



Permanent Mission of Norway
to the United Nations



Reaffirming the commitment to Multilateralism through the strengthening of international system and institutions on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations

Second in the Series of Renewing the Commitment to Multilateralism - A High-level Dialogue of the Presidents of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and the Security Council, together with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the International Court of Justice

Co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Ecuador, Norway and the Russian Federation,
in association with the NYU Center on International Cooperation

3:15 p.m. on Tuesday, 10 September 2019
ECOSOC Chamber

Following on from the first High-Level Dialogue on “Renewing the Commitment to Multilateralism: A High-level Dialogue of the Presidents of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and the Security Council”, which underscored the power of multilateralism to address the world’s most urgent challenges, there has been avid interest from member states for further meetings to take place in the context of the upcoming 75th anniversary of the United Nations. Thus, the second meeting is being proposed under the theme “Reaffirming the commitment to Multilateralism through the strengthening of international law and institutions on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations”.

In the first of a series of landmark decision in 2015, all 193 member states of the United Nations agreed to, and adopted, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an agenda which was, for the first time, universal, integrated, and inclusive. This resulted from an inclusive negotiation process that was unique in terms of participation: it entailed thousands of hours and inputs from a vast array of groups and stakeholders, who also celebrated its adoption. The same year agreement was also reached on the Paris Climate Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Sustainable Development. By everyone’s estimation this was a high watermark for multilateralism.

Since then, however, multilateralism has faced strong headwinds; its value questioned by many. This September, when a number of summits and high-level meetings will be held to review the most pressing issues on the international agenda, it is essential that we remind ourselves and the rest of the world how the multilateral system is supporting member state efforts to create a fairer and more equitable world, while protecting our planet. For example, while it is agreed that the primary responsibility for the implementation of the 2030 agenda rests with Member States, it is also recognized that there are many areas in which governments cannot address problems on their own. The time and effort it takes to reach multilateral solutions can provoke impatience or frustration, but once achieved these outcomes prove durable, promote trust, provide legitimacy and bring a collective sense of accomplishment. In addition, and

in line with the aspirations of the UN Charter, there is ample evidence to suggest that when the UN works together across its pillars and with all relevant partners, meaningful difference is made to the lives of people around the world.

As the UN prepares for one of its busiest and most intense UN General Assembly high-level weeks in many years, the timing of this event could not be more opportune. A deliberative exchange of views will highlight the importance of the multilateral system which provides the framework, norms and standards that support multilateralism.

The recent UN reforms offer the promise of more coherent and effective support to member states, but even as internal reforms take place, it is vital that we also turn outwards and communicate with citizens and a broader community of stakeholders about the importance of the UN, multilateralism and international order, based on international law.

Bringing together the heads of the main organs of the UN, the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the ECOSOC, the International Court of Justice and, as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, this high-level dialogue will underscore the value of multilateral efforts and international cooperation in support of the collective objectives and the need to recommit to the ideals of the Charter as we prepare for the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

Topics to be addressed in the dialogue include:

The case for Multilateralism on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations.

1. How best can the United Nations demonstrate relevance in its core work?
 - Peace and security
 - Sustainable development
 - Human rights
 - Work of the UN agencies

2. How should the UN respond to new global expectations, rapidly changing circumstances, and societies in transition?
 - Rising demands of a growing youth population
 - Rapid technological change and impacts on society
 - Climate Change and need for new forms of sustainable economics and politics

3. How can the UN communicate the tangible benefits that it brings to the everyday lives of ordinary people?
 - Demonstrate it is genuinely on the side of ordinary people
 - Overcome accusations of distance and irrelevance
 - Overcome skepticism and show that complex global problems are best resolved through the multilateral system?
 - Highlight the tangible benefits of cooperation between states and how multilateralism empowers and strengthens rather than weakens state sovereignty.

Format:

Remarks by:

H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly

H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations

H.E. Ms. Mona Juul, Ambassador of Norway and President of ECOSOC

H.E. Mr. Vassily A. Nebenzia, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation and President of the Security Council for the month of September

Hon. Justice Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, President of the International Court of Justice (video message).

Moderated by Ms. Sarah Cliffe, Director of the Center on International Cooperation, NYU.

Interventions from the audience will follow. Delegations shall indicate their wish to speak by pressing the microphone button on the console in front of them. The meeting will have no pre-established seating arrangement and will be webcast. Participation at Ambassadorial level is encouraged.
