urmas Reinsalu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia**

Secretary-General Guterres, Excellencies,

Secretary-General Guterres,

Excellencies,

Dear Members and friends of the United Nations family,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The United Nations (UN) was established to save future generations from grave suffering and endless wars. When it comes to worldwide cooperation, the United Nations is the main instrument for it. Such institutionalized cooperation is what provides relative stability, security and predictability. If this cooperation were to fail, the number of conflicts, including aggressions and grave violations of human rights would increase.

This global cooperation has improved the human condition on every measurable front over the past century. The UN family, such as UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, UNHCR, OCHA, WHO and UN-Women, to name a few, have helped millions out of poverty and provided shelter, nutrition, health care and education. They have helped eliminate smallpox and continue to play an essential role in the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and, most recently, COVID-19.

Many of these accomplishments are thanks to the courageous and devoted staff of the UN family, who dedicate themselves to humanitarian principles and work tirelessly in the most dangerous places—where they are needed the most. Despite all these efforts and success stories, we are still living through turbulent and uneasy times. During the past decade, we have witnessed new armed conflicts in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Horn of Africa. There are ongoing violations of sovereignty and territorial integrity in Europe, including Ukraine and Georgia.

Maintaining peace depends also on how states treat their own citizens. This is the road to a less violent world. Unfortunately, we are still witnessing how civilian populations are subjected to mass violence, either by their own Government or by non-State armed groups. Yet again, Europe has not been left untouched by these developments, as we are witnessing massive State violence against peaceful protesters in Belarus.

As we meet, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage our world, and we are learning about the devastating impact the coronavirus has had. In just a few short months, decades of global progress on poverty, health care and education have been reversed. It is estimated that we will see the first rise in global poverty since 1998.

Excellencies,

Friends,

COVID-19 has made it crystal clear: closing the global digital gap is an important way to protect our communities and economies against future shocks. And here I am speaking from my own experience. Estonia is the world's first digitally

transformed State where all public services run online. This helped us significantly to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic when most of us were teleworking and kids were being homeschooled via video screen.

The crisis has highlighted serious gaps in digital transformation and preparedness worldwide. And we also saw it within international organizations. This is why Estonia and Singapore introduced the Global Declaration on the Digital Response to COVID-19. I am glad to announce that close to 70 States have endorsed it so far. The Declaration remains open for all countries to join.

Rapidly changing times demand that we constantly reinvent our working methods. Therefore, the ongoing reforms of the Secretary-General are important for a more agile, effective, and accountable Organization. The three pillars of the United Nations — peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights — are equally important and interdependent. All three are needed for the existence of peaceful, healthy and free societies.

Estonia is committed to standing for international law, including in cyberspace and human rights, working towards conflict prevention and fighting impunity, including by supporting the International Criminal Court. These are our points of departure as a Member of the UN family. These are also the guiding priorities for Estonia's current membership in the Security Council.

Allow me to end with the words of former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: "Peace is not an accident. Peace is not a gift. Peace is something we must all work for, every day, in every country."

Annex 14**Statement by Mr. Alpha Barry, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burkina Faso**

[Original: French]

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Heads of Delegation,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Burkina Faso welcomes the holding of the high-level meeting devoted to the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations on 21 September 2020. The symbolism of the commemoration is all the more powerful in that it provides us with an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of the United Nations (UN), while at the same time enabling us to build on the efforts made and the progress achieved over the past 75 years of the Organization's existence.

I welcome the format of the day of commemoration, which is taking place in the middle of the coronavirus disease pandemic, which once again attests to our outstanding ability to adapt to the scourges that befall the history of peoples and nations.

Over the past 75 years, the United Nations has made significant and important achievements in the areas of peace and security, human rights and development. We need to work more to strengthen multilateralism and the role of the UN as a means of finding common solutions to global problems, such as poverty and terrorism, which prevent States from implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

On behalf of His Excellency Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso, I would like to take this opportunity to express my country's gratitude for the support of the United Nations in the fight against terrorism on its territory and for the support provided by the international community within the framework of the G-5 Sahel. Burkina Faso is also extremely grateful for the efforts and multifaceted support of the United Nations and the international community, which have enabled it to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease pandemic on its territory.

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This commemorative day should give pride of place to reflection, particularly on the future work and potential of the UN, as well as the new issues facing our ever-changing world. Such an approach will enable the United Nations to be proactive and effective, given the constant challenges facing it, which call for a continuous adaptation of its programmes and methods to respond. In that regard, the theme of the of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session calls on us to take multipronged action: "The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment of multilateralism".

Once again, on behalf of President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, I hope that, by supporting Member States in finding solutions to today's major challenges, the UN will continue to be the outstanding development tool that it is in the system of global governance.

Long live the United Nations.

Long live cooperation and friendship among Peoples.

Long live the cooperation between the United Nations and Member States.

Let us all enjoy this commemoration.

I thank you.

Annex 15**Statement by Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait**

[Original: Arabic; English translation provided by the delegation]

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

Your Excellency Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly

Your Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the
United Nations

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Mr. President,

I extend to Your Excellency congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the current session of the United Nations General Assembly, and would like to assure you that we look forward to work and cooperate with you, and wish you all the success.

I also would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express our thanks for the efforts exerted by your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande during his presidency of the previous session.

In the midst of the pandemic, to which the entire world is subjected to, and despite the difficulties in direct communication, our faith in the importance of the role the United Nations plays has increased, and also in the collaborative efforts of all Member States of the Organization, in order to foster cooperation and multilateralism. Such close cooperation that we have witnessed during the COVID-19 Pandemic, is only the fruit of the efforts the Organization undertook during the past 75 years, and is a clear interpretation of the depth of the collective work in this inveterate Organization.

From this place, I would like to extend our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of this pandemic, and to wish the sick and the infected a speedy recovery.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

This occasion comes to renew the commitment in the foundations of international legitimacy, acting as a safety value in the face of disputes, and as a hope for many peoples for a better world. This Organization came into being after a world war that claimed millions of lives, and has contributed to saving future generations from the scourge of wars, it also contributed in reinforcing the right to self-determination to lots of people, ending colonization in many parts of the world, as well as defusing crises and wars during the cold war and beyond. The basic principles laid out in the Charter of the United Nations, constitute the corner stone of our multilateral work, and are the basis for reinforcing international relations.

The State of Kuwait recalls, with much gratitude and appreciation the historic and firm position of the United Nations, with its various bodies and agencies, in supporting the State of Kuwait regain its freedom and sovereignty in 1991, as a result

of the brutal Iraqi invasion. This position, which is undoubtedly considered one of the most outstanding experiences of this inveterate Organization, in safeguarding international peace and security, through crystal clear positions, and decisive resolutions. This should motivate us with more persistence, to continue the role of the State of Kuwait in backing the efforts of the United Nations aiming to assist Member States overcome challenges and missteps.

There is no doubt, that our reaffirming the need to adhere to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, emanate from our conviction, that we seek from promoting joint international action, and the commitment to implementing the resolutions and outputs of this Organization and all its concerned bodies, is regarded a basis for the preservation of the stature, importance and efficacy of the United Nations in safeguarding international peace and security, and spare the world many wars, catastrophes and political crises, as well as strengthening peaceful solutions to settle disputes. Here we would like to recall what was stipulated in paragraph three of Article 2 of the Charter; "All members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered". Therefore, we are called upon, with the passage of 75 years to continue to assess our actions, and reflect on our experiences to guarantee our adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter, which have laid strong foundations and a solid base to support cooperation and partnership, and reject violence and division.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Notwithstanding the numerous achievements we realized together, the world still ails from many crises and conflicts, with some of our Arab countries are in particular, in the heart of the world regions suffering from conflicts, and political and security crises that have exceeded a decade, and left a negative impact, not only on the Arab region and its peoples, but on the entire world. The Arab region have suffered from continuous and persistent crises, foremost among which is the Palestinian Question that remains as a bleeding wound on the side of the Arab nation. Add to this the wars in Yemen, Libya and Syria, all of which impacted negatively on the situation in the region. Here we would like to emphasize once again, the importance of the initiative launched by the Secretary General last March calling for a worldwide ceasefire during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Also, we cannot ignore the negative impact of the pandemic on the health and economic systems in our Arab countries, which exhausted the resources and the peoples of the region. We hope all countries would cooperate with the United Nations in eliminating the virus, and address its consequence effectively. This can happen only through joint solidarity and cooperation among the Member States, as well as by the contributions and effective roles of the private sector and civil societies, not only in facing up to the pandemic, but also by fruitful cooperation with the United Nations, and all its bodies to execute the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan. We must also not forget the role of the staff and employees of the Organization, and their efforts during the pandemic, as well as their keenness to continue working and performing their duties in these exceptional circumstances that the Organization, and the whole world are going through.

In conclusion,

The three pillars of the United Nations — peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights — remain as important as ever. We have gone a long way over 75 years, yet there is much more to be done. The commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan is regarded an important issue within the United Nations system. We also need to learn, and to exchange experiences and information, to make the systems in the world more flexible and coordinated, in order to confront future crises, and enhance the global system to prevent global conflicts and respond to them. There is also an urgent need to enhance the role of women and girls, and also that of the children and the youth, since they represent the promising and bright future.

Thank you.

Annex 16**Statement by Mr. Albert R. Ramdin, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
International Business and International Cooperation of the
Republic of Suriname**

Mister President of the General Assembly, Mr. Volkan Bozkir,
Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres,
Colleague Ministers of Foreign Affairs,
Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives to the United Nations,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Suriname, I wish to congratulate you and the international community with the 75th anniversary of our United Nations.

When the UN Charter was signed in San Francisco in 1945, the membership stood at 51. The world was still reeling from the effects of successive World Wars, the collapse of the League of Nations and the collapse of empires.

Mr. President,

As the only legitimate global organization for all peoples, the United Nations is firmly anchored on the principles of sovereign equality for all nations, respect for territorial integrity, political independence, and the right to self-determination of peoples as enshrined in the founding Charter.

Achievements have been many, including the waves of decolonization that expanded the membership and altered the world. Successful peacekeeping missions and transition mandates, and the global push to eradicate the scourges of poverty, disease and violence. Women and girls today are being placed in the center, and human rights are enjoyed by a growing proportion of the world's population, as well as the commitment to save our planet.

Mr. President,

Over the last 75 years, the UN membership has grown to 193 States — all sovereign and entitled to an equal vote in the General Assembly. As the membership has grown, new challenges have arisen and old challenges have remained. As a result, the organization's agenda has continued to widen — on climate change, migration, non-proliferation and sustainable development objectives. The world, rather than embodying a world of peace and equality, has instead seen growing socioeconomic inequality, poverty, hunger, armed conflict, terrorism, climate change, mass migration, and many pandemics of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Least developed countries are falling behind, and middle-income countries are caught in the same trap. Climate change poses an exceptional and existential threat to many, but particularly to small island and low lying coastal developing states.

Mr. President,

After 75 years we have reached a crossroads. As the world order is changing, multilateralism — coordinated work between states to achieve a common goal and

promote a dialogue between different countries — is now at the forefront. This exchange of views and information, but collective action as well, helps to eliminate the kind of misunderstandings that lead to uncertainty and disorder. Now is the time to ensure that the youngest generations are active participants in the creation of our future. We do this, by not only giving youth a voice and a platform, but by listening and understanding what the leaders of tomorrow expect from the leaders of today.

However, the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the corresponding Sustainable Development Goals have come under pressure because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused an unprecedented global triple crisis: health, economy, and finances. These challenges we are facing today because of the COVID-19 pandemic, compel us to embrace multilateralism even more. Jointly addressing the multi-faceted impacts, the economic, social and health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and interventions that mitigate risk and promote resilience or recovery for high-risk populations could help improve our long-term response to the pandemic and prepare more effectively for future public health emergencies and other global threats.

In these challenging times the landscape of finance has changed drastically. The economic and financial shocks associated with COVID-19, such as disruptions to industrial production and falling commodity prices, are disrupting economic growth and threaten sustainable development. Therefore, Mr. President, financing for sustainable development must be at the center of our preparedness and resilience. As developing countries strive to meet the demands of the crisis response, a viable solution on debt is of vital importance. The developed partners should uphold the agreed eight pledges for Financing for Development.

I ask special attention for the small and vulnerable nations in the world. We must strive to leave no one behind, to protect our planet, to promote peace and prosperity, to prevent conflicts, to abide by international law, to build trust, and resolve to reform our institutions to remain effective bodies in the service of the peoples of the world.

None of this can be achieved without a multilateral system. Only through multilateralism, only through collective action and dialogue can we hope to achieve our goals as an international society. Only through a reinvigorated multilateral effort can we ensure our future. We need a commitment to a new multilateralism.

In conclusion, Mr. President, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the former eight Secretaries General for their sterling efforts in furthering the mandates provided by the membership of this organization. From our first Secretary General, Trygve Lie, to Ban Ki-moon and António Guterres, Suriname expresses appreciation for their service to humanity.

Thank you.

Annex 17**Statement by Mr. Vincent Biruta, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda**

Your Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Your Excellency Volkan Bozkir, President of the seventy-fifth UN General Assembly,

It is a great honour to take part in this high-level meeting, as we celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations. This is a moment to reflect on the achievements of the UN system, while we renew our commitment to the founding aspirations of our organization.

Today, more than ever, we need a stronger UN and effective collaboration to overcome global crises. Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the interconnected nature of global threats. These uncertain times have demonstrated how crucial multilateral institutions are to our collective health, security and prosperity. In that regard, Rwanda welcomes the adoption of the UN 75 Declaration, which stresses the need to work together to strengthen coordination and global governance for the common good of present and future generations.

As we start this UN Decade of Action, we must continue to build strategic partnerships to ensure an adequately funded and resourced multilateral system. This will help us to overcome global challenges, while delivering on the UN SDGs.

To this extent, Rwanda fully supports the UN reform launched by the Secretary-General in order to make this organization more efficient in its action, more transparent in its management and more responsive to crises. This process of sustaining and reforming multilateralism must also include a strong African voice.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations is an occasion to come together behind a renewed multilateralism in response to this pandemic and reaffirm our commitment to transforming our world into a more prosperous, just, equitable and peaceful place. It is a reminder that, working together, we can solve current and future challenges, even during uncertain times.

Annex 18**Statement by Mr. Amery Browne, Minister for Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

Mr. President,

It is indeed an honour to address the General Assembly of the United Nations for the first time on such a momentous occasion.

At the onset, on behalf of the government and the people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I wish to convey warmest congratulations to the entire United Nations family on the attainment of such a significant milestone.

Mr. President,

Fifty-eight years ago, not only did Trinidad and Tobago become an independent nation, but we also joined this family of nations based on the firm belief that multilateralism is the only means by which global challenges can be resolved and world peace, as well as social progress, achieved.

As we commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, Trinidad and Tobago continues to be steadfast in our adherence to the guiding principles of the Charter of the United Nations. While it is indeed important to recognize the longevity of our organization, we are duty-bound to proceed beyond a mere symbolic commemoration because of the advent of the Decade of Action to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

While we applaud the monumental achievements of the United Nations system and acknowledge the strides made globally, we are cognizant of the imperative to build on these achievements and equip the organization to meet its objectives in the face of challenges, the likes of which the world has never seen.

Commendation for the various successes of the United Nations is warranted but this must be juxtaposed with the self-analysis necessary by the organization, in respect of instances where legitimate expectations were not realized. In this regard, Trinidad and Tobago is resolute in its commitment to collaborate with fellow member states in confronting and overcoming these challenges.

Mr. President,

Our United Nations must work ardently to maintain a focus on being people-centered in order to adequately address the needs of each individual. The multidimensional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated the vulnerabilities of small island developing economies, such as ours. This pandemic has underscored the need for a robust multilateral response to achieve a common essential goal. It is the fervent hope of Trinidad and Tobago that the collective action required in combating the pandemic can reignite the spirit of global partnership, which marked the genesis of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

On this the seventy-fifth anniversary of our revered organization, Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the United Nations and looks forward, with optimism, to our collective progress in ensuring that multilateralism prevails and that no one is left behind.

I thank you.

Annex 19**Statement by Mr. Srđan Darmanović, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Montenegro**

Dear Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address you on behalf of Montenegro at the ceremony marking this significant jubilee — the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Without any doubt, the decision of the leaders of the world after the Second World War to establish a new Universal Organization represents the most significant event in the history of international relations. After the tragic experiences of the world wars, the states decided to turn a new page in history and to create a new Organization that would deal with collective security on the principles of equality of states and nations, human rights, their dignity and improvement of life quality for all.

Anniversaries like this give us an opportunity to look back on our past work and common successes, to assess some shortcomings in the functioning of the Organization, but also to reiterate our strong commitment to the principles and goals of the United Nations.

The current unprecedented crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic and the leading role of the United Nations in providing medical assistance to the countries all around the world and in taking measures against the expected severe consequences, confirms the principal role of the United Nations in global responses.

The pandemic clearly shows that global challenges can only be successfully addressed through joint and coordinated action by all states. These are precisely the supreme values and benefits of multilateralism, reflected in UN. I will mention two historical events from the recent past — the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement — which testify the strength of unity and potential of the UN to be an agent of change in the process of shaping our future.

We can be proud of the results that the UN and its the member states have achieved over the past 75 years. As the largest peace project in history, UN have contributed to disarmament, preventing numerous conflicts, building peace and providing humanitarian aid around the world. For civilians in conflict areas, UN represent a hope that they will be protected from violence and that their basic needs for survival will be met.

The creation of UN also marked a milestone in the field of protection and universal promotion of human rights and equality, by adopting numerous documents that are now main pillar of the international human rights system. In doing so, UN reaffirmed that at a person (human being) with rights that are universal and undisputable must be at the heart of a new, more peaceful and prosperous world, and that no one should be discriminated or persecuted for being different.

Today, UN is engaged in a number of activities aimed at improving the social and economic condition of humanity, whether it is the fight against hunger and poverty, the vaccination of children, or the fight against climate change and the protection of the environment.

Starting from the fact that we share the same destiny on the planet that is our common home, we must fight together to improve the quality of life of all its inhabitants.

Mr. President,

The UN must retain its role as the center of the international order in the 21st century. Today, when we are facing a health crisis, but also crises of mistrust and erosion of international institutions, we must make additional efforts to strengthen the UN. Only a strong UN, which is efficient, inclusive and transparent, can respond to modern challenges in a timely and complete manner and contribute to the realization of the vision of a better future. Today's world is different from the world in which the UN was created. We need new approaches and new alliances with civil society and the private sector.

I am convinced that UN has the potential to meet their goals and that we will be responsible to the vision of the founders. We owe it to the generations to come.

Mr. President,

Montenegro remains deeply committed to the principles and goals UN is based on. We have proven to be a reliable partner all these years, a partner who sincerely inherits the idea of multilateralism without an alternative, which is "at the heart" of UN.

I would like to express my gratitude to the UN system for its unreserved support to Montenegro in all our reform efforts. Today, Montenegro is recognized as a factor of peace and stability in the region, as a country with a dynamic and leading economy, and as the main candidate for the membership of the EU.

The UN can count on further strong support of Montenegro. Thank you for your attention.

Annex 20**Statement by Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco**

[Original: Arabic]

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year, the United Nations marks the seventy-fifth anniversary at a worrisome juncture. That is why we have an urgent responsibility, as we are all affected by the brutal pandemic that has plunged thousands into grief. It has impoverished thousands and destroyed the economies and way of life of countries. It has had unprecedented repercussions on health systems and systems of protection. Ten years shy of the deadline for achieving the SDGs, this pandemic poses a threat to all the progress that has been achieved in recent years.

Secondly, we have a responsibility to fulfil our peoples' hopes for a safer and fairer international system that promotes solidarity, understanding and respect for human rights. The system should prioritize sustainable human development. We have a moral obligation and must rise to the occasion through the following principles.

First, we must redouble our efforts to achieve the 17 SDGs by 2030. We must continue our efforts to develop plans to combat climate change and terrorism and address immigration and so on.

Secondly, we must reform the United Nations and allow it to assume its role in fostering understanding among peoples. It must adopt an international approach to strengthen peace, development and universal values.

Mr. President,

We are commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. However, there is no reason for us to congratulate ourselves. We need to engage in self-reflection and dialogue about how the United Nations addressed contemporary challenges to bolster its efficacy and efficiency and enable it to respond to the challenges at hand.

The principles of the United Nations Charter demonstrate our deep faith in the importance and relevance of this organization as a tool for effective and renewed international solidarity, given the current challenges. On several occasions, my country, Morocco, has underscored the need to reflect on multilateralism in response to crises. This is why we need to adopt new approaches. Common concepts must be found to address contemporary and imminent challenges in order to strengthen the effectiveness of our organization.

To that end, Morocco welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his initiatives and determination during the COVID-19 pandemic. We call on States to redouble their efforts for a stronger organization and renewed multilateralism. We reaffirm our support for the initiatives of the Secretary-General in this regard.

COVID-19 has revealed the dysfunction that hinders progress in achieving sustainable development, especially with regard to socioeconomic disparities and ensuring that no one is left behind. International efforts to address pandemic-related

challenges require common action and partnerships, with the United Nations at the centre. We need a solidarity-based approach and results-based multilateralism. It must allow us to meet the aspirations of people for sustainable development.

We do not need selective multilateralism based on coalitions. No. We need stronger, more pragmatic, more open multilateralism — above and beyond coalitions. To achieve fair renewed multilateralism, we must reject the concept that it is not needed to build an organization that can manage the post-COVID era.

We support the United Nations and are concerned about its actions. That is why we call for further joint action to address challenges and their political, economic, social and environmental repercussions.

At the fifty-ninth session of the of the General Assembly, His Majesty Mohammed VI reiterated that

“I am convinced that the United Nations, which has helped solve countless crises, is perfectly capable of managing the current international situation in a peaceful and civilized way, by revitalizing the multilateral system ... Such an objective, however, can be achieved only if the United Nations is provided with the kind of resources and means needed to meet the geo-strategic requirements of the twenty-first century.”

We are at a difficult juncture, Mr. President. All our decisions will have an impact on current and future generations. This is why we need a strong and credible organization. Our organization needs our political will. It needs our creativity to assume its role as a universal platform for dialogue and common action.

The Declaration we will adopt today reflects our readiness to meet future challenges by developing a road map with 12 main areas for action. It also shows the universal nature of our organization with regard to addressing challenges and is a framework for dialogue and results-based actions.

May the peace of God be with you.

Annex 21**Statement by Mr. Federico Alberto González Franco, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay**

[Original: Spanish]

Excellencies,

We are commemorating today the seventy-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations.

Paraguay is proud to have participated at the San Francisco Conference and to have historically contributed to building a community where nations coexist, based on respect for the established order, dignity and rights of all people. In this context, we highlight our participation in peacekeeping operations over the past decades.

The Organization is far from perfect. However, in unprecedented fashion, it has managed to set up a structure capable of dealing with situations of tension, conflict and misunderstanding, with a humanistic and forward-looking vision, while placing people at the centre of its work.

A glance at the past 75 years allows us a glimpse of the remarkable progress in peace and security. However, challenges persist and grow. Accordingly, Paraguay believes that the time has come to make adjustments to update the organizational and functional structure of the United Nations on a participatory and democratic basis in accordance with the guiding principles for promoting peace, prosperity and the conservation and restoration of the environment.

It is impossible to imagine the world today without the United Nations. There are shared challenges, such as climate change, the loss of biodiversity, poverty and communicable diseases, which cannot be resolved alone but together through multilateralism.

This anniversary reflects a turning point, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has tested the multilateral system and its ability to respond. Efforts to address the post-COVID-19 challenges must be in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, so that no one is left behind. In order to achieve the sustainable development that we want, we believe that it is essential to combine economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection in a cross-cutting and comprehensive manner to ensure the well-being of all people. The Republic of Paraguay reaffirms its commitment to those goals.

Thank you very much.

Annex 22**Statement by Mr. Ally Coulibaly, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**

[Original: French]

Your Excellency Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly,

Your Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Excellencies Heads of State and Government

Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to welcome the holding of this high-level meeting dedicated to marking the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

Indeed, this celebration invites us to reflect in depth on the future that we want to build together, with the United Nations as the main architect.

My country welcomes the adoption of the Declaration on the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and views it as an excellent opportunity to reaffirm its faith in the centrality of our common Organization and its unwavering commitment to multilateralism as a privileged framework for building a world of peace and prosperity.

As we review the road traveled since the creation of the United Nations on 26 June 1945, in San Francisco, I would like to join in paying tribute to all those men and women who learned the lessons of the atrocities of war and helped establish a universal organization dedicated to peace and the progress of humanity.

I also pay tribute to all the staff at the UN headquarters in New York, as well as to those who work elsewhere in the world, who, through their self-sacrifice at work, keep the flame burning for hope for a peaceful world, a sine qua non for shared prosperity.

Mr. President,

The United Nations — its legitimacy derived from its universality — remains the keystone of the international institutional architecture, which is indispensable for the progress of humanity.

While the United Nations is under pressure from antagonistic interests and raises many questions, Côte d'Ivoire remains in the eyes of the international community a strong testimony of its successful contribution to the restoration and consolidation of peace.

Indeed, thanks to exemplary cooperation with the entire United Nations system, my country has found its way back to peace and stability and has resolutely embarked on a virtuous path of unanimously recognized economic and social development.

We take this opportunity to reiterate the deep gratitude of the Government and the people of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations and to again pay tribute to

the memory of the civilian and military personnel of UNOCI, who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the return of peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire.

The 75th anniversary of the United Nations is being marked amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Given its multiple consequences, this health crisis has revealed the fragility of the international system and has made it more necessary than ever to strengthen existing multilateral cooperation frameworks and, above all, to develop innovative solutions to respond to the health, security and humanitarian crises.

Needless to say, we must seek to reflect constructively on the reform of our common Institution in order to be more effective in meeting contemporary challenges. It is undeniable that the reform of the United Nations to bring it closer to the peoples will be possible only through an inclusive, constructive and egalitarian dialogue that respects differences.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to conclude my statement by reiterating Côte d'Ivoire's full support for the United Nations and its Secretary-General, as well as its commitment to the values of peace and dialogue and brotherhood among the peoples of the world and to the prosperity of our common Organization.

Long live the United Nations and its efforts for a world of peace and continuous progress.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Annex 23**Statement by Mr. Djacoba A.S. Oliva Tehindrazanarivelo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar**

[Original: French]

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to take part in this commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

I would like to begin by expressing the solidarity of the Government and the people of Madagascar with the families that are bereaved because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the end of the Second World War, the birth of our Organization was a response to the desire of all countries to cooperate for international peace and security.

On this day of commemoration, we face a new major challenge, a global pandemic, which calls for the renewal of our commitment to the principles of the Organization.

COVID-19 reminds us that it is more important to work together than individually to provide lasting and effective solutions to major contemporary problems.

It is for this reason that Madagascar joins in the call to pool capacities, resources and initiatives, aimed at establishing greater solidarity in the management of the impacts of the pandemic.

New global threats, including the pandemic, tend to challenge our commitment to multilateralism.

As we mark the 75th anniversary of our Organization, we should recall that the work of the United Nations is incomplete.

This is true with regard to challenges related to the social and economic inequalities that the world continues to face today.

The same is true of the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination. In the 21st century, the decolonization process of some UN Member States remains incomplete, due to the arbitrary detachment of part of their territory, such as the case of Madagascar with its Gloriosos Islands — Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India.

Madagascar therefore calls for a renewed unity among all United Nations Members, based on the values of justice, solidarity and mutual respect, in the spirit of the principles we have built together.

Let us rally around what unites us — multilateralism and the rule of international law — and let us reject what divides us, in particular unilateralism and the survival of the fittest. The future of our Organization is at stake.

Long live the United Nations!

Annex 24

Statement by Mr. Dominic Raab, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Today, as we renew our commitment to tackling our common challenges, I recall the UN's beginnings.

75 years ago, representatives from 51 nations met in London. They showed ambitions to build a global community out of the searing experience of two World Wars.

But it was also an inception rooted in optimism and a determination that “we, the peoples” would create a better future for ourselves and our children.

Over the past 75 years, the UN has achieved many things. It has promoted development and democracy. It has strengthened universal values and human rights, particularly of women and girls. It has immunised the vulnerable. It has fed the hungry. It has negotiated peace settlements and supported stability, reconciliation and reconstruction in places that need it most.

The United Kingdom was there at the beginning and we've been a major contributor to UN ever since, upholding its principles, providing political and financial support, expertise, and peacekeeping troops as well.

Our commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income on Official Development Assistance is enshrined in law and allows us to support the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a member of the United Nations Security Council, we are resolute in our commitment to international peace and security.

Each generation brings new challenges. So, there is much more to do. But we can rise to these challenges, and I pay tribute to the UN's tireless efforts to tackle the unprecedented disruption and human impact of COVID-19. The pandemic has highlighted just how interwoven our fates are, and I believe our moral duty to support those hit hardest by the pandemic, alongside the opportunity to collaborate in building a greener, more sustainable future.

We know that when we pull together, we can overcome the toughest challenges and achieve the most amazing things.

Nowhere is that need for cooperation greater than in tackling climate change, for which the UK is proud to be hosting COP26 in Glasgow next year.

With those challenges ahead of us, I am delighted that the United Kingdom will host the Secretary-General in January.

We will commemorate the first anniversaries of the first UN General Assembly and Security Council meetings, both of which took place in London. We will make sure it is a fitting tribute to all that we have achieved together and we will redouble our commitment to rise to the challenges that lie ahead.

Annex 25**Statement by Mr. Motegi Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan**

Mr. President, Excellencies,

Seventy-five years have passed since the founding of the United Nations. The world has changed dramatically. Crises we have to cope with, through multilateralism, are expanding in diversity and scale. COVID-19 is a case in point. The crucial role of the UN to unite the international community has never been more necessary.

We, the Member States, cannot be complacent with the status quo. Rather, we need to take serious steps, in close coordination with the UN organizations, to reform the UN for the post-COVID era. Secretary-General Guterres has been leading the effort to make the UN even more effective. Japan wants to see such reform make further headway this year. In this regard, the reform of the UN development system is critical to make sure that the most vulnerable will not be left behind.

For a stronger UN, Security Council reform cannot wait any longer. I regret to say that, today, the system designed seventy-five years ago does not fully deliver on the purposes of the Charter. I am convinced that Member States having the capacity and willingness to take on major responsibilities should hold seats on an expanded Security Council. Only then will the Council be revived as an effective and representative organ. Japan is fully prepared to fulfill such responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council and contribute to ensuring peace and stability of the world. In the Declaration of this High-Level Meeting, we commit ourselves to instilling new life in the discussions on the Council reform. To fulfill that commitment and take a step forward, I call on all Member States to launch text based negotiations.

Mr. President,

This year also marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We have to keep in mind that the UN was founded “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.” Japan spares no effort to achieve this goal into the future. The Future We Want. Let us build it together.

Thank you.

Annex 26**Statement by Mr. Denis Ronaldo Moncada Colindres, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua**

[Original: Spanish]

Your Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Your Excellency Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session,

Ladies and gentlemen representatives of Member States,

Please receive the greetings of the people of Nicaragua and President Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Vice-President Rosario Murillo.

We express our solidarity with and condolences to all the families suffering due to the pandemic, which affects all humankind and which we must overcome through unity and cooperation among the peoples of the world as we commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

The pandemic has highlighted the need to create a new international economic order based on inclusion, equity and justice, prioritizing health as a universal right of humankind, demanding that the resources allocated for war be made available instead for life and peace.

The United Nations must focus on the welfare of human beings. Nicaragua rejects the politicization of the United Nations system, promoted mainly by the United States, which seeks to convert its organs into an instrument at the service of imperialist interests in order to destabilize countries that do not submit to its designs. We reject the politicization of the Human Rights Council, its false reports and unilateral resolutions that lack objectivity against the peoples of Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Nicaragua denounces the aggression suffered by the dignified people of Cuba through the brutal economic, political and commercial blockade. We reaffirm our ongoing solidarity with President Miguel Díaz-Canel, Army General Raúl Castro and the legacy of Fidel Castro.

We reiterate our firm support for the sister Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the right of its legitimate President, comrade Nicolás Maduro, to comply at all times with its Constitution.

The illegal unilateral coercive measures against our peoples, and in particular against Nicaragua, must cease immediately. In the meantime, within that unjust and perverted global model, Nicaragua continues to implement public policies focused on the well-being of Nicaraguan families, guaranteeing their development, peace and stability. The coercive and aggressive policies of the imperialists constitute the real obstacle to the eradication of poverty and the advancement towards sustainable development.

The 2030 Agenda is based on the principle of universality. Therefore, it is our collective duty to leave no one behind, including the Government and the people of Taiwan, who have the right to participate in the implementation of the Agenda. Taiwan

is willing and able to participate and contribute to United Nations programmes for the well-being of humankind.

We live in complex historical times and only together will we be able to eradicate hunger and poverty and address the existential threat of climate change, which continues to be a latent threat as a consequence of unbridled capitalism. We must also continue our global efforts in favour of regular, safe and orderly migration.

We are certain that the peoples of the world will move forward, with vigour and hope, to build a new world order based on justice, equity and multilateralism in order to guarantee international peace and security for the common good in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Thank you very much.

Annex 27**Statement by Mr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

[Original: Arabic]

In the name of God, the most merciful, the most compassionate,

I am pleased to express my sincere congratulations to the peoples of the world on this special occasion as we commemorate together the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Over the years, our Organization has highlighted the importance of international cooperation in addressing vital global issues and confronting political, security, economic and development challenges, as well as promoting peace and security and prosperity for all of humankind.

The Kingdom of Bahrain appreciates the sincere efforts made by the United Nations and commends the constructive role played by its agencies and bodies in various fields, as well as the support and assistance they provide to countries around the world in order to implement their development programmes and initiatives.

The Kingdom of Bahrain, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, is working to enhance our constructive cooperation with the United Nations in order to achieve the goals of our Government with the ongoing support and commitment of the Prime Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Allow me to express our appreciation for the close relationship between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Nations, reaffirming our commitment to working consistently towards a strengthened partnership with the Organizations and its organs, agencies and offices. The Kingdom of Bahrain will continue to actively participate in the programmes and projects that it adopts on the basis of our commitment to what is stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations and the noble humanitarian principles on which the Organization was founded.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is working to achieve the purposes and principles of the Charter, including by raising living standards and creating a conducive environment for achieving socioeconomic progress and development. The Kingdom is in the process of reviewing its Strategic Partnership Framework Agreement with the United Nations, which will serve to foster strategic cooperation and sustainable development in accordance with the Government's new programme and the relevant resolutions. The Framework Agreement is the first of its kind in the region, and the Kingdom of Bahrain has received requests to join and sign the updated version from six United Nation agencies, in addition to the sixteen agencies already participating.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is concerned about human development, which lies at the core of its development efforts. The Government therefore continues its strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development while taking into account the multiple challenges and difficulties we face. The Government was able to streamline 87 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goals into its programmes and initiatives.

We also commend the sincere efforts made by the various United Nations offices and bodies that are based in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which have always

demonstrated their efficiency and capacity to provide assistance to all ministries and authorities in the country.

The Kingdom of Bahrain expresses its appreciation for the role of the United Nations in achieving cooperation between nations and peoples and resolving conflicts by peaceful means. In that connection, the Kingdom welcomes the new United Nations Global Compact launched by the Secretary-General with the aim of establishing a more equitable global order that guarantees equality throughout the world. We also support his call for full, comprehensive and equal participation in the work of all international institutions.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Bahrain places great hopes in the present and future role of the United Nations in creating a global environment conducive to resolving the vital issues we face in order to build a safe, stable and prosperous global community. Let us continue the search for innovative scientific and practical solutions that open the way for the international community to achieve its lofty goals through an effective international partnership in which international efforts are combined to achieve international peace and security.

May the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

I thank you.

Annex 28**Statement by Mr. Amine Abba Sidick, Minister for Foreign Affairs,
African Integration and Chadians Abroad of the Republic of Chad**

[Original: French]

Mr. President,
Heads of State and Delegation,
Secretary-General,
President of the Security Council,
President of the Economic and Social Council,
President of the International Court of Justice,

The Marshal of Chad, Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, Head of State, would have liked to address this august Assembly personally but was unable to do so. He instructed me to convey this message to you.

“It is with genuine pleasure that I address this august Assembly gathered to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, under the theme: “The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism”.

This is an opportunity for us to laud the great achievements of the United Nations, but also to reflect on the road ahead and actions to be taken to meet the many challenges that remain on the path to implementing the promises of the United Nations Charter — the foundation of our common Organization.

Indeed, 75 years ago, the United Nations was created for the peoples of the world, to: “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war ...” through an international order based on law, human rights, the sovereign equality of nations, the right to self-determination, respect for independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the principles of justice and international law, and the use of international institutions to promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

75 years later, we welcome the fact that the United Nations has succeeded in saving the world from the torments of devastating wars on a global scale, thereby saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and alleviating human suffering, through preventive diplomacy, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, humanitarian and development activities.

We would like to take this opportunity to commend the major progress achieved in the areas of human rights, gender equality, the rights of the child, access to education, the environment and the fight against disease, which can be attributed to the United Nations, as the catalyst.

However, it is important to underscore that 75 years after its establishment, the UN is far from having fulfilled the promises contained in the Charter.

Mr. President,

Deadly armed conflicts continue to claim victims to this day in many parts of the world, in particular in developing countries, which are the most vulnerable within the structure of the international system.

In addition, millions of people around the world continue to suffer enormously from the ills that the UN was established to address. In addition to deadly armed conflicts with devastating socioeconomic consequences, poverty, hunger, inequality, the ravages of climate change, terrorism, violent extremism, resurgent nationalism, xenophobia, geopolitical tensions and so on are challenges for us all, primarily for the UN.

The credibility of multilateralism, to which we are all committed, will depend on the capacity of the United Nations to manage and resolve these existential threats. The peoples of the world have placed their hopes in the United Nations, which remains the framework par excellence for exchange, reflection and collective action in an effort to find solutions to the problems of humankind. We are compelled therefore to spare no effort in meeting the aspirations of the peoples of the world.

This will require constantly renewed commitment, unfailing determination and more vigorous collective action in the implementation of the Goals set, within the framework of the United Nations, in particular the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

The 2030 Agenda, for example, which raised so many hopes when it was adopted, has not met our legitimate expectations. The gap between the commitments made and action on the ground, in particular in Africa, is considerable.

This is why it is extremely urgent, as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, to do our utmost to ensure the success of the development agenda for the whole of humanity, as it is the most appropriate instrument for fulfilling the promises of the Charter and the ultimate goal of leaving no one behind.

We remain convinced that there is still time to act to accelerate the implementation of its 17 Goals — their success is a moral duty and our responsibility.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The ability of the United Nations to fulfil its promises also depends on its reform. Reform would adapt it to today's world and allow it to better provide adequate responses to the root causes of the aforementioned scourges, which cause more harm in developing countries with limited capacities. All these remaining challenges require everyone's commitment to the United Nations Charter and the strengthening of multilateralism. They also call for a renewed commitment and stronger collective action by our States through increased international cooperation, with strong and targeted development actions that assist vulnerable States, landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing countries.

Achieving the UN's goals also requires us to strengthen the commendable efforts already made, namely with regard to partnerships with regional organizations. We take this opportunity to again laud the partnership between the UN and the African Union, which enables us to work together to achieve common goals.

Increased efforts in conflict prevention and peacebuilding will not only save lives but also better focus resources where they are most needed. Similarly,

mandates that are better adapted to peace operations will enhance their effectiveness, in compliance with international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions, of course.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my country's commitment to the objectives and principles outlined in the Charter of the United Nations and to working tirelessly to achieve them.

I thank you.

Annex 29**Statement by Mr. Pedro Brolo Vila, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala**

[Original: Spanish; English translation provided by the delegation]

Guatemala, as a founding member of the United Nations, recognizes that this is the most representative central mechanism for dialogue and creation of norms that we have as an international community, and we must congratulate ourselves on these 75 years of existence.

The UN has accompanied the world to face various crises, wars and challenges of all kinds, but the current pandemic caused by COVID-19 is the largest emergency that humanity has faced, that also highlighted the gaps and socioeconomic problems in our countries. It is an important time to reflect on whether it is necessary to rethink ourselves as States to make deep changes to this Organization in order to make it more agile and at the service of the true protagonists, the most vulnerable populations.

We must redouble our commitment and strengthen the United Nations system, to regain confidence and be able to face emerging common challenges and fulfill the purposes of the Charter of the Organization.

We call for us to multiply efforts through strategic cooperation and direct it to where it is most needed, preventing resources from being centralized in administrative aspects in the United Nations System, both at headquarters and in country offices.

It is appropriate to emphasize that Guatemala has contributed to the pillars of this Organization, allow me to highlight that:

In the pillar of peace and security, we favour the strengthening of preventive diplomacy. We continue to support different Missions of Peacekeeping Operations with men and women. Guatemala reaffirms its position and ratifies that weapons of mass destruction should not be used under any circumstance.

In the development pillar, we are implementing the SDGs and next year we will be presenting our third National Voluntary Report. We know that by redoubling our joint efforts we can fulfill the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

In the human rights pillar, we highlight the importance of not losing sight of the concept of universality of human rights, we must act with unity, promote equal access to opportunities for all. We reiterate our efforts to comply with universal and effective respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of all people.

We reiterate the need to break the silos between the pillars to achieve a coherent and integrated approach to the work of the Organization, which recognizes that peace and security, development, and human rights are interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

We reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism; we are convinced of the role of the United Nations to forge an inclusive and sustainable future for future generations. They count on us.

Thank you very much.

Annex 30**Statement by Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

Distinguished Secretary-General,

Distinguished President of the General Assembly,

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year we are celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. Thanks to this Organization, we are able to consolidate common efforts in addressing the most acute tests which affect the interests of both humankind in its entirety and certain countries and regions. The leadership of the United Nations in combating the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences has once again demonstrated the need for close cooperation and a multilateral approach to overcoming common problems.

Today, Uzbekistan has resolutely entered the quality stage of its development. We have achieved significant results by conducting an open, pragmatic and constructive foreign policy. The new course of the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev is being actively implemented in terms of strengthening political trust and mutual understanding in Central Asia.

Our country continues to play an important role in consolidating the efforts of United Nations Member States with the aim of putting an end to the war in neighbouring Afghanistan. As a result of profound efforts, there is now a real opportunity for further peaceful construction of the Afghan statehood and its recovery, economy and social sphere.

The 28 years of constructive cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Nations have been filled with substantial events. We have been continuing the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals with measures to overcome poverty and improve the social well-being of population, to ensure gender equality and freedom of speech, to protect the environment and overcome the consequences of climate change.

Among a number of key initiatives that we intend to push forward and implement in practice, I would like to emphasize the development of an international convention on the rights of use and the promotion of a General Assembly draft resolution to declare the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies.

Uzbekistan firmly intends to continue to make its contribution to United Nations activities with the goal of implementing the international agenda in practice.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me, on behalf of the leadership and entire people of Uzbekistan, to congratulate all participants in today's event on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and wish you and your families sound health, new success and well-being.

Thank you for your attention.

Annex 31**Statement by Mr. Tété António, Minister for External Relations of the Republic of Angola**

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great honour that we participate in the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations. We fully subscribe to the joint Declaration, which highlights many of the issues that we consider crucial for the stability and development of all countries in the world and the importance of multilateralism as the best way to solve our problems and ensure a more prosperous, safe and fair world.

Mr. President,

Unfortunately, since the founding of this valuable Organization, many countries are still plagued by poverty, hunger and economic inequality. Those factors contribute to the increase in armed conflicts, religious and ethnic extremists and forced displacement of entire communities. Those phenomena are prevalent in many parts of the world, especially in the poorest and least developed countries, which are often still dealing with the consequences of internal and external factors.

In that regard, we must take advantage of this occasion to highlight some points that we believe are imperative and should be considered as we move forward in order to make our Organization more relevant and better equipped to face the current challenges and wars of the future in the post-pandemic world.

We need to avoid mistrust among people by using all available means and resources to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts, as established by the Charter of the United Nations. The Republic of Angola believes in the principles of the Charter, but significant structural changes must be implemented. One of those changes is the long-awaited reform of the Security Council, which needs to reflect the current reality of the international system. We reaffirm the demands contained in the Ezulwini Consensus on Security Council reform, where Africa has two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats, enjoying full rights and privileges.

Mr. President,

Another change that is pertinent in our view is the improvement of the focus on and redirection of resources to more effective partnerships to ensure more effective and inclusive responses to the complex challenges that our societies are facing. That becomes even more relevant now as we have to deal with the consequences of the unexpected pandemic, which has claimed the lives of so many innocent victims around the world.

Moreover, despite the pandemic and the need for cooperation and solidarity to deal with health crises, a greater focus on partnership should also apply to political and military disputes. The current geopolitical restructuring is a cause for concern and we strongly urge those with the means to influence these trends to opt for preventive

diplomacy and mediation to prevent the escalation and recurrence of hostilities that are fuelling radical ideologies and violent extremism in many parts of the world.

Finally, we stress the importance of supporting United Nations efforts to protect our planet and mitigate the dangerous threat posed by climate change. If we do not make a coordinated and more determined effort to protect our planet and continue to deplete its natural resources without taking into account the impact on the environment, future conflicts will arise from the displacement of communities based on climate-related challenges such as drought, desertification, food shortages, water shortages and forest fires, among others.

In that regard, Mr. President, President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço has set out sound reforms to reduce our dependence on oil and protect our country's rich biodiversity for future generations.

I would like to conclude by taking this opportunity to commend His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for all his efforts in promoting peace and sustainable development. In that regard, we pledge to remain an active partner in his efforts to reform the pillar of peace and security and his commitment to improve the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its mandate for a demonstrative reform that will increase the impact of peacekeeping.

I thank you.

Annex 32**Statement by Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Hadhrani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen**

[Original: Arabic]

Mr. President of the General Assembly,

Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Today we commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations against a backdrop of major political, economic and humanitarian challenges. In addition to the difficulties that many countries around the world, including my own, are facing, the outbreak of the COVID-19 represents a new global challenge that has affected all aspects of our lives and underscores, more than ever before, the fact that the United Nations and multilateral diplomacy are no longer an option, but an indispensable necessity.

The Republic of Yemen was one of the first countries to join the United Nations. This Organization and its specialized agencies continue to play a prominent role in supporting development and stability in Yemen. Since 2011, the United Nations has actively contributed to the peace process in my country through the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy. We support the process to find a comprehensive and sustainable solution on the basis of the agreed terms of reference to put an end to the Houthi militia coup against the State and its institutions.

My government is committed to restoring peace and stability and has made great strides in achieving it. The Yemeni population accepted the outcomes of the comprehensive national dialogue conference, in which it was unanimously agreed to draft a new federal constitution to meet the aspirations of the Yemeni people to build a modern, democratic, civil State based on the principles of justice, equality, rule of law, good governance and a fair distribution of wealth and power.

However, that process was taken hostage by the Iranian-backed Houthi militia, jeopardizing our constitutional legitimacy led by His Excellency President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour. On this very day in 2014, Yemen was thrust into the furnace of war. It produced the world's worst humanitarian crisis and has eradicated the Yemeni people's dreams of freedom, development, stability and a decent life.

In light of our belief in peace and the importance of alleviating the suffering of our people, we will continue to reach out our hands to achieve a just and sustainable peace based on the three agreed terms of reference, namely the Gulf Initiative and its implementation mechanism, the outcomes of the national dialogue and the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2216 (2015).

We value the role played by the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy for Yemen and we reaffirm that we will continue making positive contributions to all efforts and initiatives aimed at ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable peace in Yemen. We applaud the coalition to support legitimacy in Yemen led by the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a view to restoring the State and its institutions, as well as to preserve the unity and territorial integrity of and promote security and stability in Yemen. We commend all humanitarian aid provided by donor countries to alleviate the situation of humanitarian suffering due to the futile war waged by the Houthi militia in Yemen.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the Republic of Yemen reaffirms its belief in and commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law in order to achieve peace, justice and equality and promote a spirit of mutual cooperation among the peoples of the world.

Thank you.

Annex 33**Statement by Ms. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica**

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the face of multiple complex challenges, growing anti multilateral sentiments, a global pandemic and related economic crisis, this 75th Anniversary assumes added significance. The pledge our governments made 75 years ago to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, is worthy of deep reflection.

The UN Charter embodies our vision of a world defined by inclusive, sustainable development, in an environment of peace and security. This is the world to which we aspire and the world we need.

The UN has brought international focus on the critical issues of human rights, decolonisation, racism, climate change, economic cooperation, indebtedness, and disarmament which are all fundamental to development and remain relevant for individual, national and global equality and prosperity.

Indeed, it is only through international dialogue, cooperation and assistance that we will achieve our socioeconomic development goals and a lasting legacy of peace, security and prosperity for this and future generations.

The unprecedented events of the COVID 19 pandemic, have concretised our long-held view that, “going it alone” is not a feasible option for Small Island Developing States like Jamaica. We know that in these challenging times, countries large and small, rich and poor have experienced the commonality of our humanity and the reality of our interconnectedness. The tremendous contribution of the United Nations in addressing the many challenges afflicting our global citizenry is without question. Today, we thank the UN in particular for the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund.

Recognizing the pivotal role that multilateralism plays in an interdependent world, Jamaica continues to support the work of the UN. Jamaica remains committed to all efforts towards making the Organization more coherent, effective and fit-for-purpose. Jamaicans have therefore, continued to serve the Organisation, its bodies and Specialized Agencies, in various capacities with the sole aim of securing the United Nations we need and the future we want.

As we celebrate this 75th milestone in the midst of an ever changing global environment, each Member State must assume responsibility for promoting increased understanding and compromise as well as continued dialogue and cooperation so that together we can create the UN we need to foster the future we want for us and generations to come.

I thank you.

Annex 34**Statement by Mr. Linas Linkevičius, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania**

Mr. President,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

75 years ago, with reaffirmed faith in equal rights of large and small countries, the United Nations were formed. This Organization created confidence that togetherness could deliver more peace and security than one country alone. During this time the United Nations brought 193 countries together to prove that collectively we can achieve ambitious goals — peace, disarmament, non-proliferation, stability, equality and prosperity.

This occasion has two sides. On one side, we want to celebrate the great achievements made throughout these 75 years, on the other — we realize the gap between the future we want and the reality. There is still a lots of work left in SDGs implementation, protracted conflicts in Europe and around the world are not resolved yet, human rights need protection more than ever, we also encounter new challenges of public health. Yet despite these flaws, there is little doubt that the multilateral system has decisively helped promote and protect peace, prosperity and security around the world over the past 75 years.

Mr. President,

By celebrating the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, we renew our dedication to its Charter, reflect on its significance to the international peace and security, and reaffirm its fundamental importance to multilateralism.

Lithuania was one of the very few countries, full-fledged members of the League of Nations that disappeared from the world map after the Second World War and were not be able to become a signatory to the United Nations Charter and founding member of the United Nations. Instead, we experienced lawlessness, disregard of international law and aggression. Our history obliges us to counter attempts to distort historical facts and whitewash crimes by the totalitarian regimes. Doubting the real facts leads to return to the methods of division into spheres of influence, justifying incitement to hatred, rise of nationalism and aggression against neighboring countries.

Mr. President,

Next year, Lithuania will celebrate the 30th anniversary of its membership at the United Nations. Our past has made the preservation of liberty, freedom and democracy the main national priority, which should not be taken for granted. We have to work together to defend and adhere to the founding principles of the United Nations, to overcome challenges and have the future we want with modern, values based and effective United Nations.

I thank you.

Annex 35**Statement by Mr. Sabri Boukadoum, Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

[Original: Arabic]

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate,

Mr. President,

At the outset, it is my pleasure to express my deep gratitude to those who organized this initiative to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. We recall the determination of the founding fathers to realize people's aspirations for a world of peace, security and development.

We take this opportunity to recall our commitment to multilateralism and review the development of this organization — its successes and the challenges it faces. The Charter of the United Nations is the basic tenet on which the vision of a new kind of international relations. All countries have committed to refraining from the causes of conflicts, crises and war and to the peaceful settlement of issues, based on justice, which has played a major role in containing and settling several wars that would have claimed many human lives.

However, given rapid international development, the crises we face and the reliance on unilateral decisions are to the detriment of multilateral frameworks, to which everyone aspired, as they would constitute a permanent forum for the people of the world in which to settle disputes and defend our rights. We therefore need to expedite the reform of the United Nations so that the organization can face the challenges of the day, in particular ending colonialism, maintaining international peace and security and achieving sustainable development, which are all aspirations of people.

Mr. President,

We are confident that the success of the United Nations cannot be realized without the efforts of the member states to develop and enhance its objectives and purposes. Therefore, I assure you of Algeria's commitment to multilateralism and to the United Nations, as a sincere and active partner in all efforts that seek to maintain international peace and security, in consonance with the principles and purposes of our organization, and in all initiatives that seek to expedite the realization of sustainable development and the long-awaited reform that will make the United Nations an organization for all the people of the world.

Mr. President,

We thank you for the floor.

Annex 36**Statement by Mr. Lejeune Mbella Mbella, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon**

[Original: French and English]

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
All protocol duly respected,

The theme chosen for this year's commemoration is an eloquent testament to the United Nations being the most appropriate and soon the most successful forum to respond to current challenges.

Mr. President,

The commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of our Organization provides me with an opportunity to commend the cooperation between Cameroon and the United Nations. Indeed, my country, which has enjoyed the support of the United Nations, maintains a rich cooperation with the Organization.

First, on 12 June 2006 in Greentree, under the auspices of the United Nations, Cameroon and Nigeria signed a historic agreement setting out the modalities and the timeline for the implementation of the 2002 ruling in which the International Court of Justice ordered the transfer of the Bakassi peninsula from Nigeria to Cameroon.

Secondly, on 10 June 2019, my country became eligible for the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. Finally, on 5 May 2020, Cameroon and the United Nations Development Programme signed a financing agreement to start the implementation of the presidential plan for the reconstruction and development of the North-West and South-West regions. Cameroon takes this opportunity to reiterate its call for a more active international mobilization in favour of the presidential plan, which is one of the levers for the advent of lasting peace in our country.

Mr. President,

The situation the world is facing today constitutes a threat that all countries must address. As the Head of State of Cameroon said on 17 May 2014 at the summit for peace and security in Africa held in Paris: "A global threat requires a global response". Cameroon therefore calls for mobilization and active international solidarity to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

May I be allowed to add my humble voice to those of previous speakers in wishing a happy anniversary to our Organization, which today turns 75.

Thank you.

Annex 37**Statement by Mr. Mohamed T. H. Siala, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Libya**

[Original: Arabic]

Mr. President,

We are commemorating today the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. It is indeed a great occasion, on which we acknowledge the respect and appreciation we owe to the founding fathers of the Organization, which has achieved many goals in the service of ensuring peace, security and prosperity for the people. We believe that we all agree that celebrating this milestone makes it extremely clear that we should emphasize the need to face the challenges that threaten the objectives of the Organization.

Every one of us knows that we are facing serious global challenges complicated by COVID-19, which is inflicting daily human losses, has held the cycle of economic development hostage and has affected the service and industrial sectors. The pandemic does not discriminate among populations or recognize borders. It is a serious challenge facing the United Nations long-standing experience and the resolve of the leaders of the world. We all are called upon to work collectively in solidarity to address and defeat the pandemic.

We sincerely believe that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which we all adopted, we must shoulder a human and moral responsibility, support our national interests and acknowledge that every human being, wherever they may live, has the right to live a free and dignified life and enjoy their basic freedoms and rights, which have been established by international treaties and rules. Those are indeed the purposes and goals for which the United Nations was founded.

Libya holds the Organization in great respect and appreciation. The United Nations has helped Libya in achieving its independence. Libya today is striving towards reconciliation and peace through the peace process so that we can overcome the difficult situation that we are facing and establish a civilian democratic State to which the Libyan people aspire.

Mr. President,

We join all those who seek a more effective and active role for the United Nations to play in responding to the threats and challenges facing our people, planet and future generations. In that regard, we feel that it is important to consider the following principles.

First, maintaining the multilateral system, which the United Nations has led since its inception over the past decades, has provided a collective approach, which has been key to dealing with more than a few crises and reaching international agreements and conventions in various areas — thereby reinforcing the three integral pillars upon which the United Nations was established: international peace and security, development and human rights.

Consequently, rejecting multilateralism will not only erode our shared interests but will lead to a lack of confidence, doubt, mistrust and conflicts of interest that will threaten international peace, security and stability.

Secondly, we have to agree that our world today and the complex challenges facing it are entirely different from those dating back to the founding of the Organization — a fact that makes it incumbent upon us to revitalize the United Nations and its organs and agencies. We therefore support the efforts of the Secretary-General to reform the Organization. We are convinced that the reform of the Security Council has become a priority, which has been dictated by the need to resolve several conflicts and the fact that it lacks equality in its representation of the current international context.

We must reform the Security Council in response to the just call made by the African continent in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration and rectify the injustice that Africa has suffered in terms of representation on the Council, especially as most of the items on the Council's agenda concern Africa and one-third of the members of the General Assembly are African countries. We therefore view it as imperative that basic reforms should be carried out affecting the Council, which has become increasingly removed from the conflicts under way on the continent and the right of peoples to resolve their own conflicts.

Thirdly, we must ensure our commitment to the realization of the 17 SDGs, in particular combating poverty and hunger. We should therefore unite all our efforts to address the problems facing us, including through adequate financing to fulfil the promises that we made, especially that of leaving no one behind; supporting development programmes in poor countries and those in crisis; and focusing on alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable people, in particular women, children and those with special needs.

Fourthly, our world is faced with the disastrous daily news of the victims of illegal migration, which has become a recurrent headline involving the human tragic toll. It is the result of several factors that have been exploited by human-trafficking networks active in the countries of origin and destination. Addressing the migration issue is beyond individual national capacities and requires a cross-cutting international response, based on supporting development programmes, various sectors, and countries' productivity and services. We should move from merely making promises to working together to end the phenomenon and provide the resources needed to prevent people from considering migration as a solution.

Mr. President,

We hope that our commemoration of this anniversary will represent a practical investment in strengthening our efforts and our shared solidarity to uphold the purposes and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We hope that, with every new day, the Organization will have a positive impact on millions of people.

Sir, we thank you for the floor.

Annex 38**Statement by Mr. Felipe Carlos Solá, Minister for Foreign Affairs,
International Trade and Worship of the Republic of Argentina**

[Original: Spanish]

Over the past 75 years, the United Nations has accomplished more than a few things.

First of all, it has prevented a new world war, and it has also made progress in the decolonization process, disarmament, non-proliferation and the protection and promotion of human rights, individual liberties, gender equality and workers' rights.

Mr. President,

The pandemic we are living through has confirmed the lack of sustainability of our world economic growth and accumulation models. Obviously, we must all respond collectively with greater unity, responsibility and solidarity. But let us agree that that is not enough and that it is also time to re-examine those same models and the level of injustice leaving poor people behind. All of this is laid out on the table in the context of the pandemic.

The pandemic has also set back all United Nations and other multilateral agencies' programmes, which support hundreds of millions of people in the world, and has diverted our attention from meeting the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We reaffirm that future vaccines and other public discoveries have been declared as public goods, which will be accessible to everyone — a key achievement and an example of increased awareness owing to the pandemic. The challenge of the future will be financing for development, strengthening peoples — especially those hardest hit — and modernizing State preventive health-care mechanisms, while standardizing them to the greatest extent possible so that they will be able to address future pandemics.

The heightened level of suffering among people owing to the health and economic crisis can but only have multilateral consequences. They must lead us to strengthen organizations that have today been weakened by the deliberate actions of certain countries. Let us return to strong multilateralism.

The Argentine Republic believes that the role played by the United Nations in finding collective solutions to all types of environmental challenges, which we must increasingly address, is of the utmost importance. We are firmly committed to strengthening effective multilateral environmental instruments.

Lastly, Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to those who 75 years ago saw the need for a multilateral organization to ensure peace and development. We are perhaps lacking in their eyes, but the United Nations is there to right the course.

Many thanks.

Annex 39**Statement by Mr. Munkhjin Batsumber, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia**

Mr. President,

It is a distinct honor for me to address this high-level meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

The world Organization, having risen from the ashes of the darkest war in the history of the humankind, has grown into the most powerful platform of multilateral cooperation.

Today, after 75 years in existence the Charter of the United Nations continues to be the prevailing instrument of international law.

The United Nations has helped to mitigate the most devastating conflicts; catalyzed decolonization; offered humanitarian help to people in need; fostered peacekeeping and peace-building; set the global norms; forged consensus on global development agenda; safeguarded human rights and provided the necessary assistance to reduce poverty, hunger and disease. But the mere existence of the United Nations augments the sense of stability in this volatile world.

Mr. President,

As the Secretary-General Antonio Guterres put it recently “the world is experiencing a deepening calamity”. The COVID-19 pandemic has engulfed both advanced and developing economies causing unprecedented economic damage and social collapse. The IMF projects its losses on the global economy would reach \$12 trillion by the end of 2021. This pandemic causes a serious threat to our efforts to eradicate global poverty and hunger. Inequality still remains a major challenge. The pandemic has clearly revealed the interdependence and fragility of the human family in the face of a host of emerging challenges.

Climate emergency, strategic rivalry, nuclear menace, terrorism, violent extremism, spiraling conflicts, cyber-crimes and retreat of multilateralism have further added to the multi-dimensional complexity of today’s world. The challenges we face are multifaceted and interconnected and ought to be addressed only through renewed multilateralism with the United Nations as its center as we all agreed in the Declaration to be shortly adopted.

Mr. President,

Cooperation, compassion and solidarity are the only way forward to overcome the pandemic and ease its lingering social and economic impact.

Mongolia has been taking proactive measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic and minimize its negative socio-economic impact. As a result of timely containment action Mongolia has so far no local transmission and no pandemic-related death.

But its economic and social cost has been enormous with the economy shrinking by 9.7 per cent over the first half of this year, and total export decreasing by 28 per cent.

The Government has introduced two economic stimulus packages amounting up to 5 per cent of the GDP to ease the pandemic's burden on shoulders of our people, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Additional recovery measures are reflected in the Government Action Plan. Counter-cyclical policy will be pursued to overcome the pandemic's socio-economic impact, and will ensure an-employment-led and people-centered recovery. A strong emphasis is put on green development. The Government will make sustained efforts to diversify the economy and its export with value-added production in non-mining sectors.

Large-scale development projects will continue in the areas of infrastructure, including oil refinery, gas pipeline, construction and water supply. These and other important projects will be actively pursued to further enhance our cooperation with our bilateral and multilateral partners. The Government will continue to pursue its open, multi-pillar foreign policy.

Mr. President,

Only through support, solidarity and cooperation we, as a human family, will overcome the spread of the pandemic and will be able to build back better and stronger community.

I thank you.

Annex 40**Statement by Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine**

[Original: Arabic; English translation provided by the delegation]

The State of Palestine celebrates today, together with the rest of the world, the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. We respect this noble organization and its foundational principles. There is no other international organization that carries the hope of a brighter reality like the UN, given its unique universal character and the mandate and powers granted to it to fulfill the purposes enshrined in its Charter, at their core the right to self-determination of peoples.

At a time where there are increasing attacks from Israel, the occupying Power, and the US administration against this international organization and its resolutions, we remain even more committed to preserving this organization, which constitutes a citadel of international law and multilateralism in the world.

The Palestinian people have placed their hope in the United Nations, the historical witness of their Nakba, to provide support to their legitimate struggle for freedom and independence. And we continue to await the UN to fulfil its responsibility to achieve a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with its resolutions.

It is paradoxical that the time that this organization was elaborating its Charter, and the international community was adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions, the Palestinian people were being deprived of the very rights enshrined in these instruments.

For over seven decades, we have witnessed peoples achieving freedom, and States becoming independent and becoming members of the United Nations, one after the other, while Palestine remained on item on the UN agenda. This was not due to our people failing to achieve their freedom and independence, as our people have remained committed to their right to self-determination and have been steadfast in their struggle against occupation and colonialism, never deviating from the goals of liberation and independence despite successive tragedies and disappointments.

Our nation is deeply rooted in this land, bearer of a long-lasting civilization that gives us pride among nations. Our people built countries and lifted communities in every corner of the globe. However, the historical injustice that befell them has never ceased, becoming more pronounced every day, and yet our people remain steadfast in their land and in exile.

The Palestinian people have pursued their legitimate struggle on every front. On the international level, it was able to take its natural place among nations. The Palestine Liberation Organization became an observer of the UN General Assembly in 1974 and in 2012 we became an observer State and we will not relent till we achieve our right to full membership in the United Nations. Last year, we were successful in taking a leading role within this international order and in efforts to achieve equality between peoples through our chairmanship of the G77 and China.

We took upon ourselves to represent faithfully and ably two-thirds of the world population. The State of Palestine also joined numerous treaties and Conventions and we are committed to fully to human rights and the rule of law and to ensure a more effective and influential role for women and youth.

Today, we convey our appreciation to all those who believe in the just nature and centrality of our cause, despite the increasing number of crises and conflicts in the world, and to all those who provide us with political support, in line with the UN Charter, as well as those who provide humanitarian and development support to our people and our institutions and to UNRWA until a just solution is achieved to the question of Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

The declaration we are adopting today reflects the belief of the State of Palestine that upholding international law is the guarantee for achieving justice, that the UN Charter remains the basis for a more just, peaceful and prosperous world and that international law is imprescriptible and its respect more pressing.

The declaration calls on all States to uphold the Charter, international law and Security Council resolutions and to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of an State. Will Israel abide by these rules it has consistently violated for seven decades? Isn't it time to put an end to its violations of the law and to hold it accountable for its crimes against the Palestinian and Arab peoples, instead of rewarding it?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The question of Palestine remains the greatest test for this international order and its credibility. We do not ask for more, nor will we accept less, than what have been recognized as legitimate rights for all peoples.

Our people can neither be broken nor erased despite the injustice befalling them. They will achieve their rightful and natural place among nations, living in freedom, dignity and security, in their sovereign and independent State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the 1967 borders.

May the United Nations be each year closer to abiding by its Charter and principles and to realizing its purposes. Peace be upon you.

Annex 41**Statement by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of the Holy See**

Mr. President,

I am pleased to participate in this virtual high-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and to reiterate the Holy See's support for this prestigious Institution.

For the past 75 years, the peoples of the world have turned to the United Nations as a source of hope for world peace and harmony among States. To the Organization they have brought the desire for an end to conflict and strife, greater respect for the dignity of the human person, the alleviation of suffering and poverty and the advancement of justice — an expression of an underlying expectation of the United Nations that the Organization would not only affirm the ideals on which it was founded but would labour with ever-greater resolve to make these ideals a reality in the life of every woman and man.

Since its recognition as an observer State in 1964, the Holy See has supported and taken an active role within the United Nations. Successive Popes have come before the General Assembly urging this noble institution to be a moral centre, where every country is at home, where the family of nations convenes and where the international community — in a spirit of human fraternity and solidarity — advances together with multilateral solutions to global challenges.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has made abundantly clear, we cannot go on thinking only of ourselves or fostering divisions; rather, we must work together to overcome the world's worst plagues, mindful that the burden carried by some necessarily affects humankind and the whole family of nations.

The Organization has worked to end war and conflict, repair what violence and strife have destroyed and bring opposing sides to the table so that together diplomacy and negotiation may win the day. There have been challenges and setbacks, even contradictions and failures. The United Nations is not perfect, and it has not always lived up to its name and ideals. It has harmed itself whenever particular interests have triumphed over the common good.

The United Nations will always be in need of revitalizing the original spirit in order to make the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations its own, within the context of a changing world. There is also the need for diplomats here and for the countries they represent to commit themselves ever anew to the daunting task of seeking the common good in good faith through genuine consensus and compromise.

The United Nations, where the peoples of the world unite in dialogue and common action, is needed as much today as ever to respond to the undiminished hopes of the peoples of the world.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Annex 42**Statement by Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of the International Parliamentary Union**

Excellencies,

It is a great honour to convey the key messages of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which met virtually in August 2020. The speakers developed a common platform to meet global challenges: poverty and inequality, gender-based discrimination, climate change, environmental degradation, mass migration, nuclear proliferation and a number of other matters of common concern to humanity.

These global challenges are interconnected and affect most of us. The COVID-19 pandemic is the latest and more dramatic illustration of this. The speakers' declaration strongly endorsed the SDGs as the only viable policy course to lead the world out of its current crisis and to advance human well-being, with no one left behind. We simply cannot afford to fail at the SDGs. Political will is needed if we are to succeed.

The world's speakers pledged support for measures to make Parliaments more open and inclusive of all people, particularly women and youth, to ensure democracy and good governance. They also called for a stronger rules-based multilateralism response to our global challenges, based on the principles of the UN Charter and organized through the UN, as the most important institution of global governance. Multilateralism does not entail a weakening of national governance. The current crisis of multilateralism comes, in part, from a general lack of accountability, with too many governments failing to deliver on their own commitments at the UN. As the speakers put it, decisions taken in a multilateral framework, in which the voice of our Parliaments is heard, are more democratic, inclusive and sustainable.

Parliaments need to be more actively engaged with the United Nations and further UN reforms must facilitate more input from Parliaments, ensuring governance decisions at the UN reflect more closely the will of the people.

In several resolutions over the past 20 years, the General Assembly has expressed strong support for this same vision of a parliamentary dimension to the UN's work. Yet, despite much progress, this vision has not been fully realized. I hope that this seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations will mark a new beginning in the relationship between the UN, the Parliaments and the IPU.

Let us be the change. The time has come for us to work together more closely for a better world for all.

Annex 43**Statement by Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States**

[Original: Arabic]

Your Excellency Mr. Secretary-General,

Your Excellency Mr. President of the General Assembly,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our meeting today to celebrate an important anniversary in the history of the United Nations is being held in the midst of multiple and accumulating achievements that the Organization has every right to be proud of, as well as grave and intensifying challenges that, as we all agree, can be addressed only through international multilateral action.

The past decades have proven that the United Nations, with all its pros and cons, remains the most important and the first organization with the main purpose of saving future generations from the scourge of war, in accordance with its Charter. It promotes and advances international cooperation to preserve international peace and security, mobilizing the capacities of the international community to respond to global crises and cross-border challenges that no one State nor group of States can face alone, regardless of their power.

We are well aware that the United Nations system is primarily the product of the political will of its Member States and that its successes are due to its wise leadership and the valuable activities of its organs and agencies, as well as the courage of its dedicated peacekeepers in operations throughout the world. We must therefore renew our commitment to stand by this great Organization and support every effort aimed at enabling it to undertake its responsibilities and enhance its efficiency.

In that regard, I wish to acknowledge the ambitious plans presented by the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, and his dedication to reforming and revitalizing the Organization to ensure that it is able to keep pace with the challenges we face.

It is also necessary that, first and foremost and in light of the colossal pressure borne by the international order, we reiterate our commitment to the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations by the founders of the Organization, in particular the sovereign equality of all States, large or small; the peaceful settlement of disputes; abstaining from the threat or use of force; and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

The League of Arab States, which is also celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary this year, emphasizes the privileged and long-standing partnership it enjoys with the United Nations. Our complementary partnership represents a pioneering pattern for the regional arrangement provided for in Chapter VIII of the Charter, through which numerous joint achievements have been made in which we take great pride.

We are committed to working within that framework to resolve the conflicts affecting some of our members States, whether in Syria, Yemen or Libya, and to strengthen peace and security and stability in places such as Iraq, the Sudan and

Somalia. We must tackle the numerous humanitarian challenges that burden Arab nations and address the economic situation in order to continue making progress on sustainable development for the sake of all our States and peoples.

The United Nations will continue to serve as the main sponsor of the principal Arab issue, namely the question of Palestine, in putting an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and enabling Palestinians to fulfil their aspirations of self-determination through the establishment of an independent States with East Jerusalem as its capital, thereby achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the important Declaration adopted by the General Assembly last month on the occasion of our celebration of this anniversary. We highlight the League of Arab States' commitment to all principles therein and to strengthening its relationship with the United Nations in order to achieve the goals to which we all aspire.

Thank you.

Annex 44**Statement by Ms. Myrna Cunningham Kain, President of the Board of Directors of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean**

[Original: Spanish]

Mr. President of the General Assembly,

Ladies and gentlemen Ambassadors,

On behalf of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC), which consists of 22 States Members of the United Nations, and on behalf of the 60 million men and women of the 826 indigenous peoples that inhabit South America, Central America and the Caribbean, I wish to share with you that, day by day, we continue to demonstrate solidarity, strength and resilience, even in the face of adversities such as the COVID-19 pandemic, adding our voices to those of the world's leaders on the future we want and, with it, the United Nations we need.

This year, Mr. President, when the pandemic reached our Americas, in addition to deepening existing inequalities, it found indigenous communities in a situation of high vulnerability due to immunological conditions, the pre-existence of non-communicable diseases, an overlap with other epidemics and limited access to basic services, inter alia.

Nevertheless, the responses and good practices of indigenous peoples in the exercise of their collective rights were immediate. They implemented measures of self-government within the framework of their traditions, in their own languages and with their own institutions, health systems, traditional ancestral medicine and the use of seeds. They safeguarded their cultural heritage, taking precautions in cross-border contact and relations, in the exercise of rights that are recognized under national legislation and international standards.

This critical situation constituted a challenge for Governments which, in some cases, incorporated the proposals and appeals of indigenous peoples into their COVID-19 responses. However, the pandemic showed us that there is still a long way to go before we can obtain specific and disaggregated information on indigenous peoples. We must continue to work to strengthen existing entities and further develop specific regulations, programmes and resources for indigenous peoples.

Mr. President,

We, as indigenous peoples, are convinced that our worldviews, ancestral knowledge and food systems, with full respect for our Mother Earth, must be part of any response as we enter this decade of action. We have a lot to contribute to realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and confronting the current critical environmental, economic and financial situations. We learned from the pandemic that none of humankind's major problems or needs can be addressed without uniting and working together towards common goals.

We are convinced that the international community must renew its economic and cooperation models and strengthen inclusivity, interculturality and its response capacity in order to fulfil its commitments. We want to address the challenges related

to our peoples' economic and social recovery, to ensure access to vaccines and to overcome technological disparities. In that regard, we trust that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted in this very Hall in 2007, will truly be implemented during the opportunity being afforded to us by history.

Mr. President,

The founding dream of the United Nations is now more relevant than ever. We need a stronger United Nations, with collective possibilities and leadership, that can act decisively with regard to the major issues faced by humankind and that promotes the fulfilment of the individual and collective rights of all individuals and peoples.

Let us work together for a United Nations that enjoys the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples so that it is a place where our visions are respected and our proposals are considered. A United Nations that enjoys the full participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in the relevant meetings and bodies would contribute, without a doubt, to a much better world than the one we know now.

Thank you very much.

Annex 45**Statement by Mr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen,
Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

[Original: Arabic]

In the name of God, the most compassionate, the most merciful,

Your Excellency Mr. President of the General Assembly,

Your Excellency Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which was founded 51 years ago on the basis of cooperation and solidarity and is also guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, I am delighted to participate in the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. It is an opportunity to reaffirm our belief in the centrality of the role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. We are committed to actively contributing to its efforts to strengthen cooperation and solidarity among nations to address the various common challenges we face.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations coincides with a delicate phase in the world's history due to the outbreak of the coronavirus disease pandemic and its unprecedented health, social, economic, political and security implications. The pandemic has imposed a new reality in terms of international cooperation and multilateral action, proving that no country, regardless of its size or capacities, can deal with it alone.

In its contribution to addressing the effects of the pandemic, the OIC mobilized the full potential and capabilities of its institutions, including the Islamic Development Bank, to support its member States in developing and implementing national plans to deal with the pandemic.

Mr. President,

The question of Palestine has been present on the agenda of the United Nations for more than 70 years without a solution. The OIC therefore calls on the international community to engage in a political process under international multilateral sponsorship in order to find a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue in accordance with international law and the agreed terms of references, including the relevant Security Council resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative in order to establish an independent and sovereign Palestinian State along the borders of 4 June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation calls for the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with resolutions of international legitimacy.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation considers it vital to eradicate terrorism and radicalism and has pioneered the development of legal frameworks to that end. We must find the necessary means to counter terrorism and violent

extremism while identifying and addressing the roots causes of this phenomenon through a comprehensive approach.

Through the Voice of Wisdom Centre, the OIC is contributing to efforts to denounce hate speech and extremist rhetoric and promote the values of moderation, justice, equality, tolerance and coexistence among all societies and peoples. The Centre is also confronting the issue of Islamophobia by preparing reports on cases of the suffering and violence faced by Islamic and Muslim groups in various countries.

The OIC has reviewed certain human rights instruments, such as the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam and the Covenant on the Rights of the Child in Islam, in line with international human rights standards, with a view to enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and its human rights mechanisms in order to strengthen the global human rights system.

Mr. President,

We call on the international community to redouble its efforts, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, to find a durable and sustainable solution to the issue of the Rohingya minority in Myanmar. The case regarding the grave violations of the human rights of the Rohingya people that was presented to the International Court of Justice reflects the strong commitment of the Organization to the principles of justice and accountability. We urge Myanmar to immediately implement the Court's decision.

Mr. President,

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation attaches special importance to social issues, which it considers central to sustainable development, especially in relation to the empowerment of women, advancing their status and enhancing their role in development. In that regard, a specialized body for the development of women was established in Cairo with a focus on women's education, reducing unemployment and combating extremism, inter alia.

Mr. President,

Dealing with the many challenges facing the world today requires concerted efforts within a framework of international cooperation and solidarity. The OIC will continue to work steadfastly with the United Nations and, with the support of its member States and their leaders, contribute to those efforts.

Thank you for your attention.

Annex 46**Statement by Ms. Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations**

Excellencies,

Heads of State and Government,

President of the United Nations General Assembly,

Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Distinguished delegates,

I am honoured and privileged to address this high-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations on behalf of The Commonwealth, home to 54 countries — 2.4 billion people — who work together for prosperity, democracy and peace.

The theme chosen for this celebration, “The future we want, the United Nations we need: Reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism” is both pertinent and urgent. The venue for the first session of the United Nations General Assembly, held on 10 January 1946 at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London, is less than one mile away from our Commonwealth Secretariat headquarters at Marlborough House. The Commonwealth Secretariat and the United Nations signed a new memorandum of understanding on 30 December 2019, committing as sister organizations to working even more closely together. We agreed to collaborate on pressing global issues, such as governance and peace, sustainable development, inclusive growth, climate change, ending violence against women and girls and sports for development and peace.

We acknowledge and celebrate substantial achievements of multilateral efforts. Notably among these are decolonization, peace treaties and peacekeeping, progressive development of international law, human rights standards, also the demise of apartheid, eradication of some diseases, expansion of education, reduction of hunger, consensus on the need to protect our environment, climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In many of these areas, as speakers have noted, much work remains to be done. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed weaknesses in our national and multilateral preparedness. Borders are closing. Climate change is threatening our economies and peoples. Poverty is on the rise again. Hatred and bigotry are spreading. Political tensions are increasing. New technologies and media represent both fresh opportunities and emerging threats. These new challenges can only be addressed by collective multilateral initiatives and action.

As leaders, we must expect scrutiny both today and by future generations for our actions or inactions to address these challenges. In these perilous times, we, as leaders, must ask ourselves two questions. If not us, then who will provide answers and solutions for our peoples and climate? If not now, as the world faces an unprecedented global pandemic and other challenges, then when?

I welcome the General Assembly’s seventy-fifth anniversary declaration and commitment to reinvigorate multilateralism. In The Commonwealth, and as we celebrate this year the fifty-fifth anniversary of the creation of The Commonwealth

Secretariat, you have a committed partner in the joint pursuit, through combined multilateral action, of peace, liberty, democracy, development and prosperity. In this context, I recall the words of Queen Elizabeth II, Head of The Commonwealth when addressing the UN General Assembly on the 6 July 2010. Her Majesty said,

“I know of no single formula for success, but over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration to work together”.

This encapsulates the essence of the multilateralism we celebrate today and which, through the UN and collectively in The Commonwealth, our members commit and work to uphold and strengthen for the future.

We have never needed multilateralism more. So I look forward to the next 75 years of the United Nations binding us together to deliver peace, harmony and goodwill amongst the peoples of our world.

Annex 47**Statement by Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji, President of the International Criminal Court**

Mr President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Criminal Court, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the United Nations, on the organisation's 75th anniversary. And I do so with great pleasure.

Although the ICC is separate from the UN, we are members of the same family. That close family relationship derives from our shared philosophy in the central creed of multilateralism, expressed by Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt — the 1st Lady of the United States during the Second World War — in words that tell us that our own land and our own flag cannot be replaced by any other land or any other flag; but we can join with other nations, under a joint flag, to accomplish something good for the world that we cannot accomplish alone.

There is deep and close intertwining in the histories of the UN and of the ICC. The need for both originated directly from the horrors of the Second World War.

It took much longer for the ICC to materialize. But the seeds were planted during the very first years of the United Nations — and within that body. The early work of the International Law Commission — as directly requested by the UN GA — was crucial in laying the foundation on which the Court would later be built, when the Cold War eased its chilling grip on world affairs.

Once again, the United Nations served as both the sponsor and the global forum for the revival of the project of a permanent ICC and the formal negotiations that launched its creation in 1998.

In a well-known UN document titled THE FUTURE WE WANT, it is reported that people from all around the world DO WANT international cooperation: to achieve a world free of violence and conflict — with human rights for all. That is the future that the ICC strives to foster — through the rule of law, accountability, prevention of atrocities, and justice for victims.

And we know that the United Nations plays an indispensable role on the road toward that better future for our shared humanity.

Once again, congratulations on this historic milestone.

The FUTURE we WANT is one full of endless successions of 75 year anniversaries for our United Nations.

Annex 48**Statement by Ms. Jan Beagle, Director-General of the International Development Law Organization**

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General,

Distinguished Representatives of Member States and Observers,

Colleagues and Friends,

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to address the Assembly today on behalf of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), the only global inter-governmental organisation with observer status with the United Nations, with the exclusive mandate to advance the rule of law and access to justice to promote peace and sustainable development.

It is a special honour for me, having devoted the majority of my professional career to service in the United Nations, to do so on the occasion of the observance of its seventy-fifth anniversary. A commitment to the values of the UN Charter, multilateralism, and partnership with the United Nations family is central to my approach as Director-General of IDLO.

This anniversary takes place at the time of one of the worst disruptions since the United Nations was founded amidst the ashes of the Second World War. COVID-19 has exposed, and is being aggravated by, the entrenched injustices and inequalities under which too many people still live, and from which no nation can claim to be exempt.

When the Charter of the United Nations was signed in June 1945, the air in San Francisco was clean. Today, those skies reflect the orange haze and smoke of wildfires fanned by the winds of climate change.

In the midst of the pandemic, the Secretary-General has called for a determination to “build back better” — to turn challenges into opportunities. The opportunity that such a truly global challenge presents is to revive and renew the spirit of cooperation and solidarity enshrined in the Charter to build a more peaceful, just and sustainable future.

Today, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents both humanity’s highest aspirations and the best blueprint we have to tackle our common challenges.

The principles of equity, equality and non-discrimination, and the focus on rule of law, good governance and effective institutions, are at the core of SDG16 and cut across the entire Agenda.

The rule of law, properly understood, is distinct from rule by law. It is rooted in the values at the heart of the Charter and attuned to the needs and lived reality of people, particularly those who are most vulnerable and at risk of being left behind.

It must protect people fleeing conflict; support the essential worker who has contracted the virus and can no longer feed his family; provide shelter to the woman locked into her home with an abusive partner; and offer a remedy to those displaced by a wildfire, hurricane, drought or famine.

It is the rule of law that, in the end, delivers justice..

IDLO works around world to advance the essential contribution of the rule of law to sustaining both peace and development.

I submit to you, in the spirit of the UN Charter to which we are recommitting today, that there can be no more vital endeavour for the peoples of this world, or for the future of our common humanity, than to invest in a culture of the rule of law.

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) enables governments and empowers people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity.

Annex 49**Statement by Mr. Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary-General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance**

We stand at a critical moment in history. The great hopes raised by the UN Charter 75 years ago are clouded today by the evidence of pervasive growing inequalities, political polarization, inaction in the face of the existential challenges for humankind, and by the growth of a scepticism with regards to the value of multilateralism and international cooperation.

This is very concerning because now, more than ever before, there is an urgent need for global responses in order to address the consequences of a hugely disruptive global pandemic.

The pandemic has brought to the surface the deeply rooted fragilities of the systems upon which our development is grounded. Basic infrastructures, service delivery systems (particularly in the health and education sectors), social protection platforms, job creation mechanisms, emergency preparedness: in all these policy areas the pandemic has shaken the very foundations of our societies. It has affected trust in public institutions and their effectiveness in responding to unprecedented global challenges.

For all the regional and country differences that we can find in attitudes towards multilateralism, the truth is that the international system of norms and institutions created over the past decades is under tremendous stress and at the risk of becoming irrelevant. We cannot let that happen.

We are convinced that the UN will grow stronger out of the challenges posed by this pandemic. But it will do so only if it looks towards the future, and if it rekindles its will to change in the direction of more inclusion, more transparency and more democracy in the global arena. The way out of the crisis is not bouncing back to the pre-COVID-19 status quo. The challenge for the UN and for us all will be to exit the crisis by bouncing forward, by strengthening a more effective and more democratic multilateral space.

At this critical juncture, when the UN turns 75, and International IDEA celebrates its own 25th anniversary, we can only hope that a renewed international commitment to multilateralism will allow us to build a better world over the next few decades, that will allow us to build a world in which no one will be left behind, in which every human being will have the opportunity to live in peaceful, just and inclusive societies, in which every person will fully enjoy the fundamental freedoms and rights that are the core of our common human heritage.

Happy 75th anniversary, United Nations, we proudly stand with you.

I thank you.

Annex 50**Statement by Mr. Jürgen Stock, Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organization**

Your Excellency, President of the UN General Assembly;

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is an honor for INTERPOL to address this General Assembly, as it gathers to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

In 1996, INTERPOL became a Permanent Observer to the United Nations, months before the signature of their first Cooperation Agreement. In 2004, the INTERPOL Special Representative Office to the UN in New York was established, followed just three years ago by a second office to the UN in Vienna — the same city where INTERPOL was founded in 1923, almost 100 years ago.

Today, we celebrate seventy-five years dedicated to diplomacy and multilateral action in the service of Peace and Security, Human Rights and Development.

Seventy-five years — during which INTERPOL and the United Nations have been sharing a lot. The global landscape they face — in its complexity and ever-shifting threats...

The dedication in serving their respective members — equal and sovereign in their decisions...

And the vision they have been building together — step by step; day by day — towards a “better” and a “safer” world...

Today, that landscape is one of crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic is a formidable challenge to security worldwide. It has broken international flows connecting us all. It has brought tragedy into our communities.

Once again, the international community is called to action.

Once again, the United Nations is needed, in order “not to lose sight of each and every life” at peril, in the words of Secretary-General Guterres.

And once again, crime is targeting those lives, when most vulnerable. Spreading violent narratives; attacking essential health infrastructures; crippling economies and businesses; and defrauding victims.

This is where INTERPOL works at the side of the UN, by assisting law enforcement, every day, at the frontlines — through global information sharing, operational support and capacity building.

Member states strongly believe in this cooperation.

More than one hundred UN Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions have called for INTERPOL support against a wide range of threats — from terrorist travel and human trafficking, to environmental crime and crimes against humanity. As I speak, INTERPOL alerts are helping implement Security Council targeted sanctions across the globe.

Simply put, the United Nations is a natural ally to INTERPOL.

And this alliance continues to expand — in breadth and depth.

Over the years, INTERPOL has secured close to 30 different cooperation frameworks with UN Organs, Subsidiary Bodies and Specialized Agencies.

A common thread is our shared Vision of combining security, justice, human rights, development and peace to build a Safer World.

INTERPOL's full commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN 2030 Agenda, which I wish to re-affirm today, is rooted in this same conviction.

INTERPOL's Seven Global Policing Goals enshrine concrete actions which UN member states can champion and support, as part of their effective implementation of the Agenda 2030. Crime-fighting is an integral part of the change we want to achieve, for the generations to come.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Our United Nations partners and allies are among the pillars of our success, and the sources of the knowledge we carry across borders.

In 2020, and beyond — INTERPOL is and will always remain at the side of the United Nations. Thank you very much

Annex 51**Statement by Mr. Irwin LaRocque, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community**

Excellency President of the General Assembly,

Excellency Secretary-General of the United Nations,

The Caribbean Community welcomes the opportunity to participate in this commemoration of the United Nations seventy-fifth anniversary. The United Nations that emerged 75 years ago from the aftermath of a devastating Second World War has enshrined a wide range of principles and purposes in a Charter that is as relevant today as it was then. Its focus on multilateralism and its acknowledgement of the equal rights of nations allows for the contribution of all towards solutions to the problems that beset our world.

The UN is therefore a critical platform for small states, such as those of CARICOM, to ensure that their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed in the global sphere. Our region's commitment to the UN and its principles has been unwavering since our first member state joined 58 years ago. Since then, we have provided leadership to the General Assembly, high-level meetings and groupings, such as the Alliance of Small Island States and the G77 and China. We are indeed proud that one of our members, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, is currently on the Security Council — the smallest state ever to have that distinction.

CARICOM has also played an active role in placing on the United Nations agenda and thereby raising international awareness on issues, such as climate change, the law of the sea, the reintroduction of the International Criminal Court and non-communicable diseases. The NCDs have proven to be an added complication for those who have been afflicted with the COVID-19 virus, underlying the critical importance of addressing this issue.

As a region that is the most highly dependent on travel and tourism in the world, we are the most heavily affected by the negative economic effects of this pandemic. SIDS require access to concessional financing that is based on vulnerability, not per capita income. Otherwise, recovery will be long and painful. The pandemic, along with climate change, demonstrates that the criteria for access to development financing must be changed. It is an issue we believe that must be addressed in the forum of the UN, along with tax governance.

CARICOM values its partnership with the UN and is appreciative of the valuable contribution the organization continues to make to the development of our region. As with any organization, there will always be a need for constant self-examination to maintain its relevance to its members.

The challenges that exist are not insurmountable. For us, as small states, the need for the United Nations has never been greater.

Onwards to another 75 years.

I thank you.