23 September 2026

Revitalizing the United Nations: A Call to Member States

Excellencies,

On the occasion of world leaders' gathering in New York for the opening of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly and having just celebrated the International Day of Peace, 21 September, we respectfully urge Member States to act together to restore confidence in the United Nations as the indispensable instrument for peace, cooperation, human rights, and protection of the global commons. In our view, the following steps need to be taken, within the framework of international law, and with full and equal participation of women:

1. *First,* Member States need to recommit to the Charter's central purpose: preventing war, and support stronger preventive diplomacy, early warning, mediation, and protection of civilians in today's gravest conflict theatres, including Sudan, Ukraine/Russia, Palestine/Israel and Iran/wider region, Myanmar, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
2. *Second,* they need to reduce Security Council paralysis by exercising restraint in the use of the veto, referring blocked crises more systematically to the General Assembly, pursuing fairer regional representation, and preparing serious consideration of a Charter review conference under Article 109.
3. *Third,* Member States need to pay assessed contributions fully and on time, and to give the UN a broader, more predictable financial base to fulfil its mandates and support global public goods. This should include innovative revenue options, fuller contributions from states with growing capacity, and transparent public reporting on budgets, outcomes, impactful progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and independent evaluations.
4. *Fourth,* they need to strengthen protection for people most at risk from war, trafficking, displacement, and discrimination, with particular attention to women, children, minorities, and affected communities with long-term education and recovery pathways which guarantee reconstruction in fragile and conflict-affected regions.
5. *Fifth,* Member States need to open the UN more fully to citizens and civil society through structured consultation channels and serious debate on democratic innovations, including a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly.
6. *Sixth,* Member States need to fully implement the UN Convention Against Corruption, move beyond reliance on voluntary compacts to ethical and stewardship principles in the corporate/private sector, and initiate a process towards a global regulatory framework with binding obligations on corporations and an adequate international enforcement regime.
7. *Finally,* Member States need to advance common binding legal rules for artificial intelligence, digital sovereignty, and protection of the global commons, including the high seas, deep seabed, outer space, the biosphere, and the digital sphere.

We encourage Member State Governments and Permanent Missions in New York to champion these priorities in intergovernmental negotiations and to build the coalitions needed for a United Nations that is more effective, representative, transparent, and faithful to its founding promise: saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

Yours sincerely,

(List of signatories follows)

	Family Name	Given Name(s)	former UN System position(s)
1	ACCASCINA	Gabriel	Director, UNDP Knowledge Management Group
2	ALMEIDA	Maria Dulce Silva	Programme Specialist, UNESCO; Deputy Director, UNESCO's Office in Brasilia
3	AMMITZBØLL	Katarina	Assistant Country Director, UNDP
4	ANGELO	Jose Victor	UN Under-Secretary-General / SRSG
5	APPEL	Charles Francis	DPI, UN Secretariat
6	ASKWITH	Thomas Michael Noad	UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative, DHA Representative
7	BAUMANN	Renato	UN/ECLAC Representative in Brazil
8	BETTELLI	Paola	Senior Economics Affairs Officer, Regional Commissions, UNDESA
9	BREINES	Ingeborg	Director, Women and a Culture of Peace, UNESCO
10	BROWNE	Stephen F	Deputy Executive Director, ITC and UN Resident Coordinator
11	BRUDON	Pascale	WHO Representative in Vietnam
12	BURLEY	John	Director, UNCTAD
13	CERNI	Horst Max	Senior Public Affairs Officer, UNICEF
14	CHATTERJEE	Siddharth	UN Resident Coordinator
15	CHATURVEDI	Suvira	Head, UNIFEM Kosovo; Chief Technical Adviser, UNDP
16	CONRADO VEIGA	Silene Maria	Programme Associate, UNICEF
17	CORCUERA	Raquel Angela Paviotti	Scientist, IAEA
18	CROTTI	Egidio	UNICEF Representative
19	CUNHA	Célio	Education Advisor and Editorial Programme Coordinator, UNESCO Brazil
20	DAHL	Arthur Lyon	Deputy Assistant Executive Director, UNEP, and Coordinator, UN System-wide Earthwatch
21	DE SILVA	Venetia Rohini	Deputy Director, Human Resources, UNICEF
22	DOKEN	Yasumitsu	UNDP staff member
23	DRAGOVIC - O'DONNELL	Vera	Communications Officer/Interagency Coordination Officer, UN Resident Coordinator Office & UNHCR
24	EL SHISHINY	Naila Mahmoud	UNHCR and DPKO staff
25	ELIA	Samar	Political Affairs Officer/Liaison Officer, Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region (OSESG-GL)
26	ERTUR	Omer S.	UN Resident Coordinator
27	EVANGELISTA	Douglas	Section Chief UNDP/UNV
28	FABRE	Jean Philippe	Deputy Director, UNDP Office in Geneva
29	FLORES	Gilberto	Executive Director a.i., UNOPS; Deputy Regional Director, UNDP
30	FRANÇAIS	Patrice-Ariel	UN Resident Coordinator
31	FUJITA	Maria Ligaya Tolentino Abeleda	Programme Coordinator, UNDP Brazil
32	GARDNER	Douglas	UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative
33	GATAN	Lydia Debbie	Personal Assistant to the CTED Director, UN Secretariat
34	GERCHEVA	Dafina Ilieva	UN Resident Coordinator; Deputy Assistant Administrator, UNDP
35	GLOVINSKY	Steve	Special Adviser to the Executive Secretary, UNECA; Policy Support Coordinator, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP
36	GORLICK	Brian	UNHCR and UN Secretariat Senior Officer
37	GOTTLIEB	Teresa Isabel	Translator at UNHQ, ECLAC and UNOG
38	GULUMA	Esther	Regional Director, UNICEF
39	GURURAJA	Sreelakshmi	Representative & Senior Adviser, UNICEF
40	HAIGHT	Boyd	Director of Strategy, Planning and Budget, FAO
41	HASEGAWA	Sukehiro	Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Timor-Leste

42	HEYN	Michael	UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative; UN Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief
43	HUPIN	André	FAO Representative, Morocco
44	JEFFERSON	Alfredo	UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative
45	JONES	Terence David	UN Resident Coordinator; Director, Bureau of Development Policy, UNDP
46	KANNO	Koto	UNESCO Representative to Nepal
47	KARLSSON	Mats	Vice President, External and UN Affairs, World Bank; Vice Chair, High-Level Committee on Programmes, CEB
48	KERSCHER	Thomas	Team Leader for Good Governance, UNDP
49	KINLEY	Richard	Deputy Executive Secretary, UNFCCC
50	KOEHLER	Gabriele	Resident Coordinator; Regional Advisor, UNICEF
51	KOLLIES	Ute Kollies	Head of Office, OCHA
52	KOSTAKOS	Georgios	Senior Programme Officer, Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General
53	KRONFOL	Fouad	Director of Personnel, UNICEF
54	LANDON	Fatiha	Technical Officer, WHO
55	LAURIJSSEN	Eduard	Director, ILO Brussels Office
56	LAWRENCE	Moira Anne Hoyos	Programme Assistant, UNDP Brazil
57	LEITNER	Kerstin	UN Resident Coordinator; Assistant Director-General, WHO
58	LISOVICH	Bogdan Vladimirovich	UNDP Deputy Resident Representative; Regional Director, ODCP
59	LUBRANI	Osnat	UN Resident Cordinator
60	LYONS	Frederick	UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative
61	MANUKYAN	Garegin	Senior Governance/Public Administration Officer, UNDESA
62	MAZZOLI	Marcelo Roberto Garcia	Education Chief, UNICEF México and Brazil
63	MOLLER	Michael	Under-Secretary-General, UN Secretariat
64	MUSSI	Carlos Henrique Fialho	Brasília Office Director, ECLAC
65	NILAND	Norah	Director, Human Rights, UNAMA
66	NORINDR	Somsey	UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative
67	O'DONNELL	Francis Martin	UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative; Principal Advisor, Systemic Governance, UNDP
68	PALMIERI	Guido Dante	Head/CMO UNMOGIP
69	PEREZ	Antonio Garcia	Chief, Policy Assistance Service, FAO
70	PERISIC	Miroslava Mima	OCHA and UNICEF staff
71	PILLAY	Rajeev	Senior Adviser, Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General
72	RICUPERO	Rubens	Secretary General, UNCTAD
73	ROSE	Tore	UN Resident Coordinator
74	ROSENBLUM - KUMAR	Gay	Executive Secretary, UN Framework Team on Preventive Action
75	RUSSELL	Andrew	UN Resident Coordinator
76	RYAN	Jordan Dimock	Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP; DSRSG UNMIL
77	SANDERS, JR.	Norman Delane	UNDP Chief Information Officer and UNOPS Chief Information Officer
78	SANDHU-ROJON	Ruby	DSRSG, UNOWAS; Deputy Director, UNDP
79	SEROUR	Fatiha	UN Assistant Secretary-General / DSRSG
80	SIERRA	Enrique	Senior Adviser, ITC
81	SLUTKIN	Gary	Deputy Director of National Programme Support and Chief Intervention Development, WHO Global Programme on AIDS
82	SUAREZ JIMENEZ	Julio Manuel	PAHO/WHO official
83	SUTTON	Tim	UNICEF Representative

84	SWALES	D M.	Regional Advisor, EAPRO/UNICEF
85	SWIETERING	Johannes Wilhelmus	UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative
86	TAMAGNINI	Andrea	UNDP & UNDPKO / UNMIL Director
87	TIMPSON	Sarah Livingston	UN Resident Coordinator
88	TOLMIE	Ellen	Senior Photography Editor, UNICEF
89	TORTORA	Manuela	Chief, Technical Cooperation, UNCTAD
90	VAN AGGELEN	Johannes Gerrit	Senior staff member, OHCHR
91	VAN DER SCHOOT	Esther	Translation Manager, UNDP
92	ZHAGORA	Vladimir Adam	Mediation Coordinator, DPPA, UN Secretariat