

High-level plenary meeting
To commemorate and promote the International Day of
Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace

Statement By
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Madam President,

I would like to begin by strongly condemning the serial blasts in our neighboring country Sri Lanka and would take this opportunity to extend once again our deepest condolences to the families of the victims, to the people and Government of Sri Lanka.

Madam President,

Please allow me to express my gratitude and appreciation to you for organizing this debate. This is the first commemoration of 'The international day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for peace'. The initiative by the Non aligned Movement, of which India is a founding member, to mark this day, the concluding day of historic Afro Asian conference of Bandung in 1955, is a significant step in setting the global discourse on Multilateralism in the current troubled times.

As has been stated on several occasions by Secretary General and you Madam PGA, multilateralism is in crisis today, perhaps at a time when we most need it. In the last couple of years the issue and themes of Multilateralism has been debated, invoked and reiterated intensively and this commemorating meeting adds further to this essential conversation. To a large extent the credit for expanding this conversation goes to you and we remain thankful for your efforts. This is perhaps the most relevant conversation of this decade for this organization and for all of us member states. The side event organized by you yesterday demonstrated its relevance once again.

Madam President,

The UN was created in 1945. Within 25 years of its creation, we had already achieved an expansion in the non permanent membership of the Security Council. By the 50th anniversary of the UN we had set ourselves on an ambitious path of achieving of a global development agenda driven by spirit of an increasingly interconnected world. As we approach the 75th anniversary, our challenges perhaps overshadow what we have achieved and our work in the next two years will mark the level of our ambition we set for ourselves and I hope we aim high under your leadership.

Madam President,

The discussion held yesterday in the side event organized by you was insightful. For a change we heard the youth and the civil society about their expectations from this multilateral order. There was a discussion about the unfair trading system, urgent need for climate action, increasing inequality, the rules which permit and perhaps exacerbate inequality and the crisis of the multilateral security architecture were particularly relevant. In addition to these, the developments of the last 20 years have multiplied our challenges, the promise and perils of new technologies, observing how malicious acts in cyberspace are polarizing communities and sowing

distrust among States, the threats posed by terrorism have only expanded. All together these have the capacity to endanger the future that we want for our young.

We are fast approaching the 2030 deadline, the time for effective climate action is also running out and, collectively, we are still lagging behind. In this very room, during the last UNGA high level week, we heard our leaders spoke of the significance and challenges related to Climate Action, Migration and Financing for Development as some of the key areas where enhanced efforts and cooperation is needed. If we are to fulfill our commitments and demonstrate genuine results, international cooperation and coordination is fundamental. And to repeat SG's words in this regard; ambition and urgency is needed to deal with these challenges. It is clear that the challenges we face today can not be addressed by any member states or region alone. Frankly, there is no second option to Multilateralism to deal with the challenges that we face.

Madam President,

The conversation on Multilateralism has not been easy and perhaps will continue to be challenging in the future as well. Even as the multilateral agenda needs bringing on board new issues standing in the way are individual pursuits which aren't reflected in global sentiment and repeated with no resonance. Despite these challenges, we will need to commit ourselves at every step of this process. While for some it may be a commitment to 'rules-based order' and to others to may be a reaffirmation of the status quo of the multilateral frameworks, the majority of this assembly believes that reform is the only way forward on this path. The Secretary-General himself has called for promotion of a reformed, reinvigorated and strengthened multilateral system and this vision reflects the overwhelming sentiment of this assembly.

Madam President,

Speaking of reform, the reform of the peace and security pillar of the UN i.e. the Security Council has perhaps been the most important and yet stagnating processes of the General Assembly. We must take action towards early reform. We must take action so that Africa is given a central and leading role in an internationally formed new order especially in a reformed and expanded Security Council and so that the Council reflects the world of today and not of 1945.

Madam President,

Like every crisis, this crisis in Multilateralism, presents an opportunity for all of us to reinvigorate our efforts. We should redouble our efforts not only in preserving what we have achieved but also in reinventing it as we move forward. This is essential to enable us to effectively deal with the myriad of new challenges and threats that we face today but also to do justice to the young generation who will inherit the fruits of our action or inaction.

We welcome your focus on youth Madam President. They will produce the leaders of tomorrow and therefore their voice must find a place in our discourse.

The upcoming 75th anniversary presents an opportunity for all us to recommit ourselves to the work needed to achieve this goal. We are confident that under your leadership we will make a substantive beginning of our work in this regard.

In my country, we come from oral traditions. Discourse, arguments and debates are ways, too familiar to our national character. We therefore will support every endeavor that you and your successors will pilot to strengthen, reform and rejuvenate our multilateral system.

I thank you Madam President