



PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Civil Society Townhall

with

H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang, President of the General Assembly

On the priorities for the 79th Session under the theme:

*Unity in Diversity for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity
for everyone everywhere*

(12 February 2025)

UN Headquarters, New York

Concept Note

Background

Civil society organisations play a significant role in multilateralism and the work of the General Assembly of the United Nations. When civil society organisations participate, they contribute diverse perspectives, expertise and experience to the discussions, thereby shaping the agenda and the outcomes of the work of the General Assembly.

The partnership with stakeholders is crucial for advancing the three UN pillars of peace, human rights and sustainable development. H.E Mr. Philemon Yang in his vision statement, pledged to ensure, a strong partnership with civil society, non-governmental organizations and academic circles.

The world is at a critical juncture, facing unprecedented challenges that demand collective action. Rising inequalities, climate change, and conflicts continue to threaten human well-being and the very foundation of our global community. Given the intricate complexity of global challenges, no single government, institution or community can tackle them alone. The only viable solution lies in cooperation across countries, regions and peoples and in promoting a collaborative responsibility that can emanate from multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships.

In response, Member States at the General Assembly have pledged a renewed commitment to multilateralism, culminating in the adoption of the Pact for the Future and its annexes, the Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations. Therein, they have agreed to enhance cooperation with stakeholders, including civil society, academia, the scientific and technological community and the private sector.

While the President of the General Assembly will announce his priorities for the seventy ninth session to Member States in January 2025, in furtherance of the goal to enhance cooperation with all stakeholders, he intends also to engage with civil society on his priorities to promote a whole of society approach, share best practices and develop innovative, long-term and forward-thinking ideas.

To do so, the President of the General Assembly at its seventy ninth session will convene a Townhall with civil society representatives aiming to amplify marginalised voices, foster innovative sharing of ideas and solutions, enhance collaborative governance and drive progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development while leaving no one behind, acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for everyone everywhere.

Objectives of the Townhall

The objective of the meeting is to engage with civil society representatives to foster an inclusive and meaningful dialogue on the work of the General Assembly and use the opportunity to share the priorities for the seventy ninth session as well as his work on the implementation of the Pact for the Future in support of Member States.