



PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 November 2021

Dear Peter van Sluijs,

Allow me to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to you for the heartfelt congratulations conveyed in your letter of 9 November 2021. At the same time, I would like to extend my greetings to you and all co-signing organizations.

I am a firm believer in multilateralism and a United Nations that is inclusive to all. It is the most inclusive forum where multilateral issues and discussions take place and civil society must be a part of those discussions. As I have outlined in my vision statement for my Presidency of Hope, I am committed to ensure effective and fruitful engagement with civil society throughout my presidency.

To that end, since the beginning of my presidency, I have been working closely with the Secretary-General to get civil society back in the UN Headquarters building. As a result, on 17 November 2021, I convened a town hall meeting with civil society wherein we welcomed over 200 CSO representatives in-person in the General Assembly Hall for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, I am pleased to inform you that as of January next year, the United Nations will be reissuing grounds passes to civil society representatives.

If the pandemic has any lessons for us, it is that global challenges do not differentiate between state and non-state actors. It is only together can we best address these challenges.

I look forward to engaging civil society in the work of the General Assembly for the remainder of the 76<sup>th</sup> session.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abdulla Shahid', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Abdulla SHAHID

Peter van Sluijs  
Coordinator Civil Society Platform for  
Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)  
The Hague