



Alliance for **Multilateralism**

Shaping our common agenda

Ministerial meeting in the margins of the High Level Week of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly

- **23rd September 2021**, 11 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. New York Time
- **German House**, 871 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017
- **Hybrid format with strong virtual component**
- The meeting languages will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Objectives

The Alliance for Multilateralism is continuing to flesh out UN@75's motto "building back better." On the occasion of the Alliance's second anniversary, our common agenda remains ambitious: pandemic preparedness, the challenges of climate change and preserving biodiversity as well as protecting human rights and achieving and safeguarding gender equality. All require strategic exchange and practical, multilateral solutions. Now is a good time to reflect on what we have jointly achieved and identify new initiatives.

Providing an inclusive platform on behalf of multilateral causes will help us achieve our common goals. The event will therefore feature contributions by governmental and non-governmental actors, as well as speakers from international organizations. They will provide short input statements that will also encourage dialogue on how to connect these topics in order to find suitable solutions, if necessary "out of the box."

Further details

One of the lessons to be drawn from COVID-19 is that only multilateral cooperation can deliver on the challenges presented by a global pandemic. Consequently, the multilateral health architecture must be strengthened, in particular the World Health Organization and the International Health Regulations. The world deserves a better international system for pandemic preparedness and response. We also need to achieve more vaccine equity, not least by continuing financial contributions to the ACT-Accelerator and its pillars, including and COVAX, its vaccine pillar, and by sharing vaccine doses, as vaccine is a global public good. It is also important to expand vaccine manufacturing capacity in many countries, especially in the global South. In this context, disinformation can be as contagious and dangerous as a virus. Finding solutions to this phenomenon has become



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a more pressing issue since the urgency of social distancing prompted a shift of our interaction into the digital world. Participants will be invited to engage in developing a compendium of good practices on governance responses to disinformation.

Promoting gender equality needs to remain a priority for the international community. Only by consistently strengthening the rights of women and girls can we continue to empower them. This holds even more true in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a strong impact on women and girls. This is why the Generation Equality Forum has launched a Global Acceleration Plan for gender equality structured around six action coalitions, which will be implemented through innovative partnerships bringing together different actors. Almost 1,000 concrete and ambitious commitments have been announced to support it.

Tackling climate change and preventing biodiversity loss have become top priorities for leaders and institutions on all levels around the world. The latest IPCC and IPBES reports clearly demonstrate that both global warming and biodiversity loss have reached an unprecedented extent, sparing no country. As both threats are closely interlinked and accelerate each other, joint and comprehensive urgent action is badly needed. It is up to us, as the international community, to accelerate and scale up our common efforts ahead of COP26 on climate and COP15 on biodiversity. We must work together to reach ambitious international agreements in order to preserve our planetary boundaries, not only for our sake, but also for future generations.



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Draft Schedule:

I. Welcome address by presenter and (virtual) photo-op (5 min)

II. Introduction by (8 min)
FM Heiko Maas
FM Jean-Yves Le Drian

III. Input Panels (45 min)

1st Panel: International fight against the COVID-19 pandemic

2nd Panel: Human Rights and gender equality

3rd Panel: Action to combat climate change and its consequences and to prevent biodiversity loss

IV. Interventions by Foreign Ministers (1h)

Due to COVID-19-related guidances, ministers are invited to make a ****virtual**** statement, either live or pre-recorded (**two minutes** maximum).

V. Closing remarks by FM Heiko Maas and FM Jean-Yves Le Drian (2 min total)