

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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India's Approach to the 75th session of the UNGA

1. The 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 75) will open on 15 Sep 2020 and end mid-Sep 2021. Since its 44th session (1989–90), the General Assembly has been formally regarded as being “**in session**” for the entire year. There are two distinct parts of a session:
 - i. The time from mid-September to the Christmas break in December is called the “main part of the session” – *includes the general debate and bulk of the work of the Main Committees.*
 - ii. The period from January to September is called the “resumed part of the session” – *thematic debates, President of the General Assembly-led consultation processes, and working group meetings take place during that period.*
2. The President of the 75th session of the General Assembly was elected on 17 June 2020 from the Western European and Others Group (WEOG), in strict compliance of the established principle of geographical rotation and **General Assembly resolution 33/138 of 19 December 1978**. Turkey had announced its candidacy in 2014 from the WEOG and Ambassador Bozkır was officially nominated for the position on 12th Sept 2019. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan formally declared Ambassador Bozkır's candidacy in his address to the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 17, 2019. Ambassador Volkan Bozkır was elected the PGA of the 75th session of the GA. In a secret ballot vote, Bozkır, who was unopposed for the post, received 178 ballots in support as 11 nations abstained. Bozkır's election marks the first time a Turkish citizen has ever held the post of PGA.
3. Ambassador Bozkır joined the Turkish foreign service in 1972. He has held several positions during his 39-year diplomatic career, including that of Turkey's Ambassador in Bucharest, and Permanent Representative of Turkey to the EU. He served as the Foreign Policy Advisor to Prime Minister Turgut Özal; Chief of Cabinet and Chief Foreign Policy Advisor to President Turgut Özal and President Süleyman Demirel; Deputy Secretary General for EU Affairs; Deputy Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for EU Affairs; and Secretary General for EU Affairs. Ambassador Bozkır speaks fluent English and French.
4. Ambassador Bozkır was elected as Member of Parliament first in 2011 and then, in the following three parliamentary elections. During his nine years as Member of Parliament, he served as the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman of Turkey-USA Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Caucus and Co-Chairman of Turkish-Russian Civic Forum. He was appointed as the Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator in August 2014 and remained in the office until June 2016. In July 2018, he was elected for the fourth time as the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. He also chairs the Turkey-Australia Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group.

5. The PGA-elect has chosen, ***“The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism – confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral action”*** as the theme for the 75th UNGA General Debate. PGA-elect has also announced the following four priorities in his vision statement.
 - i. Promote multilateralism and the rules-based international system.
 - ii. Advance the UN collective agenda for humanity with particular attention to vulnerable groups, people in need and people under oppression.
 - iii. Strengthen global partnership and promote access to technology for the achievement of SDGs particularly in countries in special situations.
 - iv. Improving the living standards and the rights of women, ensuring their full and equal participation in all spheres of life and strengthening their status within society.

6. The 75th session will witness added focus on strengthening global action to tackle climate change particularly in the COVID-19 context, which is integral to the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Efforts will be targeted at promoting partnerships for advancing the achievement of the SDGs as we enter the Decade of Action. The incoming PGA proposes to utilize the 5th United Nations Conference of the Least Developed Countries to be held in Doha from 21-25 March 2021, for strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve SDGs. Accentuating inclusion, poverty eradication, promotion of human rights and the empowerment of women and youth will receive special attention. In the area of international peace and security, conflict prevention will receive greater attention. In addition to these issues, the incoming President has sought to focus on impartial and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance and full respect for international humanitarian law in conflicts and crises.

Events during the High-Level Week

7. The 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 75) will open on Tue, 15 September 2020. Other mandated events scheduled during the High-Level week include:
 - i. **Mon, 21 Sept 2020**: High-level meeting of the Assembly to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations on the theme, *“The Future We Want; the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism”*. A declaration (already negotiated) will be formally adopted at the meeting.
 - ii. **Tue, 22nd Sept 2020**: First day of the General Debate of the 75th session of the General Assembly. The debate will conclude on 29th Sept 2020.
 - iii. **Wed, 30th Sept 2020**: The 1st Summit on Biodiversity will be convened pursuant to resolution 74/269 of 31 March 2020.

- iv. **Thu, 1st Oct 2020**: The High-level meeting on the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women to be convened pursuant to resolution 73/340 of 12 September 2019.
 - v. **Fri, 2nd Oct 2020**: A High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons to be convened pursuant to resolution 74/54 of 12 December 2019
8. On 22nd September, the President of the 75th UNGA session would deliver the opening statement in the UNGA Hall, and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres would present his Annual Report on the work of the Organization. Heads of State and Government or Ministers would address the General Debate via **pre-recorded video statements** played on screens in the UNGA Hall.

Priority Issues for India during 75th session of UNGA:

9. During the 75th session, India will engage on a wide range of issues ranging from economic relations, human rights, social and cultural issues, legal matters, to budgetary issues. India has continued to project its longstanding and growing credentials as a South-South development partner, especially in the context of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, Financing for Development and also its commitment to the idea of global partnership under SDG 17 including on climate change (founding of the International Solar Alliance and co-leading the Industry Transition Track of the Secretary General's Climate Action Summit). Placed below is a list of priority issues for India:
- i. Maintain India's active engagement on issues relating to sustainable development and climate change.
 - ii. Utilize the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women to showcase India's commitments and achievements in women led development particularly women's leadership and political participation at the grassroots level, prevention of sexual harassment and violence against women, providing access to clean cooking fuel, sanitation and health coverage including maternal and child health etc.
 - iii. Promote Indian positions and arguments in the consultations and subsequent inter-governmental negotiations on Universal Health Coverage.
 - iv. Strengthen engagement with fellow developing countries, especially LLDCs, LDCs and SIDS through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and IBSA Fund in the spirit of South-South cooperation.
 - v. Bring India's perspective to the debates relating to human rights including the right to development and will continue to highlight India's achievements in realizing the rights of different groups including women, children, minorities, and persons with disabilities.
 - vi. Attach greater prominence to issues relating to counter-terrorism; pushing for more transparency in the process of listing and delisting of entities and individuals in sanction committees.

- vii. Engage substantively as a Troop Contributing Country in finalizing of mandates for UN peacekeeping missions. Raising the issue of pending arrears of closed peacekeeping missions and other claims.
- viii. Take forward India's pragmatic and constructive approach on disarmament issues at the First Committee and UN Disarmament Commission and engage with all partners on issues related to space, small arms and light weapons, etc.
- ix. Continue to pursue the issue of reform of the Security Council for a meaningful outcome in the 75th session.
- x. Continue our efforts to further increase the visibility and footprint of the use of Hindi@UN project.

Approach to issues during the 75th session of the UNGA

Socio-Economic Issues

10. 2020 marks the 25th year of the **Fourth World Conference on Women** (held in September 1995 in Beijing) which adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which remains the most comprehensive global blueprint for gender equality and empowerment of women. A High-Level Meeting of the UNGA commemorating this landmark is to be held on October 1, 2020. This is a commemorative event and no outcome document is to be adopted.
11. In September 2017 the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/71/321 entitled **'Enhancing the Participation of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives and Institutions in Meetings of Relevant United Nations Bodies on Issues Affecting Them'**. This resolution is a result of a process that stemmed from an understanding reached during the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014 to consider increasing participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations.
12. The discussion at the 71st session on this issue remained practically inconclusive. It was decided to continue consideration of possible further measures necessary to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them at its seventy-fifth session. India supports of the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. We supported the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples in 2007. However, there is no internationally agreed 'definition' or 'criteria of identification' of 'indigenous peoples'. The concept of indigenous peoples relates to the specific situations where people suffered from historic injustices as a result of their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources. This concept cannot be expanded arbitrarily to include situations where diverse ethnic groups have lived together for thousand years and to create artificial divides.

13. Because of this lack of clarity about the definition of indigenous peoples, today there are three different understandings among Member States with regard to the concept of indigenous peoples:
 - i. There is one group of countries that identifies certain sections of their populations as indigenous as distinct from the other sections of non-indigenous peoples;
 - ii. Another group that identifies their entire population as indigenous; and
 - iii. A third group that rejects that they have any indigenous population groups.
14. To our understanding the issue of indigenous peoples' rights pertains to peoples in independent countries who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, or a geographical region to which the country belongs, at the time of conquest or colonization or the establishment of present State boundaries and who, irrespective of their legal status, retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions. This is precisely the definition used in ILO Convention No. 169 of 1989. Consistent with this definition, we regard the entire population of India at the time of our independence, and their successors, to be indigenous.
15. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Nordic countries, countries from Latin America and the US support recognition of Indigenous Peoples as a separate category for participation at the UN. While India, China, Russia, Indonesia, Vietnam do not support such expansion. EU favors treating them equivalent to Civil Society Organizations and to regulate their participation accordingly. The discussion in the 75th session is expected to be highly divisive.
16. **COVID-19 Resolutions:** In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic there were a series of resolutions that were tabled during the 74th session of the UNGA. Of these two resolutions have been adopted by consensus. Two resolutions piloted by Russia and Saudi Arabia respectively could not find consensus. Efforts of Spain and Egypt to table two separate resolutions in the GA on the intersection between gender and COVID-19 became controversial and both initiatives had to be shelved. Currently discussion on an omnibus resolution on the impact of COVID-19 is still ongoing. There are several issues in the resolution on which there is no consensus including linkages between gender and COVID-19, climate change, impact on countries under sanction, role of WHO to list a few. Discussions on COVID-19 related issues are expected to remain divisive during the 75th UNGA as well.
17. **Global Health and Foreign Policy:** Some of the COVID-19 related discussions may take place under this agenda item, in addition to the consideration of the annual resolution on Global Health and Foreign Policy.
18. **Human Rights Treaty Body System Review:** As provided in the General Assembly resolution 68/268, a process of review of the human rights treaty body system is currently underway. The process is expected to culminate with the submission of a report by the co-facilitators - the PRs of Morocco and Switzerland on

the implementation and effectiveness of the provisions of the resolution 68/ 268 based on their consultations with Member States as well as other stakeholders such as Chairs of the Treaty Bodies, OHCHR and civil society. There is a possibility that further discussions on this will continue in the 75th session based on the report that the co-facilitators submit this year.

19. **Road Safety:** Russian bi-annual resolution on road safety (agreed but yet to be adopted) envisages a UN high level meeting on road safety to be held no later than end of 2022 and the modalities for this meeting will be decided through a resolution at the 75th UNGA.

20. **ECOSOC Commissions:** The dates of the commissions and subsidiary bodies under ECOSOC are still uncertain due to COVID-19 pandemic. Following sessions are expected to be held in the first half of 2021:

- i. 59th Commission on Social Development – Priority theme: “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all”. Given India’s success with deploying digital technologies for upliftment of the poorer and disadvantaged sections of the society, it will be an opportunity to showcase our achievements and shape the normative discussions.
- ii. 65th Commission on Status of Women – Priority theme: “Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”. In India, women have been playing a pivotal role especially through EWRs at the grassroots level. In PM’s own words we have moved to a women-led development. This discussion will be useful to reflect our own experience and best practices into normative discussion.
- iii. 54th Commission on Population and Development – Priority Theme: “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”. Discussion on this did not take place this year due to COVID-19. It will be taken up next year.
- iv. The Thirteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) will be held this year in December.
- v. The annual session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing was cancelled this year due to COVID-19 and will be held next year.
- vi. The resumed session of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs will be held early next year. Before that there will be decision submitted at the ECOSOC to extend the duration (currently it is 10 working days) of the regular session of the Committee by at least one week to make-up for the Resumed Session of 2020 which was cancelled due to COVID-19.

21. In September 2015, with the adoption of the UN’s Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, world leaders unanimously agreed that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. The

underlying principle of India's flagship development programmes has been articulated by Prime Minister Modi as '**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas**' (through everyone's support, for everyone's development and towards everyone's trust). **This slogan mirrors the essence of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of leaving no one behind.**

22. India's flagship programmes of the Government of India such as Poshan Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission), Ayushman Bharat (National Health Protection Scheme), Swachh Bharat (Clean India), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Care for the Girl Child), Kaushal Vikas Yojana (Skill Development), Ujjwala Yojana (Clean Cooking Fuel initiative), Rural Electrification program, and Smart Cities Mission, just to name a few, directly address the challenges highlighted by the SDGs.
23. While the SDGs are global, their achievement will depend on the ability to make them a reality in constituent States, cities, districts and villages of India. India's success in adopting, implementing, and monitoring SDGs stands testimony to the principle of cooperative federalism as envisioned by the Government of India. The localisation of SDGs has been ascribed utmost importance, as the States and Union Territories (UTs) are the actual implementors of the country's ambitious development agenda. While NITI Aayog (India's national Think Tank) sets the high-level framework and monitors progress at national and sub-national levels, the implementation of the SDG agenda is rigorously pursued by the States and UTs. India has strongly committed itself to achieve the 17 SDGs. India's successful presentation of the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the July 2020 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is a testimony to this fact.
24. While the regional to national nexus is the core of India's SDG efforts, India has also nurtured partnerships at the global level to ensure a comprehensive approach. The founding of the International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, are illustrative of India's leadership in the global arena towards a sustainable future. India is also at the forefront in the call for joint global action to address the COVID-19 pandemic. India has extended medical-related assistance to more than 120 developed and developing countries, has operationalized the SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund with an initial contribution of US\$10 million and has pledged US\$ **15-million** as **India's** contribution to **GAVI** – The Global Vaccines Alliance at the Global Vaccine Summit hosted by UK in June 2020.
25. The **2021 HLPF** will be held from 6-15 July, 2021 with the theme "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development". The HLPF will review SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17 and the impact of COVID-19 pandemic across all the SDGs. The 75th Session will also conduct a review of HLPF and ECOSOC. India will continue to constructively engage in the HLPF process.

26. The 2019 SDG Summit launched the “**Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development**”. Year 2020 will usher in the Decade of Action and on 18 Sep 2020 the first annual **SDG Moment** will be organized at the level of HOS/HOG with the aim to provide political momentum to achieve the SDGs. COVID-19 is threatening the progress made over the years towards the achievement of the SDGs and implementing the 2030 Agenda. We need to pursue a transformative recovery from COVID-19, one that addresses the crisis, reduces risks from future potential crises and continues the implementation efforts to deliver the 2030 Agenda and SDGs during the Decade of Action. India will continue to make efforts to have a resilient and sustainable recovery from the pandemic and will continue to priorities it at the 75th session at the various meeting/events and processes of the UN system.
27. **Eradication of Poverty**: The overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda is to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions. One of the long-term effects of COVID-19 will be that millions of people will be pushed into extreme poverty. In India we are implementing a comprehensive development strategy to end poverty in all its forms, through accelerated economic growth and broader social safety nets. India is one of the founding members of the **Alliance for Poverty Eradication** launched at the 74th session. We will continue to focus on poverty eradication at the 75th session.
28. **2020 Biodiversity Summit**: The Summit will be organized virtually on 30 September, 2020 at the level of Heads of State and Government with the theme “Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development”. This will be the first Summit on Biodiversity. Taking place on the margins of the opening of the UNGA, the Summit will seek to provide political direction and momentum to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and places the global community on a path towards realizing the “2050 Vision for Biodiversity”.
29. India is one of the 10 mega-biodiverse countries in the world, we have only 2.4% of the earth’s land area but hosts around 8% of the world’s biodiversity. For ages, conservation of wildlife and habitats has been part of our cultural ethos, which encourages compassion and co-existence. Protecting our nature is very important especially in the present context of COVID-19 as it shields us from various catastrophe including zoonotic diseases. India aims to restore 26 million hectares of degraded and deforested land and achieve land-degradation neutrality by 2030. We have taken leadership role in order to conserve biodiversity, the CoP 13 of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals was held in Gandhinagar, India, from 15 to 22 February 2020. We also organized the COP-14 of UNCCD from 2-13 September, 2019 in New Delhi, which saw adoption of an ambitious Delhi declaration. India will be participating in the Summit and will continue to put conservation of nature as our primary focus at the 75th session in order to meet the SDGs and realize the Vision of “Living in harmony with nature”.
30. **High-level Dialogue on Energy**: The UNGA through resolution 74/225, invited the Secretary-General, with the support of the relevant United Nations system entities,

to convene a high-level dialogue in 2021 to promote the implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in support of the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014–2024). The High-level Dialogue on Energy in 2021 will be the first global gathering on energy under the auspices of the General Assembly since the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held in Nairobi in 1981. It will present an opportunity to provide transformational action in the first years of the SDG Decade of Action and support the implementation of the Paris Agreement. India remains committed to the achievement of SDG 7. Some of the activities envisaged as part of the High-level dialogue include:

- i. *Energy Compacts and tracking*: Agree on data-driven and ambitious publicly trackable commitments with leading countries, companies and organizations committed to achieving SDG7.
- ii. *SDG7 Coalition and Annual Leadership Meeting*: The Coalition will comprise champions from governments, international organisations, business and civil society, and will spearhead the energy narrative, drive commitment and advocate for strong ambition. The Annual Leadership Meeting will ensure public dialogue, commitment mobilisation and results monitoring and release its annual flagship tracking mechanism. These activities will sustain momentum to 2030.
- iii. *Representing and supporting the UN*: Magnify the leadership role of the SRSG to expand global advocacy for SDG7 while advising the SG and DSG and representing the UN system.

31. Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, the SGs Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) will support the convening of the UN General Assembly's 2021 High-Level Dialogue on Energy that will launch the Energy Compacts and lead to the establishment of the SDG7 Coalition and Annual Leadership Meeting. The expected outcomes of the High-level dialogue on Energy include:

- i. An impactful 2021 High-Level Dialogue on Energy attended by heads of state/heads of government.
- ii. Ambitious multi-stakeholder Energy Compacts signed by key influencer countries across energy access and transition.
- iii. Establish SDG7 Coalition and institute an Annual Leadership Meeting.
- iv. UN action on energy by supporting the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General

32. At last year's **Climate Action Summit**, India along with Sweden co-led the Industry Transition Track launched. In cooperation with the World Economic Forum, the **Industry Transition work-stream** is focusing on the creation of an ecosystem for industrial transformation building on industry commitments, public-private collaboration and innovation, to promote emission reductions from heavy industry and transport. A number of events are being planned during the 75th session as a follow-up to the Summit. During these events, the Industry Transition Coalition will present initiatives and announcements contributing to global heavy industry

transformation with the aim of progressing towards low-carbon pathways, aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

33. **Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR)**: The QCPR is the mechanism through which the General Assembly assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of UN operational activities for development and establishes system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the UN system in response to the evolving international development and cooperation environment. The QCPR is the primary policy instrument of the General Assembly to define the way the UN development system operates to support programme countries in their development efforts. The QCPR is adopted every four years in the General Assembly. The most recent review took place in 2016, culminating in General Assembly resolution 71/243, which guides the UN development system's support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and further builds on the 2012 QCPR mandates towards an effective, efficient and coordinated system.
34. In the spring of 2018, the General Assembly adopted a historic resolution on the repositioning of the UN development system (GA resolution 72/279). Rooted in the 2030 Agenda, this resolution originated from the calls of Member States in the 2016 QCPR for a more strategic, accountable, effective and efficient UN development system. It delivers the mandates for a new generation of UN Country Teams, an impartial and empowered Resident Coordinator system, and a two-step approach to reposition the regional level, and welcomes a Funding Compact. The UN Secretary-General leads the preparation for the QCPR resolution, with his report on its implementation, and a body of analytical work as background information in support of Member States' deliberations. Starting in 2019, the Secretary-General's annual review of the implementation of the QCPR includes a review of the mandates contained in the resolution on the repositioning of the UN development system.
35. In the Fall of 2020, negotiations on the 2020 QCPR resolution will take place and a new resolution will be considered by the General Assembly. The QCPR process was envisioned as a shared responsibility of the GA & ECOSOC, with ECOSOC conducting the informed review and the GA issuing the respective resolution to evaluate UN effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact and guide the system in supporting developing countries in implementing the 2030 sustainable development agenda. The implementation of the QCPR is reviewed annually through the ECOSOC segment on Operational Activities for Development. India will take part in this important review process.
36. **Food Systems Summit**: In 2021, the UN Secretary-General will convene a Food Systems Summit with the aim of maximizing the co-benefits of a food systems approach across the entire 2030 Agenda and meeting the challenges of climate change. Agnes Kalibata of Rwanda has been appointed as the Secretary General's Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. The Summit aims to provide a platform for ambitious new actions, innovative solutions, and plans to transform food

systems and leverage these shifts to deliver progress across all of the SDGs. It is envisioned that the Summit will have objectives and outcomes including to:

- i. Raise awareness of food systems' centrality to the entire sustainable development agenda, and the urgency of transforming food systems, particularly in the wake of a global pandemic;
- ii. Align stakeholders around a common understanding and narrative of a food system framework as a foundation for concerted action, making food and food systems a more widespread issue for advocacy and action to achieve the 2030 Agenda;
- iii. Recognize the need for inclusivity and innovation in food systems governance and action;
- iv. Motivate and empower stakeholders who support food systems transformation through the development of improved tools, measurement, and analysis; and
- v. Catalyze, accelerate, and enlarge bold action for the transformation of food systems by all communities, including countries, cities, companies, civil society, citizens, and food producers.

37. By delivering on these objectives, the 2021 Food Systems Summit provides an opportunity for us to review our choices and be bold on the outcomes we seek throughout the Decade of Action, and put the world on a new trajectory within a generation. As one of the leading producers of milk, fruits, vegetables and pulses, India will engage in the process leading up to the Food Systems Summit with the objective of making food easily available and affordable, developing resilient food systems, improving health and nutrition, reducing poverty, improving ecosystem services and social inclusion. We also look forward to 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

38. Financing for Development: The **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** (2015) provides a global framework for financing sustainable development, which supports implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs. The Agenda aligns domestic and international resource flows, policies and international agreements with economic, social and environmental priorities. The annual ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FfD Forum) is an intergovernmental process mandated to discuss the follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The inter-governmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the FfD Forum also feed into the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

39. Over the years, India has urged the UN to play a more central and effective role in pursuing a more **equitable international order** and an economic environment conducive to rapid economic growth and development in developing countries. We need to ensure **predictable flows of investment and resources** to support countries in pursuing their developmental priorities. Our aim should be to move from “financing for development” and to achieve a stage where developing countries can **themselves generate the resources** they need. Innovative solutions are required

to bridge the funding gap faced by developing countries in areas of health, education, roads, electricity, water and sanitation. This includes **blended finance** options to **unlock private capital** for developmental programs, and greater participation of the private sector and civil society in funding development needs.

40. The COVID-19 pandemic has put public health systems under stress and caused millions around the world to lose their livelihoods. As a result of the pandemic, the world's GDP, FDI and remittances are estimated to drop in 2020 by 4.9 per cent, 40 per cent, and 20 per cent, respectively. Many developing countries are facing the dual challenges of financing the response to the pandemic and avoiding a major debt crisis. To articulate a large-scale, coordinated and comprehensive multilateral response, the UN Secretary-General launched the **Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond initiative** in May 2020. Since then, **six discussion groups** composed of UN Member States and various international institutions have been launched to address the following topics: (i) external finance and remittances, jobs and inclusive growth; (ii) recovering better for sustainability; (iii) Global liquidity and financial stability; (iv) debt vulnerability; (v) private sector creditors engagement; and (vi) illicit financial flows.
41. India is participating actively in these discussions, and has nominated experts from Ministry of Finance to Discussion Group Nos. (i) and (iii). The result of these consultations will be a comprehensive **menu of policy options** addressing all six topics for the short, medium and long term, which reflects the needs and views of Member States and stakeholders. A meeting of Finance Ministers will be convened by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and the Finance Ministers of Canada and Jamaica on September 8, 2020, to discuss this matrix of policy options that results from the deliberations of the Discussion Groups.

Peacekeeping:

42. UN peacekeeping is a unique global partnership. It brings together the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop and police contributors, host governments and the international and sub-regional organizations in a combined effort to maintain international peace and security. Peacekeeping has unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates.
43. UN peacekeepers provide security and the political and peacebuilding support to help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace. Today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law. There are currently 13 UN peacekeeping operations deployed on four continents.

44. Commencing with its participation in the UN operation in Korea in 1950, **India has a long and distinguished history of service in UN peacekeeping**, having contributed more personnel than any other country, as well as the first-ever all-female formed police unit that helped to bring peace to Liberia in the wake of that country's brutal civil war. India has provided over 2,51,000 military and police officers to UN Peacekeeping over the last 70 years. From protecting civilians, disarming ex-combatants and helping countries transition from conflict to peace, Indian men and women in uniform have served the cause of peace from the earliest years of United Nations peacekeeping and continue to do so in some of the most challenging missions.
45. Indians have served in 49 of the 71 peacekeeping missions established around the world since 1948. **Currently, there are around 5,500 uniformed peacekeepers from India**; the vast majority of them in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in South Sudan. **India has also provided 17 Force Commanders to various missions** and was the first country to contribute to the Trust Fund on sexual exploitation and abuse, which was set up in 2016. India's longstanding service has not come without cost; as of date, over 174 Indian peacekeepers have paid the ultimate price while serving with the United Nations. **India has lost more peacekeepers than any other Member State.**
46. **The overall UN peacekeeping numbers however are going down.** This process started in 2015 and has accelerated from 2017 onwards. This is in part due to pressure from the US and other member states to reduce the scope of UN activities and budgets. The recent downtrend in UN peacekeeping is clearly reflected in annual peacekeeping budget expenditures over the last few years, with declining spending in absolute terms and per capita on military and police personnel, civilian personnel, and operational costs across all DPO-led peacekeeping operations.
47. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations or **C-34 this year had expressed concern** to the UN Secretariat on the **lack of progress in the development of Integrated Performance Policy Framework (IPPF)** to assess performance of all stakeholders involved in peacekeeping. India has been pursuing for need of adequate accountability measures to be incorporated for UNHQ components and civilian components in the Mission. At present there is an objective assessment criterion available for uniformed components but no such objective tools are available to assess political accountability. India will continue to engage with the Secretariat to finalize the IPPF.
48. Peacekeeping faces several challenges such as protracted conflicts, elusive political solutions, increasingly dangerous environments, rising peacekeeping fatalities, and broad and complex mandates. To respond to these challenges, the Secretary-General launched **Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)** to refocus peacekeeping with more targeted mandates, make our operations stronger and safer, mobilize support for political solutions and better equipped and trained forces. To pursue A4P

implementation, the Secretariat had last year launched the **A4P Champions concept** wherein Member States have been requested to pursue one or more of the gaps in the implementation **by provision of political, material or financial support**. **India has expressed interest** to follow up on “**Performance & Accountability**” and “**Conduct of Peacekeepers & Peacekeeping Operations**” as related to A4P Champions.

49. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN conducted a **reprioritization exercise of Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)** for a period of six months, beginning **May to October 2020**. Collectively working to strengthen the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and carrying out mandated activities as well as responding with agility to emergencies remains critical in the UN response to the pandemic. It takes into account the Secretariat’s emergency response to the pandemic, particularly in support of peacekeeping operations, but also for maintaining the momentum of A4P. These include continuing support to the Secretary-General’s call for a global ceasefire as well as completing an impact assessment of the “**Action Plan on Improving the Security of United Nations Peacekeepers,**” the procedure for caveats and the Peacekeeping Performance and Accountability Framework among others.
50. The Office of Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership (OPSP) has already completed a strategic review of most of the High-Risk Missions. The **Action Plan Safety & Security of Peacekeepers** includes a number of measures, such as the missions to support national authorities in prosecutions for attacks against peacekeepers, or re-examinations of missions’ deployment footprint with regard to priority locations, threat assessments, mission support and medical considerations as well as operational capacities. This year the Secretariat will continue its focus on key areas of training, improving performance of peacekeepers, ensuring availability of proper medical facilities and adequate logistic infrastructure in mission area, etc.
51. The UN Secretariat will continue to focus on activities related to the implementation of SG’s zero-tolerance policy on **Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)**. A key commitment of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative is to strengthen the conduct of peacekeeping personnel. In this context, UN is planning a high-level meeting with members of the **SG’s Circle of Leadership** (Prime Minister is a member) at the end of 2020 or early 2021 focused on exchanging good practices and lessons learned related to all types of misconduct. In anticipation of this high-level meeting, the Secretariat will be communicating with Member States, to inform of the meeting and distribute a survey to identify best practices on the prevention of misconduct, accountability and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. There will also be a technical forum discussing support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse with a focus on paternity and child support claims will be held.
52. The next **UN Defence Peacekeeping Ministerial** is scheduled to be held in the **Republic of Korea** in **April 2021**. It may be recalled that the 2019 UN Peacekeeping Ministerial on Uniformed Capabilities, Performance and Protection

was held in New York on 29 March 2019. More than 130 Member States and intergovernmental organizations had gathered at the UNHQ to discuss and generate the specialized capabilities necessary for contemporary peacekeeping, with a specific focus on performance, protection of civilians, women, and peace & security through the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative. In the context of the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative, the objective of the 2021 ministerial is "**Strengthen UN peacekeeping by improving the performance and impact of UN peacekeeping operations**", "**Closing capability gaps through concrete pledges, facilitating new partnerships and strengthening existing ones**" and "**Promoting systemic changes that will improve operations**".

53. The Substantive Session of the C-34 is likely held for a duration of four weeks in **Feb-Mar 2021** based on the **revised 'working methods'** and **'program of work'** which were adopted on 24 July 2019.
54. **Biennial Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) Conference** is likely to be held in 2021. The 1st CHOD conference was held in UNHQ in 2015. Indian participation was led by Chief of Army Staff (COAS). The 2nd and 3rd editions held in 2017 and 2019 respectively were led by the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS). The main theme of the 2019 conference was 'Generating Capacities to Meet High Performance Requirements in UN peacekeeping' and focussed on efforts to implement Secretary-General's A4P initiative'.
55. **United Nations Police** has undergone dramatic transformation since the first deployment of UN police to the United Nations Mission in the Congo in 1960. With the advent of complex, multidimensional peacekeeping operations, UNPOL has evolved as a new pillar of UN's peace operations. Today, around 8,800 male and female police officers from 77 countries are deployed in 11 UN peace operations.
56. Following the reviews and summits on the peacekeeping operations in 2014 and 2015, adoption and implementation of Security Council resolution (S/RES/2185) on policing, the UN since 2016 has been organizing **UN Chiefs of Police Summit (UNCOPS)**. During this event, Chiefs of police from member states, other key partners and the senior United Nations representatives deliberate on issues concerning the UN Police in peacekeeping operations including what it takes for UN Police to perform effectively and realize the Secretary-General's vision of "a transformed UN Police that is people-centered, mission-oriented, modern, agile, mobile and flexible, specialized and rights-based". The third **UNCOPS is likely to be held in July 2021 in New York**.

Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace:

57. There is growing recognition of the importance of the concepts of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the UN system, especially since the adoption of identical resolutions in the Security Council and GA in 2016. Since its establishment in 2005,

and especially since the two resolutions in 2016, the Peacebuilding Commission has expanded its role tremendously. Its advisory role to the Security Council has expanded, especially during review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions. According to the UNSG's report, approximately 300 outcome documents from United Nations intergovernmental bodies have integrated "sustaining peace," since 2015, and double the number of Security Council resolutions in 2019 compared to 2015.

58. The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the PBC's financial instrument to support the peacebuilding agenda. The PBF may invest with UN entities, governments, regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds or civil society organizations. From 2006 to 2017, the PBF has allocated USD 772 million to 41 recipient countries. Since inception, 58 member states contributed to the Fund, 33 in the present 2017-2019 Investment Plan. India has contributed USD 5.5 million to the PBF so far.
59. On the peacebuilding agenda, India will continue to stress the need to focus on the long term development dimension both to prevent conflict and undertake effective peacebuilding efforts to achieve lasting peace and security; enlarged funding for peacebuilding with flexibility built in as suited to local needs; support for institution building; the need for optimum coordination with other UN organs, especially the Security Council and most of all the need for genuine political will for a long-term commitment and sustained investment among those who can contribute in this regard.
60. UNSG Guterres has focused on prevention of conflicts and mediation. The 2020 Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture has now been postponed to the 75th UNGA. The review aims to further improve the work of UN on peacebuilding and sustaining peace and would take stock of the work done in the implementation of 2016 resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture and take into account the 2018 Report of the Secretary General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (A/72/707-S/2018/43), his 2019 interim report (A/73/890-S/2019/448) and the report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace due at the 74th session of the General Assembly. Among other things, the UNSG is also expected to reemphasize his request for "predictability in financing" peacebuilding operations with voluntary contributions by every Member State.
61. While COVID-19 has impacted the work of the Peacebuilding Commission as all others, the Peacebuilding Commission presented the main elements that have emerged as a result of its consultations with Member States concerning the review of the peacebuilding architecture. The main recommendations involved areas including: supporting national ownership and leadership; helping in transitions; women's participation; institution building; examining additional financing options in cooperation with host governments and international financial institutions; etc.

Security Council Reform:

62. On 15 September 2008, the General Assembly adopted Decision 62/557 on the “Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters”, which also called for commencement of intergovernmental negotiations (IGN) on Security Council reforms. Decision 62/557 also mentioned that the IGN on Security Council Reform (IGN) should refer to five key issues: categories of membership; the question of the veto; regional representation; size of an enlarged Security Council and working methods of the Council; and the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly. The IGN officially started in early 2009 and has continued since then in informal plenary of the General Assembly.
63. The IGN process during the 74th UNGA session was cut short by the COVID-19 related restrictions on in-person meetings. As a result, only **two IGN meetings** were held in this session. Even though positions of members states and groupings remain largely unchanged, these two IGN meetings generated some positive momentum. There was growing support for the **Common African Position** as stipulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration, as well as more calls for **improved working methods** of the IGN. Following these two meetings, the option of continuing the IGN process through virtual meetings was considered but could not be agreed upon due to concerns regarding interpretation and technical limitations, largely raised by the African Group.
64. On 29 July 2020, the IGN Co-Chairs (PRs of UAE and Poland) issued a letter briefly summarizing the proceedings of the IGN in the 74th session, and proposing a roll-over of the work of the IGN to the 75th session, based on the “Revised Elements of Commonality and Issues for further Consideration” and the “Framework Document” of 2015. The G4’s position is that any roll over decision must clearly mention the growing support to the Common African Position in its text. Consultations are presently underway with the Office of the PGA regarding the text of the roll-over decision, which is to be adopted through a no-objection procedure.
65. In the 74th UNGA session, India worked closely with like-minded countries to ensure that the UN@75 Declaration commits to “instil new life” in the discussions on Security Council reform. Going forward, India will continue to work with all countries that are supportive of early and comprehensive reform of the Security Council. We will work towards ensuring that discussions on Security Council reform in the 75th UNGA session are transparent, focused and result oriented.

ICT and International Security:

66. India seeks to actively engage in the forthcoming discussions related to developments in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the context of international security. The discussions will be held under the aegis of Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security in which all UN

Member States will participate and a 25-member Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security in which an Indian expert is also a Member.

67. The novel character of cyberspace and the vulnerability of cyber infrastructure have led to questions how existing international law will be applicable to State's use of ICTs is important for promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible, interoperable and peaceful ICT environment. India believes that there is a need to study the gaps in the existing international law in their applicability to cyberspace and move towards workable modifications to existing laws and exploring the need for new laws, if required. India will support efforts to explore the possibility of a broader organization or an international body under the ambit of UN, which will primarily act as a guiding body for supporting and enabling the implementation of already agreed norms and to work on future norms and confidence building measures.

High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation:

68. In July 2018, the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation was established by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to strengthen international and multi-stakeholder cooperation and contribute to the public debate on a safe and inclusive digital future for all. It was chaired by philanthropist Melinda Gates and e-business leader Jack Ma. In June 2019, after a series of in-person meetings of the members and regional consultations, the Panel issued a report titled, 'The Age of Digital Interdependence. In the roadmap publication, Guterres notes that effective digital cooperation "is instrumental in achieving the 'future we want' and the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is not something that any country, company or institution can achieve alone."

69. The report makes recommendations for action by various stakeholders, in order to "accelerate global digital cooperation, seizing on the opportunities that are presented by technology – while mitigating the risks – so that progress towards achieving the Goals by 2030 can be made collectively." India is of the view that any such cooperation must be grounded in common human values such as inclusiveness, respect, human-centeredness, human rights, international law, transparency and sustainability.

70. The report called for building an inclusive digital economy and society, developing human and institutional capacity, protecting human rights and human agency, promoting digital trust, security and stability, and fostering global digital cooperation. The report also provided for recommendations on proposals for reducing digital inequality, building digital capacity and ensuring that new technologies are on our side and are a force for good.

71. The report recognised the revolutionary digital initiatives taken by India to ensure economic inclusion for its 1.3 billion citizens. The report mentions India Stack, an application programming interface that allows governments, businesses, startups

and developers to utilise a unique digital infrastructure to provide presence-less, paperless and cashless service delivery. The report by the Panel calls for enhanced multi-stakeholder digital cooperation, involving governments, civil society, academics, technologists, marginalised groups and the private sector.

72. As a follow-up to the report, USG Fabrizio Hochschild, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the Preparations for the Commemoration of the UN's 75th Anniversary engaged all UN member states and over 300 other entities. On 11 June 2020, the UN Secretary-General issued a roadmap to “connect, respect, and protect” everyone in the context of artificial intelligence and other technological developments. Published as a report of the Secretary-General on the ‘Roadmap for Digital Cooperation’, the roadmap discusses a set of recommendations developed by a high-level panel in 2019, and provides action points for the way forward. Among the action points for the way forward include:
- i. On the UN as a convener, in 2021 the Secretary-General will appoint an Envoy on Technology to help facilitate a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on emerging technologies and guide the UN's strategy on technology trends, which is currently being updated. The report notes that a forthcoming report of the Task Force on the Digital Financing of the SDGs also will contribute to this discussion.
 - ii. On human rights, dignity, and agency in a “digitally interdependent age,” the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights will develop system-wide guidance on human rights due diligence and impact assessments in the use of new technologies.
 - iii. On Artificial Intelligence (AI), the UN Secretary-General plans to establish a multi-stakeholder advisory body to address inclusion, coordination, and capacity-building for Member States.

73. During the 75th session, India will continue to actively take part in the various follow up workshops and conferences that the Panel will be undertaking.

South-South Cooperation:

74. The BAPA+40 conference held in March 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina reiterated the importance and potential of South-South Cooperation and provided us with a roadmap for South-South and triangular cooperation in stepping up support for national and regional development efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. This outcome of the conference will help guide us while reviewing the format and organizational aspects of High-Level Political Forum on SDGs during the 74th session of the UNGA, for the next cycle of four years.

75. India's approach to development cooperation is rooted in its social ethos, defined variously, but encompassed by the philosophy of Sarvodaya, meaning ‘development and progress of all’. Our working with fellow developing countries translates this philosophy into reality. We support Southern-owned and led, demand-driven, and transformational sustainable development projects. Our focus has been and

continues to remain on least developed countries and small island developing states.

76. India has considerable experience in the field of South-South Cooperation, bilaterally as well as the triangular involving the UN. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund established in June 2017 and hosted in the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) works with fellow developing countries in the spirit of South-South cooperation by providing support to projects that aim to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as per their request. The initial capital committed to the Fund was US\$ 100 million over a period of ten years. Subsequently, in April 2018, with a view to work specifically with countries of the Commonwealth, a new “Commonwealth Window” was added to the Fund with a committed amount of US\$ 50 million over the next five years– taking the total amount to US\$ 150 million under the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.
77. In the last two years of its inception, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, 37 projects worth US\$ 26.6 million are already under implementation. As of date, projects in Eswatini, Papua New Guinea, Mali, Chad, Liberia, Togo and Mauritania have been completed. 18 projects worth US\$ 13.7 million stand approved and are currently under formulation stage. Also, projects worth US\$ 7.07 million are in the pipeline. So far, India has contributed an amount of US\$ 47.8 million to the Fund. We will continue expanding and diversifying the India-UN Development Partnership Fund portfolio.
78. The IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) Fund for the Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger also hosted at the UNOSSC is another unique mechanism for South-South Cooperation. Established in 2004 and operationalized in 2006, the IBSA Fund supports projects on a demand-driven basis through partnerships with local governments, national institutions and implementing partners. Initiatives are concrete expressions of solidarity and objectives range from promoting food security, to addressing HIV/AIDS, to extending access to safe drinking water – all with the aim of contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Fund identifies replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to interested developing countries as examples of best practices in the fight against poverty and hunger. Since 2004, a total of US\$39.3 million was contributed to the Fund by the three countries. Of this, India’s contribution was US\$15 million. The Fund has undertaken a total of 33 projects, of which 1 has been recently approved, 8 are under execution, while 24 have been completed.

Counter Terrorism:

79. The 7th biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), which was scheduled during the 74th session of UNGA but postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, will be taken up during the 75th session. The decision taken by the UNGA in this regard (A/DEC/74/556) invited the Secretary-General to update by February 2021 on the progress made in the implementation of the UN GCTS, as

well as on the implementation of the resolution. Members states' negotiations under the co-chairs - Spain and Egypt would commence in March/April 2021 and the review resolution would be adopted in June/July 2021 after the conclusion of the negotiations. The adoption of the resolution would be followed by the **2nd High-Level Conference on the Heads of CT Agencies** and the **1st Global Congress on Victims of Terrorism**.

80. The upcoming GCTS review would witness discussions, inter-alia, on
- i. Repatriation of foreign terrorist fighters and their family members, especially women and children, their prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration;
 - ii. Radicalization in prison;
 - iii. Usage of bio metric and biographic details in border management and the issue of data security and privacy while implementing API/PNR projects;
 - iv. Implementation of UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT) projects on preventing violent extremism, compliance to international law and rule of law while countering terrorism;
 - v. Increasing the participation of civil society in UN high-level Counter-Terrorism events;
 - vi. The role of private players in the protection of critical infrastructure; and involvement of women and youth in formulation of national and regional strategies to counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism and its implementation;
 - vii. Misuse of information and communication technology and its tools for terrorist purposes, including for raising and transmitting funds;
 - viii. Impact of pandemic on terrorist activities and counter terrorist measures of member states; weaponization of pandemic to radicalize, recruit and incite terrorist acts;
 - ix. Online hate propaganda of terrorist groups, including the activities of far-right extremists, to fuel hatred and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, etc.
81. Since the adoption of the 6th review of GCTS in 2018, some significant developments have taken place in the field of countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The Security Council adopted resolutions S/RES/2462 – on preventing and countering the financing of terrorism; and S/RES/2482 – on addressing linkages between terrorism and organized crime. The General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/73/305, on the enhancement of international cooperation to assist victims of terrorism and A/RES/73/284 in the wake of terrorist attack in Christchurch adopted resolution on combating terrorism and other acts of violence based on religion or belief.
82. As mentioned in our approach paper for the 74th UNGA session, the launch of UN Strategy and Plan of Action on hate speech by the Secretary-General; the UN Plan of Action to protect and safeguard religious sites; threats from the use of emerging technologies by terrorists and also the use of new technologies to counter the terrorist threats are some of the themes that would appear in CT related processes at the UN during the 75th session. There will be an increased focus on the efforts to counter the spread of incitement to violence in the internet and social media. Moreover, UNOCT is also expanding the scope of engagement with the Civil Society

Organizations, including victims and victim's association, in its projects and events, which are held at UN and also at regional level.

Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)

83. The negotiations on a draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) have not progressed due to continuing serious disagreements on definitional issues. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/211 of 20 December 2018, a working group was established by the Sixth Committee of the UNGA at the 74th Session with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussing the item included in its agenda by General Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The Chairman (Sri Lanka) of the Working Group held three formal meetings (on October 21, 25 and 7 November 2019) and series of informal meetings.
84. The Working Group concluded its work on 7 November 2019 without making any recommendations, but with the understanding that the mandate of the Working Group, taking into account the proposal made to acknowledge the work accomplished at the 74th session and in the intersessional period, would be addressed in the context of the negotiations on the draft annual resolution. On 12 November 2019, the representative of Canada, on behalf of the Bureau, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism". At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/74/L.18 without a vote. By the terms of the resolution, the General Assembly, among other things, decided to recommend that the Sixth Committee, at the 75th session of the General Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism as well as undertake discussions on the item included in its agenda by Assembly resolution [54/110](#), while encouraging all Member States to redouble their efforts during the intersessional period towards resolving any outstanding issues.
85. The Working Group set up by the Sixth Committee to resolve all outstanding issues related to finalizing the process on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) will continue its work during the 75th UNGA from 5-6, 13, 21 October and 4 November. The Chairman (Sri Lanka) of the Working Group will hold formal and informal meetings to make efforts during the intersessional period towards resolving outstanding issues under the issue. India will continue to push for and support a greater profile to the counter-terrorism activities at the UN; make efforts to decrease differences on outstanding issues on the long-pending draft CCIT; seek greater transparency and effectiveness of the relevant UN Sanctions Committee, and other ways to bring coherence and focus to UN's work on counter-terrorism. India will continue to explore the possibilities of facilitating the discussions.

Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ):

86. The Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) on an international legally binding instrument under the UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction is being convened pursuant to GA resolution 72/249 to consider the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee established pursuant to GA resolution 69/292 on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the UNCLOS, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible.
87. Drawing from the second and third sessions of the (IGC) held in March & April 2019 and August 2019, delegates will have the draft text of an agreement, prepared by IGC President in conjunction with the DOALOS that addresses the topics identified in the package agreed in 2011, including: marine genetic resources (MGRs), including questions on benefit-sharing; area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; environmental impact assessments; and capacity building and marine technology transfer. The President of the Conference will produce, as part of the preparations for the fourth session of the Conference, a document with the aim of facilitating focused discussions and text-based negotiations, containing treaty language and reflecting options concerning the four elements of the package.
88. As in past meetings, the crux of the negotiations still lies in the principles and approaches to be agreed particularly as they relate to marine genetic resources, where the lines are drawn either in support of the common heritage of humankind, or in support of the freedom of the high seas. Those subscribing to the *freedom of the high seas* support non-monetary, voluntary benefit-sharing based on mutually agreed terms. On the other hand, those in favour of the *common heritage principle* are calling for standardized, mandatory benefit-sharing, including modalities for monetary benefit-sharing. Moreover, the question of how the new agreement will support and “not undermine” the work of existing regional and sectoral bodies is still to be decided.
89. By decision 74/543 of 11 March 2020, the General Assembly decided to postpone the fourth session of the IGC conference on an international legally binding instrument under the UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) due to the COVID-19 to the earliest possible available date to be decided by the General Assembly.

Elections:

90. The General Assembly holds approximately a dozen elections of Member States or individuals to various UN bodies each year. The GA elects the non-permanent members of the Security Council. Each of the current 193 Member States has one vote. The distribution of seats among Member States to various bodies is based on the principle of equitable geographical representation. In order to facilitate balanced distribution, Member States are informally divided into five regional groups: Group of

African States, Group of Asia-Pacific States, Group of Eastern European States, Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), and Western European and Other States Group (Group of Western European and Other States).

- 91.** Election to the Security Council requires a two-thirds majority. While elections are intensely contested among Member States, regional groups often agree to present the same number of candidates as there are seats allocated to them. This is called a “clean slate.” A regional group may choose to follow an internal rotation system for certain seats. The GA elects the 10 non-permanent members of the Security Council. Five members are elected each year for a term of two years, and no immediate re-election is possible. The regional distribution of non-permanent seats is as follows: 5 seats for the African and Asia-Pacific States, 1 seat for the Group of Eastern European States, 2 seats for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), and 2 seats for the Western European and Other States Group.
- 92.** In June 2020, India won the non-permanent seat of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term 2021-2022, by securing 184 votes. Within the Asia-Pacific Group (APG), India was on a “clean slate”. The APG endorsed India’s candidature in June 2019 as it was the only candidate from the APG since announcing its candidature way back in 2013. India has, so far, served as non-permanent member of UNSC seven times, the last term being in 2011-2012.
- 93.** India will also seek to become a member of the **Commission on the Status of Women** (CSW) for the term 2021-2025, elections for which are likely to be held sometime in late 2020.

Budgetary and Administrative Issues:

- 94.** At the United Nations, there is a popular saying that all roads lead to the Fifth – the “Fifth” here is the General Assembly’s main Administrative and Budgetary Committee, where all financial and programme matters concerning the UN system, are discussed. The Fifth Committee prepares the General Assembly resolutions on how much each Member State pays to the UN and how these resources are allocated. It considers the programme budget of the UN (biennial), the peacekeeping budgets (annual) and human resources issues. The Fifth Committee is also responsible for administrative matters. It considers management reform, governance, oversight and accountability issues.
- 95.** The second resumed session of the Fifth Committee in 74th UNGA elected Vice-Presidents for its 75th session and adopted a basket of resolutions and decisions from 23 to 30 June, including 21 on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee authorizing the United Nations peacekeeping budget for the 2020/21 fiscal year, taking action under its temporary silence procedure due to COVID-19 restrictions. The approved funding covers the cost of 12 peacekeeping missions and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia over the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. It also includes related funds for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda; and the peacekeeping support account.

96. Earlier, as part of Secretary General's management reforms, annual budgeting was approved from 2020 onwards. The first annual budget was approved in the 74th main session. The upcoming session will also feature a discussion on UN's human resource management, closing/winding down of some UN operations as well as consolidating UN's administrative services. India will continue to work as part of the G-77 group to adequately reflect the interests and concerns of the developing countries in the budgetary provisions.

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