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## Note by the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to circulate, pursuant to decision 75/573 of 14 July 2021, 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 evening of Wednesday, 22 September 2021, at the 9th meeting of the General Assembly (see A/76/PV.9). Document A/76/332 and its addenda 1 through 12 contain the statements delivered at the 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th and 9th through 17th meetings of the General Assembly (A/76/PV.3, A/76/PV.4, A/76/PV.6, A/76/PV.7 and A/76/PV.9-A/75/PV.17)

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**Togo** (see also A/76/PV.9, annex I)

**Address by Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Togolese Republic**

*Delivered on Wednesday, 22 September 2021, at the 9th meeting of the General Assembly*

[Original: French]

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

I would like to extend my warm congratulations and best wishes to you on the occasion of the seventy-sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization.

I would also like to pay tribute to the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, who, with his team, has reinvented the administrative apparatus of the United Nations to adapt it to the context of the coronavirus disease pandemic (COVID-19), thus avoiding any functional paralysis of the Organization.

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The theme we are meeting around this year is in fact a call to action. It compels us to take immediate action in the health field to end the COVID-19 pandemic, which has lasted too long. It calls on us to tackle the many social and economic dimensions of the health crisis.

Mr. President,

Like the year before it, 2021 has also been deeply marked by the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A few months ago, while hopes were raised for the gradual eradication of the pandemic, thanks in particular to the scientific prowess that has allowed the world to be provided with vaccines, the multiple rebounds are concerning and the Delta variant is finally forcing us to raise our level of vigilance once again. Indeed, the pandemic has led to a significant rebound in poverty and has contributed to further widening social inequalities and the gap between developed and developing countries.

According to the World Bank, the pandemic has triggered the first recession in sub-Saharan Africa for 25 years. The situation is particularly worrying in countries with fragile economies, especially the least developed countries (LDCs).

In order to overcome the shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to seriously address the issue of developing countries' debt.

While welcoming the G-20's decision to approve the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) last year, I would like to reiterate the call by the African Union and United Nations agencies to see the debt burden of our countries cancelled or at least relieved. It is therefore important that the international community endeavour to respond to the conclusions of the Paris Summit on the Financing of African Economies to enable our countries to overcome the effects of the pandemic and ensure a sustainable post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

In addition, my country supports the ACT Accelerator, co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the

World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with UNICEF and the World Bank. The Coalition's COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility workstream is now accelerating the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines. Although that initiative has helped to facilitate access to vaccines for the most disadvantaged populations, the vaccine gap remains very pronounced and the results fall far short of expectations for the programme. Indeed, while in the countries of the Global North, more than 50 per cent of the population has already been vaccinated, in Africa, for example, only approximately 1 per cent has received the vaccine.

Our efforts to eradicate the pandemic cannot be done exclusively or without an equal distribution of available vaccines to enable mass vaccination among the populations of African countries.

To that end, we encourage and support ongoing efforts to provide equitable access to vaccines in order to effectively ensure global herd immunity.

Mr. President,

Just as there is disparity in the enjoyment of the right to a vaccine, global recovery also risks splitting the world into two blocs. On the one hand, most advanced economies have access to the vaccine and can expect a rapid normalization of activities, whereas, on the other, countries with little or no access to vaccines will continue to face a resurgence of infections and increased deaths. That picture of a polarized world facing a common adversity is not the one we want.

It is therefore our responsibility to ensure that the global recovery benefits all. In light of the challenges faced by our world today, multilateralism can no longer be just another diplomatic mechanism to address those issues. It must serve to shape a global order and an innovative way of organizing international relations based on cooperation, the rule of law, collective action and the principles of shared global prosperity.

Mr. President,

The current emergency is not only a health emergency, but also an environmental one. The climate is currently showing alarming symptoms. Climate change is the greatest challenge that humankind has faced in recent decades.

The threat to human societies and ecosystems from global warming is growing. The disastrous effects of climate change on all continents are evident, including melting glaciers, hurricanes, rising sea levels and droughts that fuel fires across entire regions, leaving our peoples deeply vulnerable.

More worryingly, the annual report on the gap between needs and prospects for reducing greenhouse gas emissions indicates that, even if all the current unconditional commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change were implemented, temperatures would still rise by 3.2°C, with even more widespread and destructive climate consequences.

Current collective efforts will therefore have to be multiplied fivefold to reach the 1.5°C emissions reduction target, as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its special report on Climate Change and Land.

We must take action and we must do so now. That is why my country encourages Governments, businesses, cities and all financial institutions to join the global Carbon Neutrality Coalition. We also welcome the fact that, in the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, countries representing more than 65 per cent of global

carbon emissions have made ambitious commitments on the issue and are calling on others to join them.

Mr. President,

In my country, Togo, although the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on public investment in social sectors is greatly slowing down our efforts to promote human development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), human security and the well-being of the population remain at the heart of the Government's general policy. That need guides the daily work of sector-led initiatives, giving priority to the most vulnerable groups, namely women, children and young people.

The Government's road map, adopted in the aftermath of the pandemic in conjunction with our national development plan, reflects our shared vision of making Togo a country of cohesion and peace — a modern nation with inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Achieving our goals requires concrete actions that guarantee, inter alia, access to drinking water, access to quality education and health care, access to energy, rural entrepreneurship and agricultural business, productivity and wealth creation, employment, the empowerment of women and young people and social protection.

More specifically, while maintaining consistency in the progress already made in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction, Togo will spare no effort to ensure true social harmony for its population, which is a guarantor of inclusive development.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On 26 July, the General Assembly decided to convene a high-level meeting on universal health coverage, under the auspices of its President, for 2023. In the same vein, and in order to guarantee access to quality health care for all strata of the population through a risk-pooling mechanism, the Government adopted a law providing for universal health insurance to enable the Togolese people to lead healthy lives and enjoy well-being throughout.

The same applies to the national programme for medical and financial support for pregnant women and newborns, known as "Wezou", which was officially launched on 26 August 2021 and is intended to contribute to a significant reduction in maternal and neonatal mortality. Such health coverage will contribute to improving maternal and child health indicators through free prenatal and maternal care for all pregnant women.

In the field of education, it should be noted that after the eradication of school fees at the pre-school and primary levels, the gradual extension of school canteens for all pupils in public primary schools and the establishment of a social and medical coverage system, the Government has recently decided, for the year 2021-2022, to exempt pupils in Togo's public secondary schools from all fees.

That latest measure, which aims to relieve parents by enabling them to prepare for the resumption of classes with peace of mind, is one to add to the list of numerous decisions taken by the Government to curb the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the Togolese population.

In terms of the fight for gender equity and equality and the advancement of women's and girls' rights, my country has made significant progress in recent years. The representation of women in decision-making bodies has evolved from 23 per

cent in 2019 to 35 per cent in 2021. It is in that context that Togo has joined the global solidarity movement for greater gender equality and equity, “HeForShe”, which was launched by UN-Women and the national campaign for which was officially launched in Lomé on 23 July.

In the field of business, Togo remains committed to improving the climate for the development and competitiveness of Togolese companies and to attracting investment. The efforts made to date have not been in vain, as evidenced by Togo’s ranking in the 2021 World Investment Report, published by UNCTAD, as the country of choice for foreign direct investment in 2020 with an 85 per cent increase compared to 2019.

The results achieved so far only reinforce our ambition to make Togo an industrial hub with a strong emphasis on public-private partnerships. That is reflected in the launch of the Adetikope Industrial Platform (PIA) — one of the major milestones of our development policy. The purpose of that new industrial park is to make up for the shortfall in local earnings due to the export of raw materials. In concrete terms, it will create high value-added chains through the promotion of local industry in agro-industrial sectors such as cotton, soy, sesame, coffee, cocoa and poultry.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

For more than 75 years, our Organization has worked tirelessly to promote international peace and security, including through early warning and conflict prevention, electoral assistance and observation and peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Nevertheless, the threats we face are growing and diversifying. All over the world, religious intolerance and extremism are claiming many victims.

Africa is paying the highest price. A global response is therefore urgently needed to support the efforts of African countries and regional organizations to combat that scourge, which threatens to take root on the continent.

To do so, the funding challenges faced by the G5 Sahel and even MINUSMA must be diligently overcome. Indeed, it is incomprehensible that, to date, nearly 50 per cent of the pledged contributions have not been disbursed and that MINUSMA is facing budgetary constraints to ensure it can provide logistical support to the G-5 Sahel.

Mr. President of the General Assembly,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Global prosperity depends on peace and stability in regions affected by conflict. Togo therefore reiterates the joint appeal of the G7+ member States for a global ceasefire across the planet.

I remain convinced that, by pooling our efforts, this session of the General Assembly will contribute significantly to strengthening the determination of our States to make our world a safer place, fully committed to the well-being of our peoples.

I thank you.

**Djibouti** (see also A/76/PV.9, annex II)

**Address by Mr. Omar Guelleh, President and Head of Government  
of the Republic of Djibouti**

*Delivered on Wednesday, 22 September 2021, at the 9th meeting of the General Assembly*

[Original: French]

Praise be to God, peace and blessings be upon the Prophet, his family and his companions

President of the General Assembly,

Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President,

First of all, I would like to warmly congratulate you on your election to preside over the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.

We endorse the hope-based vision you have articulated, which we believe you will implement during your term of office.

I wish you success and assure you of my country's full support.

We thank your predecessor, Mr. Volkan Bozkır, and congratulate him on his extraordinary commitment during a challenging, difficult and uncertain year.

I would also like to express our deep appreciation to the Secretary-General for submitting his report, entitled *Our Common Agenda*. We welcome the insightful analysis of the threats to the planet, prosperity and world peace it contains and relevant recommendations for a way out of the crisis. It is a call for urgent and collective action, and an important way to reflect on laying the foundation for renewed international cooperation, based on solidarity.

Mr. President,

Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a devastating impact on populations, especially the poor and vulnerable. It has severely affected social indicators, jeopardized progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and increased extreme poverty.

It continues to pose a threat to the health system of countries, given vaccine scarcity and the infodemic. It is therefore urgent to implement a global vaccination plan before current variants mutate and jeopardize the gains made to date in the fight against COVID-19.

In Djibouti, we immediately recognized the danger and implemented a management and response plan to contain the spread of the virus as soon as the first set of cases appeared.

The emergence of variants led to an adaptation of the strategy. We also developed a vaccination plan that includes the installation of vaccinodromes in the capital and further inland, and promoted a community-based approach, by deploying vaccinobuses.

We designed a social response plan that seeks to:

1. Preserve the livelihoods of the poorest, vulnerable groups and those who have lost their jobs;
2. Put in place short-, medium- and long-term recovery and social support measures;
3. Put technology at the centre of all social activities, while seeking to innovate working methods and the work environment;

On behalf of the Government and the people of Djibouti, I now take this opportunity to thank all international partners that provided vaccines free of charge, in support of our vaccination strategy against COVID-19.

We hope that the summit meeting, scheduled for tomorrow Wednesday, at the initiative of President Joe Biden, will identify concrete ways to sustainably reverse the spread of the virus and urgently ensure the asymmetric deployment of vaccines worldwide.

It is also vital that greater efforts be made to build consensus on the need for the temporary lifting of intellectual property rights to accelerate vaccine production.

Mr. President,  
Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,

Due to restrictions imposed worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions, the severe contraction of the economy, widening Government deficits and devastating economic consequences, we are faced with the urgent need to develop solutions to stimulate recovery. In this quest, the valuable support of the international financial institutions and that of friendly countries will be crucial.

Mr. President,  
Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,

In their statements, many of my predecessors have underscored the growing concerns and uncertainties about the future of our planet.

Paradoxically, the global health crisis that has affected us for nearly two years is a unique opportunity that may not present itself again in the future. It has brought to light the intrinsic link between human health, the economy and the environment.

Indeed, the various facets of the impact of COVID-19 compel us to make a choice — continue to harm our planet and our environment or adopt a collective approach that is both courageous and that demonstrates solidarity. Yes, solidarity — solidarity with nature, solidarity with our environment, solidarity with our peoples.

It is true that in 2020, the world faced an unprecedented slowdown in economic and trade activity, according to statistics from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. In that regard, allow me to highlight some of them:



- 42 per cent drop in foreign direct investment; 20 per cent contraction in world trade
- Quadrupling of the price of container transport

With regard to the environment, there has been a considerable decrease in global greenhouse gas emissions, which contributed to a slowdown in the deterioration of the ozone layer.

To address the risks of economic collapse, Governments invested nearly \$12,000 billion in the fall of 2020 to counter the economic effects of COVID-19.

Now more than ever, given the multiple devastating effects of climate change, such as prolonged droughts, increased hurricanes, sea level rise, extreme temperatures, flooding and even locust invasion, to name a few, we have a compelling obligation to rethink our actions.

Although the Paris Agreement was a historic achievement, we must acknowledge that the efforts made have not lived up to the hopes, following COP21.

Because of their climate vulnerability, the international community must support developing countries so that they can benefit from technology transfer and expertise, as well as appropriate funding.

Allow me, at this time, to again welcome the announcement made in January this year to provide \$5 billion to help restore degraded landscapes, improve agricultural productivity and boost livelihoods, as part of the Great Green Wall, connecting Dakar to Djibouti and passing through 11 countries.

It appears that COVID-19 is a unique opportunity to, at last, lay the foundation for more egalitarian, environmentally friendly societies. We must build on the momentum to restore our societies and economies and redefine our interaction with our planet.

Mr. President,

Djibouti remains committed to building a better future, lasting peace and strong regional economic integration for the benefit of our people. It deplores the fact that the efforts we made to normalize relations with Eritrea have not yet produced the expected results. As noted by the Secretary-General in his letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 30 July 2021, we deplore the lack of significant progress on the outstanding issues, namely the border dispute and the fate of the 13 Djiboutian prisoners of war. We reiterate our call for Eritrea to agree to resolve these issues, through bilateral dialogue, mediation or binding international arbitration.

We also urge our Eritrean neighbours to proceed with the dismantling of the Anda'ali camp, as a confidence-building measure that would help create better relations between the two countries.

Djibouti is closely following developments in Ethiopia. Djibouti shares historical ties with Ethiopia and has developed productive bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural fields. These relations are destined to grow and prosper. We reiterate our support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. We hope that, in the near future, a peaceful Ethiopia will emerge, reconciled, and return to growth and economic development.

With regard to Somalia, Djibouti is encouraged by the progress made by the country. Nevertheless, it shares the concerns expressed by the members of the Security



Council regarding political disagreements among members of the Government and their possible negative impact on the Somali electoral calendar. Somalia is at a crossroads — every effort must be made to ensure that Somalia's positive trajectory is not in jeopardy!

We reaffirm our support for a just, lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the creation of an independent and sovereign State, based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. We condemn settlement expansion, demolitions and property-seizure campaigns in the occupied West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, as well as acts of violence that target Palestinian civilians. We call on Israel to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law.

Djibouti welcomes the appointment of the new Special Envoy for Yemen, Mr. Hans Grundberg, and hopes that his appointment will give a new impetus to the efforts of the international community to achieve a lasting political solution, in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

We urge the Houthis to remain constructively engaged in the peace process and reiterate our condemnation of the repeated attacks on Saudi Arabia.

We reiterate our deep concern about the threat of a possible ecological, maritime, economic and humanitarian disaster, posed by the *FSO Safer* oil tanker. It is urgent that the necessary authorizations be granted for the United Nations to proceed, without conditions, with its inspection and make the appropriate repairs in order to avoid the worst-case scenario and minimize the risk of an oil spill in the Red Sea.

Thank you for your attention.

**Kazakhstan** (see also A/76/PV.9, annex III)**Address by Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

*Delivered on Wednesday, 22 September 2021, at the 9th meeting of the General Assembly*

Dear Mr. President,

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the Presidency of the seventy-sixth session.

I will focus today first and foremost on the triple threat we face together: COVID-19 recovery; the Climate crisis; and the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

In the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has exploded from 32 million to 225 million confirmed cases.

We are deeply grateful to all health workers, scientists and vaccine makers who produced in a remarkably short time safe and effective vaccines.

But the economic and social repercussions remain very difficult. Unemployment has risen sharply and hundreds of millions of people are losing their livelihoods. More than 130 million people are now living in extreme poverty. Decades of development progress are being lost.

In many ways, the pandemic has exposed our vulnerability and underscored the critical importance of multilateralism and international solidarity. We must “build back” a more equitable, sustainable, and humane world.

We must begin with universal and fair access to vaccines. This matter must be resolved as a matter of global ethics and solidarity.

The unjust “vaccine gap” is a “gap multiplier”.

The IMF notes that the global economic recovery is not “global” because of the widening gap between advanced “vaccinated” economies and emerging or developing “unvaccinated” ones. The net effect will be to wipe out \$4.5 trillion of cumulative global GDP by 2025.

We must exponentially and urgently increase global access to vaccines. Kazakhstan has successfully produced its own QazVac vaccine. Two more vaccines are in development. We stand ready to share them bilaterally or under the COVAX facility.

The World Trade Organization is critical to ensuring supply chains for essential medical goods and equitable vaccine access. As the Chair of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference this November, Kazakhstan calls on WTO Members to deliver a meaningful outcome on WTO’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also need more focused cooperation between governments and the pharmaceutical industry on licenses, technology transfers and technical support.

In the meantime, economic recovery is subject to many other “known unknowns”, including technology tensions. An “economic iron curtain” scenario,

in which different technologies and rules split the global economy, is becoming more likely.

Such a scenario would severely constrain those states who want to trade globally and secure tech-related supplies. Eager to avoid taking sides, they could be forced to form a “Technological Non-Alignment Movement” to mitigate risks at the intersection of technologies and geopolitics.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Carbon dioxide levels are at record highs. Wildfires, cyclones, floods and droughts have become the new normal, devastating populations and causing much preventable human suffering.

As a large landlocked country, Kazakhstan’s climate is warming faster than the global average and threatening our population and economy.

The median annual temperature has increased 2°C in the last 75 years with serious droughts now striking twice every five years.

In response, Kazakhstan intends to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. We are launching a national 2050 low carbon development strategy next month to reduce GDP energy intensity by 50 per cent from 2008 levels.

Since almost 70 per cent of Kazakhstan’s electricity generation depends on coal, the energy transition present significant challenges.

Access to green financing and green technologies will be critical to this transition, and we look to the upcoming COP26 conference in Glasgow for clear commitment on these issues. Without ambitious green financing, ambitious climate action is empty.

We also give great importance to the COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming in October 2021.

Turning to Afghanistan, we endorse the UN Security Council’s call for the establishment, through negotiations, of a new Government that is inclusive and representative.

A consensus-based system must be put in place where groups of different values, or ethnic, religious and gender background can coexist in the same country.

In general, Kazakhstan envisions Afghanistan as a truly independent, sovereign nation living at peace with itself and its neighbours. Afghanistan must continue to adhere to its international obligations and ensure its territory is free of terrorists, drugs, and human traffickers.

Whatever our political affiliations or personal feelings, we must not abandon the people of Afghanistan now.

The acute humanitarian situation should be our first priority. UN agencies and other humanitarian actors must have immediate, safe and unhindered humanitarian access.

Kazakhstan has provided a temporary relocation for UNAMA and other UN offices for Afghanistan. We are ready to provide a logistical platform for humanitarian aid into Afghanistan, as well as to contribute our fair share.

The Kazakh initiative to establish a UN Regional hub in Almaty can serve this crucial mission. We are ready to work closely with the UN, regional neighbours and interested states and organizations.

The future stability of Afghanistan depends on economic development. Afghanistan is not a threat but an opportunity. If unified and stable, it can contribute to Central Asia's development.

Excellencies,

I turn to several other important UN issues, including the need to revitalize disarmament.

Last month, on 29 August, we marked the 30th anniversary of the decision to close the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and relinquish the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world.

Kazakhstan again urges the nuclear-weapon States to commit themselves to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by 2045, the Centennial of the United Nations.

Similarly, there is more work to be done against existential biological threats. I proposed last year an International Agency for Biological Safety. This is a bold and ambitious idea, but we believe it is timely. Open and transparent dialogue with all stakeholders is ongoing.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs has suffered a considerable setback.

Least Developed countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States — some 91 countries in total — are disproportionately affected by the pandemic given their limited means to respond to shocks and vulnerability to a debt crisis.

As the Global Chair of the LLDCs, Kazakhstan appeals to all UN agencies to work together to deliver on the 2024 Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Program of Action.

The 2030 Agenda will remain unattainable until all countries have the financial capacity to invest in a sustainable and inclusive future. In this regard, we specifically call on all development partners to jointly address international liquidity and debt vulnerabilities. \*\*\*

The World Food Programme estimates that 270 million people will face food shortages this year.

Kazakhstan is a major grain producer and exporter and a founding member of the Islamic Organization for Food Security, whose fourth General Assembly was held last month in our capital.

We invite foreign investors to join us in shaping a better, brighter future for sustainable agriculture.

Sustainable development depends not only on economic growth, but also on social and political development.

At 30 years old, Kazakhstan is already a mature and accomplished nation. Over the last few years, we have started shifting from top-down nation-building — which

proved extremely efficient during early statehood — to more bottom-up democracy-nurturing. We aim to consolidate our democratic commitment and promote wider citizen engagement in governance.

For example, we have introduced direct election of rural mayors for the first time. This will place far more power and control in the hands of more than 40 per cent of Kazakh citizens. We will do the same for district mayors in 2024.

In line with the concept of a state that listens and responds to its citizens, since 2019, my Administration has launched four blocks of essential democratic reforms to strengthen human rights, the rule of law, and anti-corruption.

For example, I recently proposed applying the recent 30 percent quota for women and youth in electoral party lists to the final parliamentary composition.

There is no room for complacency. Our goal is to further improve the efficiency of the state, transparency, and competitiveness of the political process. Political reforms will have a dynamic follow-up.

In January of this year, Kazakhstan ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, abolishing the death penalty.

In June, the Government approved a Comprehensive Plan for Human Rights Protection, laying down a long-term institutional framework.

In close collaboration with our international partners, we are working hard to eliminate human trafficking, which requires extraordinary global cooperation.

We are a candidate for membership on the UN Human Rights Council for 2022-2024. If elected, Kazakhstan will strive to make a real contribution to the Council.

We also aim to advance the “democracy–religion–development nexus” during the seventh Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions next April in Kazakhstan.

Turning to Central Asia, despite challenges to stability and security, we see a gradual strengthening of political and economic cooperation. Three Central Asian informal summits — the latest one held last month — are leading to a more cooperative and resilient region.

Our regional policy aims to gradually replace the zero-sum politics and “might makes right” of the “Great Game” with genuine cooperation and a people-centred Great Gain in the Heart of Asia.

This creates opportunities for greater global community engagement with Kazakhstan and Central Asia. We place great hope in the regional “C5+” dialogue frameworks with major extraregional actors.

In such partnerships, we emphasize Central Asia’s water-related challenges, including water scarcity, degrading quality and inefficient use. Our region’s water security is inextricably linked with energy, food and environment.

Despite the diverging interests of riparian states, Kazakhstan remains committed to a regional water-and-hydropower consortium to coordinate different policies towards mutual goals.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Situated at the Eurasian crossroads of civilizations, Kazakhstan remains committed to its well-balanced, constructive foreign policy. We enjoy good relations with all our immediate neighbours, the Western countries, the EU, Asian and Middle Eastern states.

This is the spirit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia. Next year Kazakhstan, which chairs CICA, will host a summit to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Conference.

Our world is both interconnected and fragile.

We desperately need a meaningful multilateralism that gives results to people and effective expression to global solidarity.

We need far greater engagement and genuine cooperation from international organizations, financial institutions, civil society, business, local and regional authorities, all in service of the common good.

Nothing else will secure our common future. No nation can succeed or prosper alone — there is no vaccine or wall for that.

This moment presents a collective opportunity to change the world for the better.

Thank you!

**Norway** (see also A/76/PV.9, annex IV)

**Address by Ms. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway**

*Delivered on Wednesday, 22 September 2021, at the 9th meeting of the General Assembly*

President, Excellencies,

We are contending with three crises at the same time: a climate crisis, a health crisis, and an economic crisis. All of them call for a coordinated response. All of them underline why we need international cooperation.

We need to remind ourselves of our collective strength. The United Nations was born out of crisis. Because crises have the potential to increase unity and resolve. We must harness the momentum created and take action.

President,

We know the path we need to take — and we have a plan: The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals are the roadmap to the world we want.

Let me start with climate change.

We are already living with the impacts. Just ask the many people who have witnessed devastating famine, floods and forest fires. Together, we will work to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C, in line with the goal of the Paris Agreement.

The transition to a low-emission society will require profound change. But it will also create opportunities for employment and growth. To ensure a fair and just transition, we must cut emissions — not jobs. We must invest in renewables and new technology. We must put a price on carbon. Investors and businesses will rise to the challenge once the right incentives are in place.

Many countries have enhanced their targets. More countries, especially large economies, need to raise their ambition level ahead of COP26.

We are doing our part. Norway's new target is to cut emissions by at least 50 per cent —and towards 55 per cent by 2030.

We will also continue to partner with developing countries in their efforts to achieve climate-resilient and sustainable development.

President,

To tackle climate change, we urgently need to restore the health of the ocean. Healthy and productive oceans can help us achieve the SDGs. We know what has to be done.

The High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy has presented an ambitious action agenda. This should form the basis for discussions on the oceans moving forward. Effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity must go hand in hand. Without healthy oceans, we all face an uncertain future.

The Ocean Panel members have made a commitment to sustainably manage all of their ocean areas by 2025. That is one third of the world's exclusive economic zones. This is a bold target. But our ambition is even bolder: We call on all ocean and coastal states to make a similar commitment by 2030.

President,



The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us — yet again — that global problems require global solutions. It has also shown us what we can achieve together: effective vaccines developed in record time. We must not stop there:

We need to reform and strengthen the global health architecture to prevent, detect, and respond to future threats. And we need a fully financed WHO playing a central, coordinating role.

We must invest in health. We must build robust national health systems and ensure universal health coverage.

There is a glaring inequity in vaccine distribution. Some countries have vaccinated their populations, and are on the path to recovery. For others, the lack of vaccines and weak health systems pose a serious problem. In Africa, fewer than 1 in 20 people are fully vaccinated. In Europe, one in two are fully vaccinated. This inequity is clearly unfair.

In some countries, the mindset seems to be that the pandemic is over — whilst others are facing huge waves of infection. The result is a disconnected world. It is unacceptable and dangerous. The truth is: The pandemic is not over, and it will not be over anywhere until it's over everywhere. We need to accelerate the vaccination rollout across the world.

Norway is proud to co-chair the ACT-Accelerator. It was set up to promote equitable access to tests, treatments, and vaccines. Public-private partnerships such as CEPI and Gavi are also part of the solution. Let us all agree: Financing pandemic preparedness is a sound investment — and we all benefit from the returns.

We need to finance a sustainable recovery. We have an opportunity to do things right: We must align our efforts with our roadmap, the 2030 Agenda. We must invest in the green transition. We must invest in people, women and girls in particular. And we must fulfil the promise of the SDGs, to leave no one behind.

We must secure the future welfare of a rapidly growing population. Domestic resource mobilisation is crucial to build back better and to reach the SDGs. Fair and effective tax systems are needed — not only to generate revenue, but also to build trust in government. The agreement reached in the OECD on a new framework for international tax reform is an important step forward.

Without global trade and investments, we cannot solve the challenges we are facing. This will require job creation, openness, rules-based trade and fewer trade barriers. Free trade creates win-win solutions. Protectionism does not.

President,

Respect for human rights is essential to build prosperous and free societies. It is also the basis for equitable and stable societies. Everyone who believes in democracy must now defend its core values.

On a personal note, I stand here as a Prime Minister who lost an election last week. After eight years, my Government will step down and hand over to a new team. I hope they will succeed in taking our country forward. I am mentioning this because orderly transitions cannot be taken for granted. And because democracy at work can help reduce the mistrust in and between countries. The kind of mistrust that the Secretary-General points to in 'Our Common Agenda'.

The decline in democracy and respect for human rights should be of concern to us all. We are seeing grave human rights violations in many parts of the world. In

Venezuela. The atrocities and conflict in Tigray. The deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation in Myanmar, including for the Rohingyas. To mention a few. We count on the Security Council and regional organisations to play a proactive role.

And we are alarmed and saddened by recent developments in Afghanistan. In the past two decades, Afghans have seen a significant progress in the human rights situation. Health care systems have been improved and millions of children have received an education. These hard-won gains must be protected.

We are now particularly concerned about the rights of women and girls, and people belonging to religious, ethnic, sexual and gender minorities.

We fear for those who are at risk because of their work to advance fundamental freedoms. We will continue to support them, and the rest of the Afghan people.

We will judge the Taliban by their actions, not but by their words. The composition of the interim government is discouraging.

President,

Global challenges have a major impact on international peace and security.

Twice this year, the Security Council has discussed the security implications of climate change.

To reach the SDGs, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and disarmament are vital.

We must safeguard and strengthen the norms and structures that maintain peace.

We must make sure that progress in this area is not reversed. We need to protect and promote the framework for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation — first and foremost, the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Great power rivalry can threaten strategic stability. Dialogue and cooperation are essential. The extension of the New START Treaty is a welcome step forward.

The international norm against the use of weapons of mass destruction must be upheld.

The increased threat from chemical weapons must be countered.

President,

Durable peace is crucial to long-term security. In our work in the Security Council, we promote dialogue, partnerships, and preventive diplomacy.

To remain relevant, the Council must respond to threats to international peace and security. It must not shy away from challenging situations.

The adoption of the resolution extending the mandate for delivering cross-border humanitarian aid into Syria was encouraging. It offers hope of finding a political solution to the long-lasting conflict.

UN peace operations play a key role throughout the world. Norway is a strong supporter of the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

This includes financial support to enhance the capacity of UN peace operations to carry out their mandate. Especially their mandate to facilitate political processes, protect civilians and implement the women, peace, and security agenda.

Another challenge is maritime security and piracy. We need an integrated global response to make the oceans safe.

Some 90 per cent of piracy incidents take place in the Gulf of Guinea. Norway is seeking to advance this issue in the Security Council, in close cooperation with the countries in the region.

President,

In closing, I would like to commend the Secretary-General for the realistic assessment he presents in 'Our Common Agenda'. We are given a choice between breakdown and breakthrough. I remain optimistic.

We must take the crises we are now facing as our call to action. We must focus all there is to gain from acting together. There is a way forward. We have already charted our course; the 2030 agenda is our roadmap. Let's not hesitate. Let's join forces and get started right away.

Thank you.

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