

H.E. Honourable Mr. Adbulla Shahid
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Maldives
President, 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations
New York, NY 10017 USA

Cc: H.E. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

9 November 2021

76th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 76)

Excellency,

We would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, and on the successful completion of the high-level General Debate – we wish you strength and clarity of vision in charting the course for the future during these challenging times.

We are writing as a group of national and international civil society organizations, international organizations, and global partnerships, that work to implement SDG16 and related SDG targets on peace, justice and inclusion under the 2030 Agenda. We are deeply committed to making progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with SDG16+ as its enabler – and thus, our focus of action.

We found great encouragement in your vision statement - your words subscribing to the principles of inclusivity, equity, representation and transparency in delivering your priorities as the new President of the General Assembly resound deeply with our own mission. Your commitment to building trust and cohesion, not only with Member States and other governmental entities, but also civil society, businesses and other non-state partners offer a promise for a more responsive and effective United Nations.

We believe that progress on the 2030 Agenda depends on not only upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – but also on proactively engaging people from all sectors to be able to tackle the complex issues we are faced with today, as embodied in the preamble of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is in this context that we, the undersigned, address you today to request your support in ensuring that all meetings and deliberations conducted throughout the entire 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly follow the above-mentioned principles and allow for engagement, consultation and ongoing dialogue with representatives from civil society and other non-state representatives.

We prioritize the compliance with safety restrictions imposed by the pandemic, and support minimizing in-person meetings and side-events. Nevertheless, the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly should continue to adhere to meaningful stakeholder inclusion with open, participative and transparent modalities of participation. It should ensure stakeholder groups are present in the General Assembly Hall when in-person deliberations are scheduled, and should pursue meaningful engagement of non-state actors during virtual meetings and events. In this context, we support the recommendations from the UNmute Civil Society Initiative for strengthening meaningful participation around the UN, which to date has been endorsed by 50 Member States and over 200 NGOs.

We recall and encourage the furthering of last year's UN75 Declaration on the importance of multilateralism and global solidarity to achieve an equal and resilient world. As stated in the Declaration, we need to build trust and social cohesion globally by addressing growing inequalities within and among countries as well as boosting partnerships.

We trust you agree that the active involvement of civil society and its collaboration with other stakeholders is crucial in revitalizing the multilateral system to face global challenges in a cooperative way. We therefore hope that you are willing to support our call and take this into consideration as you plan for the ongoing 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Naturally, for any further information or a virtual open discussion, please do not hesitate to approach us via the below-listed email address.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration

Yours sincerely,

Peter van Sluijs
Coordinator Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)
Peter.van.Sluijs@cordaid.org

List of co-signing organisations:

21st Century Community Empowerment for Youth and Women Initiative
Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD)
Africa Platform for Social Protection
African Children and Youth Development Network (ACYDN)
Aid Organization
AidWatch Canada
ARTICLE 19
Asia Development Alliance (ADA)
Associação Alternativa Terrazul
Association For Promotion Sustainable Development
Association Rayons de Soleil - Cameroon
BadhonM Manob Unnayan Sangstha
Bareedo Platform Somalia
Brazilian Federation of Library Association and Institution
Building Blocks for Peace Foundation - Nigeria
Candid Concepts Development
Centre de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et Démocratie
Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CSDEA)
Centre Stratégique Pour La Promotion Du Développement Durable (CSPDD)
Children and Young People Living for Peace (CYPLP)
CIVICUS
Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)
Coalition for the UN We Need
Coalition Nationale des organisations de la Société Civile pour le New Deal
Community And Family Aid Foundation- Ghana
Consolation East Africa (CEA)
Cordaid
Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity - CROSOL
Economic Empowerment and Human Rights Sierra Leone

Economic Justice Network Sierra Leone
Foaesp
Gatef organization
Gestos (soropositividade, comunicação, gênero)
Global Ageing Network
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)
Gray Panthers
Health Alert Sierra leone
IIDA WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION - Somalia
Improve Your Society Organization (IYSO)
Institute for Democratic Action & Development (IDAD)
Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Humanos (IDDH)
International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC)
Justice Call
Lawyers Beyond Borders
Maison des Organisations de la Société Civile (MOSC) - Comoros
National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal
National Senior citizens Organization of Liberia
Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago
NGO: ADET
ONG ADOKA
ONG Floraison - Togo
ONG PADJENA
Our Lady of Perpetual Help initiative (OLPHI)
Platform for Dialogue and Peace
Projonma Academy
Reality of Aid Network
Red Dot Foundation
REPAOC : Réseau des Plateformes nationales d'ONG d'Afrique de l'Ouest
RIHRDO - Pakistan
Rwanda Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peace Building..
SEED
STUDENTS AGAINST CORRUPTION
Sustainable Cities Program (SCP)
Tamazight Women's Movement - Libya
Templus Agro-Consults Limited
The Civil Pole for development and human rights
The Peacebuilding Project
Think Centre
Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network
Uganda Peace Foundation
United Nations Association of South Sudan
United Youth for Growth and Development
UNOY Peacebuilders
Upline Centre for Development
Veille Citoyenne Togo
Voices In the Vision for Africa
Voz di Paz - Guinea Bissau
WDF(IEO)

World Council for Psychotherapy
Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG)
Youth Partnership for Peace and Development - Sierra Leone
Youth without Borders Organization for Development
YOUTH AID-LIBERIA (YAL)