



# General Assembly

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General debate

## Note by the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to circulate, pursuant to decision 74/562 of 22 July 2020, the present compilation document of the statements delivered by Heads of State or other dignitaries by means of pre-recorded statements during the general debate and submitted to the President no later than the day on which the pre-recorded statement is played in the Assembly Hall.

The statements contained in the present document were delivered on the morning of Tuesday, 21 September 2021, at the 3rd meeting of the General Assembly (see A/76/PV.3). Addenda 1 through 12 to the present document contain the statements delivered at the 4th, 6th, 7th and 9th through 17th meetings of the General Assembly (A/76/PV.4, A/76/PV.6, A/76/PV.7 and A/76/PV.9-A/75/PV.17).

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](mailto:estatements@un.org).

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**Slovakia** (see also A/76/PV.3, annex I)

**Address by Ms. Zuzana Čaputová, President of the Slovak Republic**

*Delivered on Tuesday, 21 September 2021, at the 3rd meeting of the General Assembly*

Dear Mr. President of the General Assembly,

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Dear colleagues, Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

That at least, some of you can meet in person after two complicated pandemic years fills me with some optimism. Optimism that science can and does offer solutions — and that if we respect scientific recommendations, we will overcome the challenges ahead.

Indeed, we are in a much better place than a year ago. Vaccines offer a clear path out of the pandemic — but where the scientists have succeeded — in sequencing the virus or producing safe vaccines — the politics are still failing.

A year ago, we made promises and pooled resources. More than 5 billion vaccine doses have been administered across the world — but nearly 75 per cent of them are in just ten countries. Fifty countries have less than a 5 per cent vaccination rate, with half of them just a 1 per cent rate. This is a failure of politics projected onto the world stage in real-time.

Vaccine egoism will only delay the pandemic's end and lend time to new more lethal mutations. Solidarity should be our binding principle, not an option. Vaccines must be accessible to all and Slovakia will continue supporting the COVAX effort.

Even as we get close to defeating COVID-19, let us not rush into business as usual, just because we can. Our memory of how things were must be complemented by our reflection on whether they were right.

Secretary-General Guterres rightly said that we have our common agenda. Slovakia fully subscribes to the priorities laid out in this report.

Simply put, our common task is saving our planet. Previously, the Earth was whispering but now she is screaming that she cannot hold us any longer, that humankind is too heavy a burden to carry. Saving the planet is not a promise we make today for our successors to implement it later.

We have hesitated for so long that we have run out of generations of political leaders who can talk the talk but do nothing. This task is upon us today.

Saving our planet means accelerating our response to the climate crisis. The findings of the recent IPCC report might be shocking. Yet, they are just stating facts. In less than six months, we were able to strike a deal on global fair taxation. We must equally strike a deal to prevent global carbon leakage. The upcoming COP-26 in Glasgow must set the pace for a much swifter adaptation and radical emissions cuts.

Slovakia will reduce our emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 and become climate neutral by 2050, along with the rest of the European Union. By 2023, coal will no longer be used to produce electricity and heat. In the coming years, we will spend

almost 6 per cent of our GDP on economic recovery: one-third of that will go into our green transition.

None of this will be easy. Per capita, Slovakia is the biggest car producer in the world. Clean mobility, locally developed and produced greener batteries will decarbonize transport in Slovakia and elsewhere. We are ready to share our solutions — and learn from the best.

We must decouple economic growth from the degradation we have been causing to the planet — and support those most affected, those forced out of their homes by floods or drought, or those losing jobs as we close down the most polluting factories. The Green Climate Fund must be properly funded and accessible.

At the Kunming summit, we must all play our part to protect biodiversity. In Slovakia, half of the national parks' territory will be free of human intervention by 2025. In 10 years, this will be three-quarters of our national parks.

Excellencies,

Unless we stop global warming, future generations will suffer. Our failure will damage multilateralism and spur violence.

Saving our planet, therefore also means upholding a rules-based international order and the rule of law, at home and abroad. Violation of these rules endangers everyone, not only those directly affected in Ukraine, Syria, Myanmar or the Sahel region.

It is the UN Security Council's main responsibility to maintain international peace and security. Too often, we see it unable to act. Stopping violence and providing humanitarian access is not something to bargain about — it must be our utmost priority.

We must make our own democracies more resilient and support those demanding their basic rights — including the freedom of speech or assembly — are respected. These rights are not a menu for governments to choose from. Citizens must exercise them freely: in Belarus where 650 people are prosecuted on political grounds, such as the social scientist Valeria Kostyugova — or in the occupied Crimea, or Venezuela, Russia or Xinjiang.

Distinguished Assembly,

The developments and lessons learnt from Afghanistan will be high on our agenda, and rightly so. This reflection is necessary. But we must also urgently provide humanitarian assistance to the people in Afghanistan, 40 per cent of whom are facing acute food insecurity.

Over the past two decades, girls and women in Afghanistan could exercise their legitimate rights. These must not be taken away. Together with the Prime Minister of Iceland, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, and other women political leaders we launched a call to support Afghan girls and women. I invite you to join forces to ensure this turns into concrete steps.

My final point is about inclusiveness. We cannot save our planet if we leave out the vulnerable — the women, the girls, the minorities. The silent pandemic of gender-based violence can prove lethal to the health of our societies. Our long-term strategies, however brilliant, will become short-lived history if we do not involve young people.

To conclude, let me recall the words Pope Francis addressed to our youth during his recent visit to Slovakia: “Do not be dismayed or yield to those who tell you that nothing will ever change.”

We can change the world around us for the better. Let us start now.

Thank you.

**Kyrgyzstan** (see also A/76/PV.3, annex II)**Address by Mr. Sadyr Zhaparov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic**

*Delivered on Tuesday, 21 September 2021, at the 3rd meeting of the General Assembly*

[Original: Russian]

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, let me congratulate Mr. Abdulla Shahid of the Maldives on his election as President of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session and wish him success in his important position. I would also like to thank Mr. Volkan Bozkir of Turkey for his efforts as President of the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session. Kyrgyzstan supports the theme of our current debate, which encompasses all the most pressing issues on the international agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thirty years ago, Kyrgyzstan gained its sovereignty and became a full participant in and subject of international law. Our multinational people celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of our republic's independence very recently, on 31 August.

I think that many will agree with my view that our republic's main achievement in a period that is short by historical standards is our establishment of democracy as a model for the development of the State and a strong civil society. I want to assure the Assembly that we will not deviate from the democratic path. That is the demand of our freedom-loving people.

We will soon see the anniversary of the start of the well-known events of October 2020 in our country, which marked the beginning of a new stage in its modern history. In one year, we have succeeded in restoring sociopolitical and socioeconomic stability and earning society's faith and trust. The results of previous presidential elections and the constitutional referendum were also recognized by the international community, including the observers of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Ahead of us are the next elections to our national Parliament, scheduled for 28 November. I invite the States Members of the United Nations and international organizations to send their observers. We will ensure that all the conditions are in place for them to do their work fully and safely. We hope that by the time of the elections are held the epidemiological situation in our country will be completely normal.

Mr. Secretary-General,

On 2 March 2022 we will also celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of Kyrgyzstan's joining the United Nations. During this period, our republic has been an active Member State, fully committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and a consistent advocate of strengthening the authority and role of the United Nations in international affairs, which have unfortunately been characterized by tension and conflict in the past few decades. Our country is committed and always ready to contribute to international efforts to solve humankind's common problems. It was those considerations that led Kyrgyzstan to put itself forward as a candidate for the Human Rights Council for the period from 2023 to 2025 and for non-permanent

membership in the Security Council for the period from 2027 to 2028. I urge all States Members to support us in the elections.

Next year, the thirtieth anniversary of entry into the United Nations will also be celebrated by our respected neighbours in the region, with whom we share a common history and what I am sure will be a common future. I want to emphasize that in its centuries-long relations with its neighbours, Kyrgyzstan has always supported the importance of dialogue on an equal footing, mutually beneficial cooperation and the settlement of all disagreements exclusively through negotiation. Given the significance of this date, we propose to hold a Central Asia-United Nations summit in 2022 so that together we can take stock of the results of mutual cooperation and outline joint plans for the future development and security of Central Asia. We propose to organize the summit during the next Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia. I ask the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to consider including their participation in it in their work schedules for next year.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Due to their geographic location, the States of Central Asia have functioned as a bridge connecting the East-West and North-South routes since ancient times, from the days of the Great Silk Road to today. Our region is unquestionably becoming one of the world's most important trade hubs despite its lack of direct access to the sea. The countries of Central Asia are consistently expanding their network of international roads and railways, creating logistical centres and transport terminals.

For its part, Kyrgyzstan is actively developing its road transport infrastructure as part of the international transport arterial network. In particular, we will soon complete the construction of a new alternative North-South highway. We are also participating in the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project and supporting the modernization of Eurasia's railway infrastructure. Kyrgyzstan is already capable of ensuring a satisfactory time frame and cost for the delivery of goods in transit between the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, Central Asia, the People's Republic of China and the European Union to the seaports of Karachi, Bandar Abbas and the Black Sea. I invite international logistics businesses to work with us in multifaceted cooperation, including in the area of multimodal transportation.

However, I would like to draw the Assembly's attention to the fact that the successful implementation of investment projects and new transport corridors will not bring the maximum possible benefits if barriers to the crossing of State borders continue. In that regard, we support the creation of conditions conducive to international transport and the prevention of delays in inter-State freight traffic, as well as the removal of barriers to economic cooperation and the simplification of border crossing and transit procedures between countries and regions.

Colleagues,

I should not fail to note our concern about the latest events in Afghanistan. We can give 500 young Afghans the opportunity to study at our universities, as well as providing humanitarian assistance to citizens in need, especially the ethnic Kyrgyz of the Little and Greater Pamirs of Afghanistan. Given the ongoing evacuation of United Nations agencies from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan is offering to move them temporarily to Bishkek. I appeal to the Secretary-General to consider our proposal in that regard. At the same time, the question of security in Central Asia is once again a major issue because of the current situation in Afghanistan. We hope to see social and political stability and law and order established there as soon as possible.

For its part, Kyrgyzstan is working comprehensively to combat terrorism and extremism, through its conscientious implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the relevant Security Council resolutions and the recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. For example, Kyrgyzstan has already introduced a system for advance passenger information and passenger name records for tracking terrorists' movements internationally. We are also relying on support from the United Nations and interested States in repatriating our citizens, women and children, from Syria.

At the same time, we call for intensifying international efforts not only in the fight against terrorism and extremism but also against transnational organized crime involved in illegal activity in the areas of drug and arms trafficking, human trafficking, money-laundering and cyberspace. Within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Kyrgyzstan is working on launching a centre for countering international organized crime in Bishkek.

In general, we believe that regional bodies that come under the definition in Chapter VIII of the Charter should play an important role in confronting the current challenges and threats to international security and preventing conflicts. For its part, Kyrgyzstan, either as a member or a participant, is collaborating fully within the frameworks of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has become a serious challenge for humankind, producing huge numbers of casualties, severely and unprecedentedly testing national health systems and causing a recession in the global economy. We hope that thanks to the ongoing development of drugs and methods of treatment, a complete victory over this evil virus is already very close. It is vital to ensure that this antiviral medical know-how then becomes generally available.

As for the situation in our country, I should point out that the authorities are taking the necessary measures to protect the life and health of our population, especially medical workers. The vaccination of citizens is in full swing, and we are conducting a social educational campaign on vaccination. We already have vaccines from various global manufacturers, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the leadership of China, Russia, Kazakhstan and Sweden, which have provided us with vaccines as a humanitarian act on a bilateral basis and within the framework of the World Health Organization's COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access programme, COVAX.

The coronavirus disease pandemic is also one of the reasons why Kyrgyzstan has not been able to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a timely manner and in full. We have been forced to divert funds programmed for the SDGs to combat the pandemic and pay down external debt. In that regard, we call on bilateral and multilateral lenders to support initiatives to ease external debt in exchange for vital sustainable development projects in Kyrgyzstan. These projects are primarily aimed at preserving the integrity of our unique mountain ecosystem and its biological diversity and glaciers, which are rapidly collapsing as a result of climate change. Most unfortunately, we have seen cases in Kyrgyzstan where unscrupulous investors, in pursuit of large profits and abusing the public trust, have failed to take due care



that their activities do not harm the environment. In accordance with our national laws, the Kyrgyz authorities have been putting a stop to such illegal activities but have then been forced to deal themselves with environmental consequences such as the safe disposal of hazardous waste and the management of dumps and tailings.

For three decades, Kyrgyzstan has actively promoted the interests of landlocked mountainous States in the international arena in order to address problems of sustainable development and the impact of climate change. On our initiative, resolution 53/24 declared 2002 the International Year of Mountains, the first Global Mountain Summit was held in Bishkek the same year and 2018 saw the organization of the Fourth World Mountain Forum. During the current session of the General Assembly, through the Group of Friends of Mountainous Countries we are launching an initiative to once again declare 2022 the International Year of Mountains, approve a five-year sustainable development programme for mountainous regions and convene the Bishkek+25 Global Summit in 2027.

Mr. Secretary-General,

In the past few years, both the environment and population of our country have begun to feel the negative consequences of climate change quite seriously. We will certainly give voice to our vision and position at the upcoming 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow. However, allow me to take advantage of this important rostrum to make a few remarks. One of mountainous Kyrgyzstan's priorities and pressing problems is climate change adaptation. We consider the protection and enhancement of mountainous forest areas vital, since along with their natural function of absorbing carbon dioxide they also play an extremely important role in the conservation of water resources. In that connection, we support the development and adoption, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a special targeted programme for mountain forests and their preservation, restoration and afforestation.

As I noted earlier, the centuries-old glaciers, rivers and biodiverse mountain ecosystems in Kyrgyzstan are also at risk of extinction. This year at UNESCO we are initiating a resolution on the preservation of mountain glaciers while at the same time continuing to work with international partners to implement the provisions of resolution 75/271, entitled "Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation — a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use", introduced by Kyrgyzstan and adopted earlier this year by the General Assembly. We are already seeing encouraging results. For example, thanks to joint work with habitat countries and international organizations, we have succeeded in preventing the extinction of an animal as noble as the snow leopard.

At the same time, Kyrgyzstan will try to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The Kyrgyz economy is gradually greening, with more and more carbon-free energy sources coming into operation, above all hydroelectric power plants. In order to ensure energy security, Kyrgyzstan is intending to gradually implement on its territory a number of hydropower plant construction projects, which are environmentally friendly energy sources. Access to modern, clean and affordable energy services in developing countries is crucial to achieving the global development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We believe that through implementing hydropower plant construction projects in Kyrgyzstan we can meet the Central Asian countries' hydropower needs and thereby create the conditions necessary for the sustainable development of our entire region. I invite investors to participate in



mutually beneficial cooperative efforts in hydroelectricity, including those based on the principles of public-private partnership, in the spirit of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

To sum up, I should point out that Kyrgyzstan is counting on special attention, support and assistance from the world community, the United Nations and international financial institutions in solving the problems of mountainous countries' ecosystems, especially those that are landlocked. In that connection, we believe that the time has come to create a special global fund within the United Nations to support mountainous countries in implementing targeted programmes for sustainable development and climate-change adaptation and prevention, for mountain forests and biodiversity, and for dealing with natural disasters and supporting mountain communities.

Mr. Secretary-General,

In conclusion, I want to note that the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic consequences, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement should continue to be the top priorities of the united efforts and actions of the international community. It is essential that we ensure that no one is left behind, including landlocked developing mountainous countries.

As we stand together to confront today's challenges and threats, the role of the United Nations is growing significantly. In that regard, I urge all of us to fully support and strengthen our Organization with the aim of collectively solving global problems for the sake of sustainable development.

Thank you for your attention.

**Uzbekistan** (see also A/76/PV.3, annex III)

**Address by Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

*Delivered on Tuesday, 21 September 2021, at the 3rd meeting of the General Assembly*

[Original: Russian]

President Abdulla Shahid, Secretary-General António Guterres, Heads of Delegations, ladies and gentlemen,

I would first like to sincerely congratulate Mr. Guterres on his reappointment to the post of Secretary-General.

Today humankind is at a turning point in its development in which the nature of international relations is radically changing. Transnational threats to peace, security and sustainable development are worsening, climate change is intensifying, mass migration flows are increasing and traditional values are being lost. I believe firmly that in this difficult situation the role and importance of the United Nations and its specialized agencies are growing. In these important processes, which are linked to the fate of the whole world, it is the United Nations that is called on to continue to play a leading role, imbuing its activities with qualitatively new content. We support the efforts of the Secretary-General aimed at strengthening solidarity and unity in the international relations system and increasing the effectiveness and transparency of the Organization's activities.

Colleagues,

Today the focus of our attention continues to be the sociopolitical as well as the socioeconomic consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has become a disaster on a planetary scale. We fully endorse the United Nations approach creating opportunities for equitable access to and equitable distribution of vaccines based on the principle of leaving no one behind. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our foreign partners for the practical assistance they have provided within the framework of the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access, COVAX. We support further strengthening the coordinating role of the World Health Organization in effectively combating pandemics and ensuring the international recognition of vaccination results. The text of a code on voluntary commitments by States during a pandemic, developed by the Republic of Uzbekistan and distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, is our practical contribution to that work.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today the large-scale and dynamic democratic reforms that have been carried out in our country in the past few years have become irreversible. Our democratic transformations are founded on the provision and protection of human rights, freedoms and legitimate interests. We are taking decisive steps to ensure freedom of speech and media, freedom of religion and belief, gender equality and interethnic harmony. For the first time in its history, Uzbekistan was elected a member of the Human Rights Council.

In order to ensure that our reforms continue on their course, we have developed our Strategy for a New Uzbekistan. The Strategy's essence lies in strengthening

the role of civil-society institutions, protecting human rights, reducing poverty, providing every citizen with a guaranteed source of income and achieving sustainable environmental development. Our main goal is to become a country with an above-average per capita income by 2030. We should emphasize that this aim is in line with the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We propose holding an international conference in Tashkent dedicated to the study of the problems of global economic recovery and best practices for reducing poverty in the post-COVID period. It is well known that our country successfully organized the World Youth Rights Conference on Involving Youth in Global Action. We are continuing our efforts in that direction by holding the Global Education Forum in Uzbekistan's ancient city of Samarkand as part of the regular dialogues on human rights held there.

Friends,

In future we will continue to strengthen the new political atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect, good-neighbourliness and strategic partnership in the Central Asian region. Our primary task is transforming Central Asia into a prosperous and steadily developing region and a space of trust and friendship. We therefore consider it a priority to strengthen our cooperation with neighbouring and other nearby regions. We have taken the initiative to work for the adoption of a special General Assembly resolution on enhancing mutual connectivity between Central and South Asia.

I want to emphasize once again that Afghanistan is an integral part of Central Asia. It is not just we, Afghanistan's neighbours, that are interested in establishing peace and tranquillity there but the whole world. Uzbekistan has consistently been providing the Afghan people with every possible form of assistance. We recently opened the Uzbekistan-Afghan border and resumed deliveries to Afghanistan of essential products such as food supplies, petroleum products and electricity.

In this current difficult time, we cannot abandon Afghanistan to isolation and leave it to deal with its enormous problems alone. As the Assembly is aware, last year, from this rostrum, we proposed creating a permanent action committee on Afghanistan at the United Nations. I believe firmly that the role of the United Nations regarding the Afghan question should be strengthened and that its voice should sound louder than ever.

The growing threats, conflicts and transnational challenges in the world demand the further strengthening of international cooperation. That will undoubtedly be facilitated by the holding in Tashkent, in November of this year, of an international conference on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Joint Action Plan within the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Within the framework of the event, held jointly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the signing of a regional programme for the countries of Central Asia for the period from 2022 to 2025 will lay a solid foundation for work in this area. As a continuation of our efforts, we intend to work with UNODC to develop a joint anti-drug action plan encompassing the countries of Central and South Asia.

Colleagues,

Uzbekistan pays serious attention to the issues of combating climate change, protecting the environment and preserving biodiversity. That is our human duty to our current and future generations.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to Member States for the General Assembly's adoption in May of this year of resolution 75/278, declaring the Aral Sea a region of ecological innovations and technologies.

We are determined to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and are taking concrete measures to switch to renewable energy sources. Specifically, by 2030 we plan to double the our economy's energy efficiency, increase the share of renewable energy sources to 25 per cent and develop environmentally friendly transport. By 2025, we plan to bring into production new solar and wind power plants with a total capacity of 2,900 megawatts. In 2022, in the city of Nukus in the Aral Sea region, we intend to collaborate with the United Nations in holding a high-level international forum on green energy.

We support the adoption of a global framework for biodiversity as soon as possible, and we are ready to hold one of the meetings of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in our country. Besides that, in order to discuss the priorities of global environmental policy in detail, we propose holding the sixth session of the high-level United Nations Environment Assembly in Uzbekistan under the auspices of the United Nations in 2023. Participants in the Assembly will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves directly with the difficult situation in the Aral Sea region, which has become the epicentre of an environmental disaster as a result of the drying up of the Aral Sea, and will be able to draw their own conclusions. We also intend to launch an initiative at the Assembly to develop a world environmental charter designed to lay the foundations for a new environmental policy for the United Nations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Uzbekistan is ready to develop mutually beneficial, long-term and multifaceted partnerships with every country and global organization in the world.

I am confident that we will continue to strengthen our close cooperation, aimed at ensuring safe and sustainable development and building a prosperous future.

Thank you for your attention.

**Islamic Republic of Iran** (see also A/76/PV.3, annex IV)**Address by Mr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

*Delivered on Tuesday, 21 September 2021, at the 3rd meeting of the General Assembly*

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, and His Peace and Blessings be upon Muhammad and His Pure Household and His Select Companions

Mr. President,

At the outset allow me to extend my congratulations to Your Excellency for your election as the chair of the seventy-sixth session of the UN General Assembly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Iran is the land of culture and civilization. The land of knowledge and spirituality. The land of perseverance and independence. The Iranian people are monotheist and patriotic. They have their unique identity and love to explore the world.

For hundreds of years, our nation have safeguarded their right to self-determination and freedom against the hegemonists and have made their country the most progressive in the election-based political system in the west of Asia. The Islamic Revolution was indeed a great leap for the fulfilment of national and Islamic ideals of Iranians including freedom, independence and religious democracy.

I, as the elected President of the great people of Iran, am honoured to be their representative to convey to the world at large the message of rationality, justice and freedom which are the three most fundamental principles of the life of the contemporary man. However, those three principles that all the Abrahamic religions have in common will not be able to attain their purpose without spirituality.

Freedom and justice as two sacred and innocent words that are too broad to define, are indeed very tough and intricate when it comes to practicing. Freedom means the right to think, decide and act for all the human beings. Peace and lasting security are tied to the administration of justice and, basically, the divine prophets emerged so that people would demand justice and exercise their rights. Justice and freedom may be achieved only when the rights of all nations are fulfilled. As a matter of fact, any violation of the rights of nations will, more than anything, endanger global peace and security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, two scenes made history: one was on 6 January when the US Congress was attacked by the people and, two, when the people of Afghanistan were dropped down from the US planes in August. From the Capitol to Kabul, one clear message was sent to the world: the US hegemonic system has no credibility, whether inside or outside the country.

What is seen in our region today proves that not only the hegemonist and the idea of hegemony, but also the project of imposing Westernized identity have failed miserably. The result of seeking hegemony has been blood-spilling and instability and, ultimately, defeat and escape. Today, the US does not get to exit Iraq and

Afghanistan but is expelled. And, at the same time, it is the oppressed people, from Palestine and Syria to Yemen and Afghanistan, as well as the US taxpayers, who have to pay for this lack of rationality.

Today, the world does not care about “America First” or “America is Back”. If rationality prevails in the minds of the decision-makers, they have to realize that nations’ perseverance is stronger than the power of the superpowers. Over the past decade, the US has been making the mistake of modifying its “way of war” with the world instead of changing its “way of life”. An erroneous path cannot be brought to fruition by merely adopting a different method.

Sanctions are the US new way of war with the nations of the world. Sanctions against the Iranian nation started not with my country’s nuclear program; they even predate the Islamic Revolution and go back to the year 1951 when oil nationalization went underway in Iran, which in turn led to a military coup backed by the Americans and the Britons against the then government of Iran that was elected by the people. Sanctions, especially sanctions on medicine at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, are crimes against humanity.

The Holy Quran introduces the destruction of nature and mankind as a major characteristic of the tyrants. The Islamic Republic of Iran proposes that any kind of sanction-induced restriction or disruption in the supply of good health and environment as two humanitarian issues, be declared forbidden. Moreover, I, on behalf of the Iranian nation and millions of refugees hosted by my country, would like to condemn the continued illegal US sanctions especially in the area of humanitarian items, and demand that this organized crime against humanity be recorded as a symbol and reality of the so-called American human rights.

Despite the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran was keen from the outset to purchase and import COVID-19 vaccines from reliable international sources, it faced inhumane medical sanctions. Therefore, from the very beginning, we started to sustainably produce vaccines domestically.

In addition to peaceful nuclear and satellite technologies, Iran is the medical hub of the region and numerous Iranian physicians and scientists, such as Avicenna, shine in the history of humankind. Knowledge that is beneficial to humanity cannot be sanctioned. We ourselves have been able to produce fuel for the Tehran research reactor which makes radiopharmaceuticals for more than one million cancer patients in Iran. We have also made astonishing progress in the area of biotechnology and stem cells in spite of all sanctions. And today despite all sanctions targeting human rights, we have become one of the manufacturers of COVID-19 vaccines.

Cooperation amongst the countries of the world in the realm of health and especially on vaccines is tantamount to helping the spirit of humanity and the policy based of divinity-humanity in international relations. The Coronavirus is a wake-up call for the whole world, reminding us once again that the security of all human beings are interdependent. Crises in human societies, such as violence, poverty, unemployment, moral and economic corruption, collapse of family foundations, regional wars, organized terrorism and environmental crises are all the result of inattention to the principles of rationality, justice and freedom.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The strategic thoughts of the Islamic Republic of Iran are rooted in the ideas of the founder of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeini (May His Soul

Rest in Peace) as well as in the genuine concepts of true Islam, i.e., rationality, prudence and pondering and have resulted in the resistance in line with the national interests of countries. Speaking about the rights of nations without speaking of the obligations of their governments cannot bring about the fulfilment of their rights, as the independence of a nation is its freedom. The Islamic Revolution supports this kind of freedom and, hence, obstructs extremism. And this is the nature of the true strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran which does good to all.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is inspiring and, as such, the power emanating from it creates security. The security-making model of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on forming intra-regional mechanisms through diplomacy that is pivoted on and free from outside interferences.

It has been our policy to strive for the preservation of stability and territorial integrity of all the countries of the region. If not for the power and role of Iran alongside the governments and peoples of Syria and Iraq as well as all the selfless efforts of Martyrs Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis and General Qassem Soleymani, today ISIS would be the Mediterranean neighbours of Europe. And, of course, ISIS will not be the last wave of extremism.

The new drive to come up with Cold War-esque divisions will not help foster the security of humans by isolating independent countries. An arbitrary attitude is not the way to solve terrorism because terrorism has its roots in various crises such as identity and economy. The fact that modern lives have become devoid of meaning and spirituality as well as the spread of poverty, discrimination and oppression have helped the rise of terrorism. The increasing growth of indigenous terrorism in the West bears witness to this bitter truth. Even more bitter is the use of terrorism as an instrument for foreign policy because you cannot fight terrorism with double standards. You cannot make a terrorist group, such as ISIS, in a certain place and claim to fight it somewhere else.

After seeking the grace of the Almighty God, the solution to skirmishes and conflicts in our region lies in the following.

Making the will of nations rule over their own destiny by referring to the results of public vote. But in order for this to materialize, two basic preconditions need to be met: 1- halting the aggressions of the outsiders and occupation, and 2-sincere cooperation of governments to counter terrorism.

The military presence of the US in Syria and Iraq is the biggest hindrance to the establishment of democracy and will of nations. Freedom does not fit in the backpacks of soldiers coming from outside the region.

If an inclusive government having an effective participation of all ethnicities shouldn't emerge to run Afghanistan, security will not be restored to the country. And like occupation, paternalism is also doomed to failure.

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is very worrying and the world needs to break its silence towards crimes against humanity. The solution? The speedy and unconditional stop to the Yemeni aggression, opening of channels for providing humanitarian aid, and facilitation of constructive talks between Yemeni groups.

The occupier Zionist regime is the organizer of the biggest state terrorism whose agenda is to slaughter women and children in Gaza and the West Bank. Today, an all-out blockade has turned Gaza to the biggest prison in the world. The so-called "deal of the century" failed just like any other deal forced on Palestinians. There is



only one solution: holding a referendum with the participation of all Palestinians of all religions and ethnicities including Muslims, Christians and Jews. This solution was set forth by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran many years ago which is now registered as one of the official documents of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

Today, the whole world including the Americans themselves have admitted that the project of countering the Iranian people, which manifested itself in the form of violating the JCPOA and was followed by the “maximum pressure” and arbitrary withdrawal from an internationally recognized agreement, has totally failed.

However, the policy of “maximum oppression” is still on. We want nothing more than what is rightfully ours. We demand the implementation of international rules. All parties must stay true to the nuclear deal and the UN Resolution in practice. Fifteen reports released by the IAEA have attested to the adherence of Iran to its commitments. However, the US has not yet discharged its obligation, which is lifting sanctions. It has encroached upon the agreement, withdrawn from it and levied even more sanctions on my people.

The United States mistakenly believed it would render us desperate and devastated, but our perseverance has yielded results and will always do, for the smart and dynamic resistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran comes from our strategic rationality. And we don’t trust the promises made by the US government.

It is the strategic policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider the production and stockpiling of atomic weapons as forbidden based on the religious decree by His Eminence, the Supreme Leader, and Nukes have no place in our defence doctrine and deterrence policy. The Islamic Republic considers the useful talks whose ultimate outcome is the lifting of all oppressive sanctions.

While decisively defending all its rights and the interests of its people, Iran is keen to have large-scale political and economic cooperation and convergence with the rest of the world. I seek effective interaction with all the countries of the world especially with our neighbours and shake their hands warmly.

A new era has begun.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to play its part for a better world. A world brim-full of rationality, justice, freedom, morality and spirituality.

Thank you all for your attention.

Peace and Mercy of Allah be upon you

Chile (see also A/76/PV.3, annex V)

**Address by Mr. Sebastián Piñera Echenique, President of the Republic of Chile**

*Delivered on Tuesday, 21 September 2021, at the 3rd meeting of the General Assembly*

[Original: Spanish]

We are living in times that will mark future generations. Those of us who are opening this General Assembly today have a mission to fulfil and a responsibility to those future generations. Today's decisions or omissions will shape the course of humankind for decades to come.

We are in the midst of the most severe pandemic in the past 100 years. In addition, there is a serious climate crisis, a severe social and economic crisis and the undermining of democratic institutions. Added to that is a multilateralism under stress and the urgent need to reform the international architecture.

However, we cannot simply bemoan the situation. On the contrary, the times call for a calm analysis and, above all, the wisdom, will and courage to take the effective and urgent action that we need.

**CORONAVIRUS DISEASE PANDEMIC: Triumph of science, failure of politics**

Mr. President.

Despite repeated scientific warnings that pandemics were potential threats, the international community and States chose to ignore them. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic therefore took us by surprise, with no early warning mechanisms, no information-sharing systems and fragile health systems, even in the most developed nations, which could not always respond to all those who were ill, and, most seriously, without vaccines or drugs to combat COVID-19.

Medical personnel in Chile and around the world worked tirelessly, without hesitation, to deal with the emergency, putting their own lives at risk to protect ours. Today I want to pay a heartfelt tribute to them for their selfless and committed work and for their professionalism, perseverance and resilience.

The pandemic showed us that, when the forces of innovation, technology and creativity are unleashed, we can achieve unimaginable things. In the space of only 10 months, we went from facing a virus about which we had no information to having a range of safe and effective vaccines to combat it. That is an unprecedented achievement in human history. We should remember that the typhoid vaccine took more than 130 years to be approved, the tuberculosis and dengue vaccines came 45 and 110 years after the diseases first appeared. We have indeed witnessed a great triumph of science.

However, that triumph contrasts with a failure of politics, since even today, while some countries have doses to vaccinate their populations several times over, there are countries that do not have the vaccines or equipment to protect their populations.

Science triumphed, but politics failed. In science cooperation prevailed, in politics individualism. In science, information-sharing reigned, in politics secrecy. In science teamwork prevailed, in politics individual effort. We must also draw lessons from that failure.

The first is humility, as the world suddenly found itself on its knees before a microscopic enemy. The second is solidarity to accompany and support the most vulnerable. The third is collaboration, indispensable to solving global problems. And the fourth is the willingness to listen to the voice of science and expert opinion.

In Chile, applying those principles, we built the health protection network, which allowed us to integrate the public and private health systems, triple the number of available intensive care unit beds and look after patients according to their needs, regardless of their social and economic situation.

We also expanded our diagnostic network early on, now bringing it to 180 laboratories with a capacity to process approximately 90,000 polymerase chain reaction tests a day and more than 21 million in total.

An essential pillar of our strategy was the early identification of the most promising international laboratories developing vaccines. On the basis of scientific criteria and without political considerations, together with the firm decision to promptly reach agreements and contracts, we were able to secure the necessary vaccines to protect the lives and the health of our entire population.

Today Chile has almost 90 per cent of its target population fully vaccinated; and we have already started vaccinating children and booster doses for those who are vulnerable.

During the most critical moments of the pandemic and when supplies were scarce, we also collaborated by donating medicines and some of our vaccine stock to facilitate the inoculation of the medical personnel of other Latin American countries. In the same spirit, together with the World Health Organization and more than 50 countries, we are supporting a treaty for pandemic preparedness and response.

No one can guarantee that such pandemics will not happen again, but we must ensure that when they occur, we will be better prepared.

**SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS: Sensitivity to needs and responsibility for decisions**

Mr. President.

The pandemic has also brought about an unprecedented social and economic crisis, which has caused a huge loss of income and jobs for families, the bankruptcy of many businesses, especially small and medium-sized ones, an increase in poverty and the deprivation of the middle classes.

The crisis has also led to exponential growth in fiscal deficits and public and private indebtedness, which threaten macroeconomic stability. Those misfortunes have hit the most vulnerable countries and sectors hardest, particularly women, widening gender gaps.

Some of the causes of that situation were already present before the pandemic: a trade war between the major Powers, an upsurge in protectionism and a weakening of rules-based free trade.

With that clear diagnosis, it is essential that public policy decisions be based on serious and responsible macroeconomic, fiscal and monetary policies and that progress continue to be made in liberalizing trade, incorporating the new technologies of the digital revolution, which will make the difference between those who board the train of progress and those who watch it pass by from the station.

The pandemic and the digital revolution have built on each other. Advances in digital technology have undoubtedly enabled us to better cope with the pandemic. For example, it would be difficult to imagine how we would have dealt with the pandemic without recent advances such as the Digital Hospital, the Virtual Police Station and Chile Serves. At the same time, the pandemic has expedited the introduction of the digital society, which has changed the way in which we work, learn, inform ourselves and interact in society — changes that are here to stay.

Chile is doing its best to board that train. That is why we have free trade agreements with countries that account for more than 90 per cent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP). That important integration network, coupled with years of fiscal and monetary responsibility, has allowed us to deliver one of the largest social aid packages in the world during the pandemic, amounting to 20 per cent of our GDP.

The social protection system that we built has channelled more than \$35 billion in direct transfers, which have meant help and relief for small and medium-sized enterprises and for some 16 million citizens.

Such measures have allowed us to restore economic activity and investment levels to those prior to the pandemic. After a 5.8-per-cent downturn last year, this year our economy will grow by approximately 10 per cent. We have also managed to recover 1.9 million jobs, equivalent to 80 per cent of the total number of jobs lost.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS: The environmental crisis has not been under quarantine

Mr. President.

The coronavirus disease pandemic has forced us to limit our freedoms and enact quarantines. But climate change has not been under quarantine. Its advance continues relentlessly, more rapidly and with more severe effects than expected. Most serious, some of its consequences are already irreversible. Indeed, it is no longer a matter of climate change; we are already facing a climate crisis.

Science, through the report of the United Nations panel of experts, has spoken loud and clear. Citizens demand, as a moral imperative, that we change the course of history. And technology gives us the tools to prevent an environmental catastrophe.

The time for analysis has passed. It is time for action, with a strong will and a sense of urgency. We have a historic responsibility to both present and future generations. We are the last generation that can prevent the current climate crisis from becoming an environmental catastrophe.

Chile is a small country, contributing less than 0.25 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions. But we are determined to shoulder our responsibilities and do our part in this war against the climate crisis.

To achieve that, we have accelerated the decarbonization of our energy supply. By 2025, we will have closed two thirds of our coal-fired power plants and by 2040, 100 per cent. In addition, we are working to ensure that by 2030, 70 per cent of our energy supply will be based on clean and renewable energies, a figure that will increase to almost 100 per cent by 2050.

As proof of that commitment, I would like to share with Member States the fact that by 2021, we will have inaugurated more solar and wind energy capacity in Chile than we have ever built in our entire history.

However, it is not enough to reduce our carbon footprint. We must be more ambitious and ensure that our efforts to produce clean and renewable energy go beyond our borders and help other countries to meet their own decarbonization goals. To that end, we are developing green hydrogen, a clean and renewable energy whose production process harnesses the advantage of our geography: the high and consistent solar radiation of our deserts and the strong and constant winds of Patagonia. Nature therefore provides us with the potential to produce more than 70 times the energy that we need today, preventing the release of millions and millions of tons of carbon dioxide a year. Green hydrogen is the energy of tomorrow, which we are producing in Chile today.

In addition to those initiatives are:

First: the electrification of our public transport system. Today, outside China, Santiago is the city with the highest number of electric buses in the world.

Secondly: the protection of the oceans and their biodiversity, including the first marine protected area on the high seas and a marine protected area in the Antarctic.

Thirdly: the protection of forests, including the planting of more than 230,000 hectares of forests in 10 years, prioritizing native species.

And, fourthly: the circular economy, which includes banning the use of bags and other plastics and shifting from a throwaway culture to a recyclable one.

Each generation has its own agenda. Preventing the climate crisis from becoming an environmental catastrophe is our generation's task. It is a matter of life and death because the survival of the human species on planet Earth is at stake. We cannot forget that 99 out of every 100 species that once existed no longer exist today. We do not want to add the human species to that grim list.

History, our children, our grandchildren and those to follow will judge us not by our good intentions but by our attitudes, actions and outcomes in the face of this challenge.

#### THE EROSION OF DEMOCRACY: A new threat

Mr. President. In recent years, democracies have experienced a process of steady and progressive deterioration. All international benchmarks reflect that regrettable situation. The analysis is one and the same but the reasons for it are manifold.

In Latin America, in addition to the usual reasons — low economic growth, widespread poverty, persistent inequality and State corruption and inefficiency — there are the coronavirus disease pandemic and other equally deadly and lethal diseases for democratic and freedom-loving societies, such as the virus of populism, the cancer of polarization and the plague of political fragmentation.

The virus of populism functions by promising manipulative and fanciful solutions that it knows it cannot deliver. And, in exchange for short-lived present satisfaction, it always ends up sacrificing the future by weakening progress, democratic institutions and the rule of law.

There is polarization, which leaves no room for agreements and compromises. That true cancer contaminates the social fabric, infects institutions and feeds intolerance into all areas of societal life.

Finally, there is fragmentation, which is a trend towards the politics of individual or small-group identities and causes, rendering it impossible to coordinate and address different social visions and demands and hindering consensus and governability.

A new form of threat to democracy has also emerged in our region, which is no longer external but comes from within. For many years, the threats were military or subversive actions to wrest power from the legitimate and democratically elected authorities. Today the main threat comes from democratically elected Governments, that is to say, Governments enjoying constitutional legitimacy that manoeuvre to remain in power forever, suppress the independence of the other branches of Government, monopolize the bodies responsible for overseeing electoral processes and crush the opposition, thereby engaging in an openly unlawful exercise of power.

Thirty-two years ago, Chile witnessed an exemplary transition to democracy. During the past three decades, we have achieved high economic growth and human development, with a decrease in poverty and inequality, always respecting the freedoms and human rights of all citizens.

However, Chile has not been immune to such threats. The social unrest of 2019 included legitimate social demands, but also a wave of irrational, unprecedented and unacceptable violence.

Despite the difficulties, in accordance with its long and fine democratic tradition, Chile was able to channel that social unrest and its legitimate demands through a peaceful, lawful and democratic process within our Constitution and the rule of law because we are convinced that the cure for the above-mentioned misfortunes is greater and better democracy.

Today, after a transparent and participatory referendum, we have a democratically elected Constitutional Convention, made up of men and women on an equal basis and with the presence of representatives of our native peoples. The Convention will have to propose a new constitution to the citizens, which will have to be ratified or rejected by the citizens through a referendum.

The majority of Chileans hope that the Convention will propose the text of a new constitution, which, by improving and rectifying everything that needs to be amended, includes greater equity and social justice, protects our freedoms and reflects our national tradition and the values of our society.

INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE: The urgent need for reform

Mr. President.

Another challenge is whether the current institutions that make up the international architecture have adjusted to the new global reality and meet the current and future challenges.

Since the establishment of the current international organizations in the middle of the previous century, the world has radically changed. Globalization, the technological and digital revolution and the emergence of the knowledge and information society have drastically changed the way in which we live, work, learn and relate to each other. However, the strength of multilateral organizations has remained stagnant.

Today international institutions require major adjustments and profound restructuring.

International organizations must combine two principles: the broadest possible participation for their legitimacy and a decision-making system that is not distorted by opposition, vetoes, deadlocks or consensus that is very difficult to achieve. We must find new mechanisms to strike the right balance between those two values. Multilateral action is essential to protect democracy and security, to achieve the development and well-being of our peoples, to protect the environment and to deal with pandemics.

At the same time, public knowledge of its procedures, debates and decisions and clarity in the appointment of its officials are necessary for transparent functioning. After all, there is no better policeman than street lighting and no better disinfectant than sunlight.

#### WOMEN/AFGHANISTAN

I could not end these words without a reflection on what the triumph of the Taliban regime means for the women and girls who will have to live under its yoke.

Mr. President:

Afghan society is facing very difficult times. However, the women of Afghanistan are in a particularly dangerous situation: Today, now, at this very moment, those who in the recent past wanted to forbid them education, impose forced marriages, ensure impunity for those guilty of sexual abuse against them and deny them their freedoms and human rights have returned to power — those who believe that the world of women should be one of submission and resignation.

The aggression against women in Afghanistan is an aggression against all women in the world. Knowing that, we cannot, the United Nations cannot, stand idly by, paralysed by bureaucratic constraints or political divisions in the Security Council.

We must work together to protect them and restore their full freedoms and rights. The cause of the women of Afghanistan is the cause of all humankind.

#### FINAL WORDS: Chile's contribution to the international community

I would like to end this address by expressing our satisfaction at Chile's contribution to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the cornerstone of our civilization, and our active promotion of democracy, freedoms and human rights throughout the world. We are also proud of our contribution to the care of Antarctica, the largest freshwater reserve and the last pristine bastion of the planet, to the protection of the oceans and to the fight against climate change.

We are also proud to host more than 70 per cent of the world's astronomical observation capacity and to be pioneers in the research and development of the potential of green hydrogen, a clean energy that will be essential to combat the climate crisis.

Chile is, and will continue to be, a free and welcoming nation, endowed with a noble and supportive soul, which will overcome difficulties and maintain its identity thanks to the wisdom, moderation, determination and courage of its people.

Chile will continue to honour all its international commitments and contribute to bequeathing a better world to future generations. Chile will also continue to be a good country in which to be born, grow up, raise a family, work and grow old in an environment of freedom, justice and peace.

Many thanks.



**China** (see also A/76/PV.3, annex VI)

**Address by Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China**

*Delivered on Tuesday, 21 September 2021, at the 3rd meeting of the General Assembly*

[Original: Chinese and English]

Mr. President,

The year 2021 is a truly remarkable one for the Chinese people. This year marks the centenary of the Communist Party of China. It is also the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, a historic event which will be solemnly commemorated by China. We will continue our active efforts to take China's cooperation with the United Nations to a new level and make new and greater contributions to advancing the noble cause of the UN.

Mr. President,

A year ago, global leaders attended the high-level meetings marking the 75th anniversary of the UN and issued a declaration pledging to fight COVID-19 in solidarity, tackle challenges together, uphold multilateralism, strengthen the role of the UN, and work for the common future of present and coming generations.

One year on, our world is facing the combined impacts of changes unseen in a century and the COVID-19 pandemic. In all countries, people long for peace and development more than ever before, their call for equity and justice is growing stronger, and they are more determined in pursuing win-win cooperation.

Right now, COVID-19 is still raging in the world, and profound changes are taking place in human society. The world has entered a period of new turbulence and transformation. It falls on each and every responsible statesman to answer the questions of our times and make a historical choice with confidence, courage and a sense of mission.

First, we must beat COVID-19 and win this decisive fight crucial to the future of humanity. The history of world civilization is also one of fighting pandemics. Rising to challenges, humanity has always emerged in triumph and achieved greater development and advancement. The current pandemic may appear overwhelming, but we humanity will surely overcome it and prevail.

We should always put people and their lives first, and care about the life, value and dignity of every individual. We need to respect science, take a science-based approach, and follow the laws of science. We need to both follow routine, targeted COVID-19 protocols and take emergency response measures, and both carry out epidemic control and promote economic and social development. We need to enhance coordinated global COVID-19 response and minimize the risk of cross-border virus transmission.

Vaccination is our powerful weapon against COVID-19. I have stressed on many occasions the need to make vaccines a global public good and ensure vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries. Of pressing priority is to

ensure the fair and equitable distribution of vaccines globally. China will strive to provide a total of 2 billion doses of vaccines to the world by the end of this year. In addition to donating \$100 million COVAX, China will donate 100 million doses of vaccines to other developing countries in the course of this year. China will continue to support and engage in global science-based origins tracing, and stands firmly opposed to political manoeuvring in whatever form.

Secondly, we must revitalize the economy and pursue more robust, greener and more balanced global development. Development holds the key to people's well-being. Facing the severe shocks of COVID-19, we need to work together to steer global development toward a new stage of balanced, coordinated and inclusive growth. To this end, I would like to propose a Global Development Initiative:

- Staying committed to development as a priority. We need to put development high on the global macro policy agenda, strengthen policy coordination among major economies, and ensure policy continuity, consistency and sustainability. We need to foster global development partnerships that are more equal and balanced, forge greater synergy among multilateral development cooperation processes, and speed up the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Staying committed to a people-centred approach. We should safeguard and improve people's livelihoods and protect and promote human rights through development, and make sure that development is for the people and by the people, and that its fruits are shared among the people. We should continue our work so that the people will have a greater sense of happiness, benefit and security, and achieve well-rounded development.
- Staying committed to benefits for all. We should care about the special needs of developing countries. We may employ such means as debt suspension and development aid to help developing countries, particularly vulnerable ones facing exceptional difficulties, with emphasis on addressing unbalanced and inadequate development among and within countries.
- Staying committed to innovation-driven development. We need to seize the historic opportunities created by the latest round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, redouble efforts to harness technological achievements to boost productivity, and foster an open, fair, equitable and non-discriminatory environment for the development of science and technology. We should foster new growth drivers in the post-COVID era and jointly achieve leapfrog development.
- Staying committed to harmony between man and nature. We need to improve global environmental governance, actively respond to climate change and create a community of life for man and nature. We need to accelerate transition to a green and low-carbon economy and achieve green recovery and development. China will strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. This requires tremendous hard work, and we will make every effort to meet these goals. China will step up support for other developing countries in developing green and low-carbon energy, and will not build new coal-fired power projects abroad.
- Staying committed to results-oriented actions. We need to increase in-put in development, advance on a priority basis cooperation on poverty alleviation,

food security, COVID-19 response and vaccines, development financing, climate change and green development, industrialization, digital economy and connectivity, among other areas, and accelerate implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so as to build a global community of development with a shared future. China has pledged an additional \$3 billion of international assistance in the next three years to support developing countries in responding to COVID-19 and promoting economic and social recovery.

Thirdly, we must strengthen solidarity and promote mutual respect and win-win cooperation in conducting international relations. A world of peace and development should embrace civilizations of various forms, and must accommodate diverse paths to modernization.

Democracy is not a special right reserved to an individual country, but a right for the people of all countries to enjoy. Recent developments in the global situation show once again that military intervention from the outside and so-called democratic transformation entail nothing but harm. We need to advocate peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, which are the common values of humanity, and reject the practice of forming small circles or zero-sum games.

Differences and problems among countries, hardly avoidable, need to be handled through dialogue and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual respect. One country's success does not have to mean another country's failure, and the world is big enough to accommodate common development and progress of all countries. We need to pursue dialogue and inclusiveness over confrontation and exclusion. We need to build a new type of international relations based on mutual respect, equity, justice and win-win cooperation, and do the best we can to expand the convergence of our interests and achieve the biggest synergy possible.

The Chinese people have always celebrated and striven to pursue the vision of peace, amity and harmony. China has never and will never invade or bully others, or seek hegemony. China is always a builder of world peace, contributor to global development, defender of the international order and provider of public goods. China will continue to bring the world new opportunities through its new development.

Fourthly, we must improve global governance and practice true multilateralism. In the world, there is only one international system, i.e. the international system with the United Nations at its core. There is only one inter-national order, i.e. the international order underpinned by international law. And there is only one set of rules, i.e. the basic norms governing international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

The UN should hold high the banner of true multilateralism and serve as the central platform for countries to jointly safeguard universal security, share development achievements and chart the course for the future of the world. The UN should stay committed to ensuring a stable international order, increasing the representation and say of developing countries in international affairs, and taking the lead in advancing democracy and rule of law in international relations. The UN should advance, in a balanced manner, work in all the three areas of security, development and human rights. It should set common agenda, highlight pressing issues and focus on real actions, and see to it that commitments made by all parties to multilateralism are truly delivered.

Mr. President,

The world is once again at a historical crossroads. I am convinced that the trend of peace, development and advancement for humanity is irresistible. Let us bolster confidence and jointly address global threats and challenges, and work together to build a community with a shared future for mankind and a better world for all.

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