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Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2022

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih attended the official opening ceremony of the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held on 21 June 2022. The ceremony was held at the Kigali Convention Centre, Kigali, Rwanda. First Lady Fazna Ahmed accompanied President Solih.



CHOGM 2022 was the first such meeting since the Maldives' re-accession to the alliance. The Maldives initially joined the Commonwealth of Nations on July 9, 1982, but withdrew membership on October 13, 2016. The Commonwealth accepted the Maldives' application for re-admission on February 1, 2020, welcoming it as the 54th member and marking the fulfilment of one of President Solih's administration's inaugural pledges.

The CHOGM 2022 was themed around "Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming." Held from June 20-25, 2022, CHOGM brought delegates from 54 nations who sought to strengthen multilateral cooperation, explore new opportunities, and address shared challenges facing future generations.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid bestowed the Duarte, Sanchez and Mella Order of Merit, Grand Cross, Silver Plate of the Dominican Republic

President of the United Nations General Assembly and Minister of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Abdulla Shahid was bestowed the Duarte, Sanchez and Mella Order of Merit, Grand Cross, Silver Plate of

the Dominican Republic by the Foreign Minister of the Dominican Republic His Excellency Mr Roberto Álvarez.



Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid with Foreign Minister of the Dominican Republic His Excellency Mr Roberto Álvarez.



In a statement released by the Foreign Minister following the ceremony held on 18 June 2022 Foreign Minister stated that "Receiving this honour reaffirms his commitment to deliver on the Presidency of Hope he had envisioned - one that is built on recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, rebuilding sustainably, responding to the needs of the planet, respecting the rights of all, and revitalizing the United Nations. A Presidency of Hope - one that delivers for people, for the planet, and for prosperity. The Foreign Minister had also stated that the honour is a validation of the forward-looking foreign

policy of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, that prioritises engagement, champions multilateralism, and the values of democracy. It was this engagement that led to the Maldives - one of the smallest countries in the United Nations - to be elected to serve as the President of the General Assembly.”

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid’s Official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives, Abdulla Shahid undertook an Official Visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 5 June 2022. Minister Shahid’s visit to the Kingdom is on the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud.



During this visit Foreign Minister Shahid met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and reflected on the long-standing fraternal bonds of friendship and cooperation between the Maldives and Saudi Arabia, based on Islamic solidarity, mutual understanding and goodwill.



Foreign Minister His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud

During the meeting Minister Shahid delivered a Letter from His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih addressed to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

Belgium Ambassador pays a farewell call on State Minister

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, Francois Delhaye, paid a farewell call on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Khaleel, on 8 June 2022.



State Minister Khaleel congratulated the Ambassador on the completion of his successful tenure and thanked him for his hard work in strengthening the bilateral cooperation between Maldives and the Kingdom of Belgium. Both State Minister Khaleel and Ambassador Delhaye also explored ways to further strengthen the existing bilateral cooperation between the two countries, especially in the areas of education, trade, investment, environment and climate change. State Minister Khaleel also expressed gratitude for the

Ambassador's strong commitment and contribution to strengthen the partnership between Maldives and the European Union.

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands pays farewell call on the Foreign Secretary

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to the Maldives Tanja Gonggrijp paid a virtual farewell call on Foreign Secretary Ahmed Latheef, on 21 June 2022.



Foreign Secretary Latheef congratulated the Ambassador on the completion of her successful tenure and expressed sincere appreciation for her hard work in strengthening the close cooperation between the Maldives and the Kingdom of Netherlands. Foreign Secretary Latheef and Ambassador Gonggrijp also reflected on a number of key bilateral cooperation areas between the two countries including trade, investment, environment and climate change.



Ambassador Gonggrijp also thanked Foreign Secretary Latheef for the support extended to her during her tenure and

expressed hope for stronger bilateral relations between the Maldives and the Netherlands, and enhanced cooperation through the European Union.

State Minister Khaleel meets the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda and sign key agreements to fortify bilateral cooperation

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel, met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda, His Excellency Vincent Biruta on 22 June 2022 at the margins of CHOGM 2022 in Rwanda.

During the meeting, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda, State Minister Khaleel and Minister Biruta reflected on the increased level of cooperation between the Maldives and Rwanda in recent years, and reaffirmed their commitment towards sustaining the close bond.

The Government of Maldives and the Government of Rwanda also signed a number of key Agreements between the two countries, with a view to further enhance and fortify bilateral cooperation.

The agreements were signed at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda, on 22 June 2022. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel signed the Agreements on behalf of the Government of Maldives and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda, His Excellency Vincent Biruta signed the agreements on behalf of the Government of Rwanda.



The five agreements signed between the Government of Maldives and the Government of Rwanda were;

1. General Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Maldives and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda
2. Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Maldives and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda
3. MoU between the Government of the Republic of Maldives and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda in the Field of Tourism Development & Promotion, and Business Events
4. MoU on Cooperation in Maritime Transport between the Republic of Maldives and the Republic of Rwanda
5. MoU between the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources of the Republic of Rwanda and the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture of the Government of Republic of Maldives.



The conclusion of the agreements demonstrates a pivotal point of progress in the bilateral relationship between the two countries and will further enhance cooperation and coordination between the two countries on bilateral and multilateral issues.

United Nations Oceans Conference 2022.

The 2022 UN Ocean Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, took place from 27 June – 1 July 2022, in Lisbon, Portugal. The overall theme of the Conference is: “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions.”

Maldives delegation was headed by Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology Her Excellency Aminath Shauna as the special representative of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.



In the Conference’s final declaration world leaders called for greater ambition to ensure that the dire state of the ocean is addressed.

Among the challenges the Ocean faces are coastal erosion, rising sea levels, warmer and more acidic waters, marine pollution, overexploitation of fish stocks and decrease of marine biodiversity.

Acknowledging that climate change is “one of the greatest challenges of our time”, and the need to “act decisively and urgently to improve the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystems”, delegates gathered in Lisbon stressed that science-based and innovative actions, along with international cooperation, are essential to provide the necessary solutions.

On the margins of the United Nations Oceans Conference 2022 State Minister Ahmed Khaleel met with the Minister of Climate Change of Vanuatu, Hon. Silas Bule Melve and discussed enhancing the cooperation between the two countries on areas of shared concern and mutual interest.



State Minister Ahmed Khaleel meets with the Minister of Climate Change of Vanuatu, Hon. Silas Bule Melve

Additionally, State Minister Ahmed Khaleel also met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Tourism of Tonga, Hon. Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu and discussed enhancing the cooperation between the two countries on areas of shared concern and mutual interest.



State Minister Ahmed Khaleel meets with Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Tourism of Tonga, Hon. Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu

Adoption of “International Day of Women in Diplomacy”

On 20 June 2022 Maldives spearheaded the resolution to establish an “International Day of Women in Diplomacy” on 24 June along with a core group of countries including El Salvador, Eritrea, Grenada, Guyana, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Malawi, Malta, Qatar, Saint Lucia and South Africa.



Her Excellency Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations introducing the resolution to establish “International Day of Women in Diplomacy” to the General Assembly

The resolution promotes women’s full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in diplomacy. It garnered historic support at the United Nations General Assembly and was co-sponsored by 191 Member States of which 85 were main sponsors.

The resolution was introduced at the General Assembly by Her Excellency Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations. During her statement, she highlighted the newly established day as an annual opportunity to reflect on the

challenges faced by women diplomats and actions that can be undertaken to achieve the goal of women’s full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in diplomacy. She thanked His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, for making gender equality one of his priorities and for championing the issue as the President of the General Assembly and as the Foreign Minister of Maldives.

Ambassador Dr. Farah Faizal presents her Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain

Non-resident Ambassador of Maldives to Spain, Dr. Farah Faizal presented her Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain at the Royal Palace in Madrid on 6 June 2022.



Ambassador Dr. Farah Faizal presenting her letters of Credence to His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain

Following the credentials ceremony, Ambassador Dr. Faizal was also granted a private audience with His Majesty, during which they spoke on a range of issues from climate change to geopolitics of the Indian Ocean, and on building closer relations between Spain and the Maldives.

FOSIM holds Lecture Series by Dr. Rasheeda Mohamed Didi on the topic “UN peacekeeping through Maldivian eyes”

The Foreign Service Institute of Maldives (FOSIM) conducted the first session of the Lecture series on 9 June 2022. Dr. Rasheeda Mohamed Didi was invited to speak at this session where she shared her

experiences while serving for the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Liberia, as a Civil Affairs Officer/County Support Team Facilitator, working with local government and UN officials in Liberia. The lecture was followed by a Photo exhibition by Dr. Rasheeda Mohamed Didi.



This exhibition featured, prominent photos, and stories of Dr. Rasheeda Mohamed Didi during her tenure spent in Liberia working at the UN Peacekeeping Mission.



Dr. Rasheeda Mohamed Didi, is a member of the Higher Education Council, currently works as an independent academic and resource person. For 8 years, she worked as a part time lecturer at the Maldives National University, where she had taught Political Science and International Relations subjects. Dr. Rasheeda had previously also worked as a researcher, in charge of the Research Center, at the Commonwealth Joint Office for Permanent Missions to the UN, in New York, U.S.A. She has a Master of Arts degree and a Ph.D in Political Science, with a concentration on International Relations, from Temple University, Philadelphia, U.S.A.



FOSIM lecture series features notable local figures and aims to create a dialogue on issues of regional and global importance among the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The session was attended by Senior Officials of the Ministry, Resident High Commissioners /Ambassadors and representatives of the missions.

FOSIM holds Briefing Session to Ministry staff on “Anti-Bullying harassment at workplace and briefing on Sexual Harassment Act 16/2014”

The Foreign Service Institute of Maldives (FOSIM) in coordination with the Human Rights Commission of Maldives conducted an awareness session today to Ministry staff on Anti-Bullying and harassment at workplace and a briefing on Sexual Harassment Act 16/2014 on 12 June 2022.

The session was conducted by Director, Policy Department Mr. Mohamed Jabir and Education Officer, Mr. Ahmed Ameer from the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives.



The session was attended by Senior Officials of the Ministry, Heads of Missions and missions’ staff abroad and Ministry staff.

FOSIM holds Orientation Programme for new staff

The Foreign Service Institute of Maldives (FOSIM) started an Orientation Programme for new recruits who joined the Ministry from December 2021 on 15 June 2022.

The Orientation Programme was inaugurated by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel. In his remarks, State Minister stressed the importance of conducting regular orientation and refresher Programmes for staff to effectively function in the Ministry. Furthermore, State Minister reiterated that every single staff of the Ministry is responsible to represent Maldives and promote the national interest of the country in accordance with the foreign policy hence such programme will enhance the skills and capabilities of staff to function as successful diplomats.



Foreign Secretary Ahmed Latheef, State Minister Ahmed Khaleel, Ambassador-at-Large Ahmed Saleem and Deputy Minister Uz Abdulla Humaid attending the inauguration of the orientation programme

During the program the participants were briefed on the Foreign Policy, Diplomatic Language and communication, Organization Structure and Departments of Ministry, Bilateral Relations, Multilateral Affairs, and Protocol etiquettes.



The orientation sessions were conducted by senior officials at the Ministry. The Orientation Programme continued till 22 June 2022 at the Ministry.

FOSIM holds Short Term Training Presentation Series for Participants of the Training Course on International Relations and Diplomacy for young diplomats held in Bangladesh

The Foreign Service Institute of Maldives (FOSIM) held a Short-Term Training Presentation Series, for the participants of the Training Course on International Relations that took place from 15-31 May 2022 in Bangladesh to share their experiences, the lessons learnt, and recommendations from their training.



The participants of this Training Course to Bangladesh included Desk Officer Nafha Hassan and Desk Officer Mizna Waheed.



The FOSIM Short Term Training Presentation series is an ongoing programme designed to share knowledge and experience, and build expertise on various subject areas within the Ministry.



*Highlights of engagements by
the President of the United
Nations General Assembly
His Excellency Abdulla Shahid
In June 2022*

Stockholm+ 50

The President of the United Nations General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid undertook an official visit to Sweden on 2 June 2022 to participate in Stockholm 50. Stockholm +50 is an international meeting convened by the United Nations General Assembly and this year it commemorated the 50 years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which made the environment a pressing global issue for the first time.



During the opening segment of the event the President of the United Nations General Assembly stated that “Human progress cannot occur on an earth that is starved of its resources, marred by pollution and is under relentless assault from a climate crisis of our own making”



The President of the United Nations General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf & Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria. Commended the Swedish leadership on environment conservation and climate action

During the two-day visit to Sweden the President of the United Nations General Assembly attended several events.



One of these events was one that was organized by the President of the United Nations General Assembly titled “Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic: (Re)shaping economies for women”. During this event the President of the United Nations General Assembly had highlighted that the workplace of the future must be rooted in equity and free of discrimination and harmful stereotypes about women’s skills and work ethic, leadership abilities or intellect. President of the UN General Assembly further stressed that “workplaces must be free of the barriers and biases that have been historically used to limit the opportunities for women, undermine their advancement and depress their wages.



Another event that was attended by the President of the United Nations General Assembly was called “Towards sustainable Youth-Inclusive future: Presenting the demands of the Stockholm50 Youth Policy Paper”. During this event the President of the United Nations General Assembly emphasized on the eagerness and passion of the youth being the most powerful tool to combat challenges and achieve sustainability.

High-Level Debate on “Enhancing Youth Mainstreaming in Crime Prevention Policies”

On 4 June 2022 the President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid attended a high-level debate on “enhancing youth mainstreaming in crime prevention policies”.

This debate provides an opportunity for member states to exchange views about opportunities and challenges in mainstreaming youth in crime prevention policies and practices, including the design, implementation and coordination of policies and programmes that target youth both as victims and potential offenders, as well as initiatives that aim to mobilize and empower youth as agents of change and contribute to more effective, evidence- base prevention.



In the opening remarks the President of the General Assembly encouraged the member states to develop and implement comprehensive, evidence- based crime prevention policies, national and local strategies and action plans based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime. The President of the General Assembly had also stated that by empowering young people and by bringing them into the process and giving them ownership as well as hearing their concerns and suggestions, we can strengthen the system and make our communities safer for everyone”.

4th Meeting of the board of advisers to President of the General Assembly for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

On 6 June 2022, the President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid attended the 4th meeting of the board of advisors to the President of the General Assembly for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.



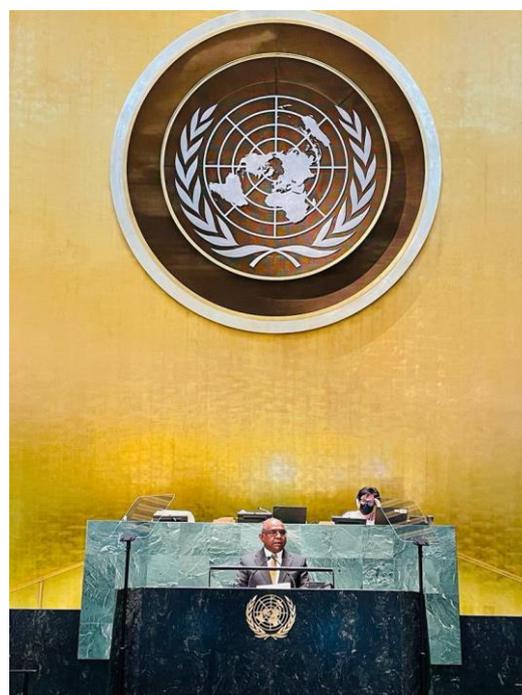
During this meeting the President of the General Assembly stated that the priority of the meeting was to reflect on the perspectives of the Landlocked Developing Countries and to present solutions that are tailored towards their national experiences. Furthermore, the President of the General Assembly had also noted that this meeting could help to promote solutions to common hurdles affecting the environment agenda which could lead to faster progress on the sustainable development goals and allowing for a resilient recovery from Covid.

General Assembly Plenary Meeting on Strengthening of the United Nations system: Special report of the Security Council.

The Plenary Meeting held on 8 June, welcomed the resolution 76/262 which mandates a meeting of the General Assembly whenever a veto is cast in the Security Council.

During the remarks delivered by the President of the United Nations General Assembly, UNPGA stated that while the Security Council is the prime UN organ responsible for the maintenance of peace and security, the Charter also mandates an important role for the General Assembly and on matters of international dispute, the General Assembly has a right and a

responsibility to act. President of the General Assembly further noted that General Assembly resolution 75/325 on ‘Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly’ “encourages regular interaction and continued coordination between the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the ECOSOC” to “reinforce synergy, coherence and complementarity”.



President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid’s Official visit to Azerbaijan

The President of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, undertook an official visit to Azerbaijan from 11-13 June 2022.

During the visit the President of the UN General Assembly met with His Excellency Mr Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and commended him on Azerbaijan’s diplomatic outreach and discussed collaboration on existing global challenges.



The President of the United Nations General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan His Excellency Mr Jeyhun Bayramov.

Furthermore, the President of the UN General Assembly met with Her Excellency Ms. Sahiba Gafarova, Chairperson of Milli Majlis (Parliament). They had a thoughtful conversation on the role of parliamentarians in global multilateralism, and the critical importance of women at all levels of decision-making.



The President of the United Nations General Assembly had also attended the Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix which was held on 12 June 2022. The President of the United Nations General Assembly had stated that “Sports like Formula 1 had the ability to bring people together, provide integration and inclusion, promoting sustainable development, peace and tolerance”.



President of the UN General Assembly attends the 50th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva

The President of the United Nations General Assembly attended the 50th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council which continued in Geneva till 8 July 2022. During his visit to Geneva the President of the United Nations General Assembly attended a series of productive meetings & inspiring interactions that marked the 50th Session of the Human Rights Council.

One of the interactions that the President of the United Nations General Assembly attended was the 15th Session of the High-level Commemorative Event on the Occasion of the 50th Session of the Human Rights Council. During the statement delivered at this event President of the General Assembly stated that without full respect for human rights, we cannot maintain international peace & security, and achieve sustainable development. All three pillars are inextricably linked.



During the engagement with the Civil Society Organization Representatives the President of the United Nations General Assembly stated that “We are all in this together. Whether talking about the climate crisis, or the crisis in Ukraine; whether recovering from COVID-19, or protecting biodiversity, there is no path forward that does not entail all hands-on deck.”



President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid’s Official visit to the Dominican Republic

The President of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, undertook an official visit to the Dominican Republic from 17-20 June 2022.

During the visit the President of the UN General Assembly had called on the President of Dominican Republic His Excellency Mr. Luis Abinader and discussed issues such as post-Covid recovery efforts and challenges faced by SIDS.



The President of the United Nations General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid called on President of Dominican Republic His Excellency Mr. Luis Abinader

Furthermore, during this visit the President of the United Nations General Assembly attended the Hogar del Niño children’s home run by Patronato Benéfico Oriental which is a non-profit organisation which extends social assistance programs for the development of La Romana & its surroundings.



Informal High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Countering Hate Speech

The President of the United Nations General Assembly presided over an informal high-level meeting to commemorate the first International Day for Countering Hate Speech which is celebrated on 18 June.

The purpose of this meeting was to raise awareness on the issue and to galvanize political strategies to identify and counter hate-speech at national and global levels.



President of the UN General Assembly Abdulla Shahid, underlining the insidious effects of hate speech, reiterated the importance of collective responsibility to address this phenomenon and its impact on communities. President of the General Assembly also stressed the need to equip learners with the knowledge and skills to counter hate speech — online and offline — and teach new generations to take responsibility for their online behaviour.

Adoption of the “International Day of Women in Diplomacy”

The President of the United Nations General Assembly presided over General Assembly plenary which adopted the resolution on the “International Day of Women in Diplomacy” henceforth to be celebrated on 24 June every year.



During the remarks delivered by the President of the General Assembly he stated that women working in diplomacy have made critical contributions to shaping the multilateral system we have inherited today. President of the General Assembly also noted that women diplomats played an essential role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first treaty to articulate the fundamental human rights that should be universally protected. Furthermore, President of the General Assembly stated that despite the evident contributions of women to diplomacy and multilateral decision-making, they continue to be underrepresented in senior diplomatic positions, and they still suffer the deep-rooted legacies of sexism, which hinder their professional advancement and obscure their contributions and achievements.

These facts underscore the importance of the resolution being adopted. Now we have a day specifically devoted to celebrating women in diplomacy, UNPGA further stated. President of the General Assembly concluded by stating that with this resolution, we open the door to discuss the challenges women in diplomacy face. With this celebration of women in diplomacy, we inspire the next generation.

The official launch of the group of friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization and the New Urban Agenda.

The President of the United Nations General Assembly attended the official launch of the group of friends of UN-

Habitat, Sustainable urbanization and the New Urban Agenda on 21 June 2022.



The New Urban Agenda was developed to address urban challenges. Adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urbanization (HABITAT III) held in Quito, Ecuador on 20 October 2016, it is a document that sets global standards of sustainable urban development. Through policy advice and practical case studies it offers a new way of looking at how to build, manage, and live in cities.

During the launching of this group, the President of the United Nations General Assembly had given his remarks and stated that in a world that is increasingly and dramatically urban, we need to be guided by the New Urban Agenda.

President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid's Official visit to Rwanda

The President of the United Nations General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid commenced an official visit to Rwanda on 23 June 2022 ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2022.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the President of Rwanda His Excellency Paul Kagame and the First Lady Mrs. Jeannette Kagame.

During the Meeting the President of the United Nations gave the second Keynote at the Business Forum on the topic of increasing cooperation and collaboration. In this speech the President of the United Nations General Assembly stated the “Inclusive and multilateral discussions are the only blueprint for a more resilient and sustainable world, guided by SDG’s”.



On the side-lines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2022 there was a High-Level Event on keeping 1.5 Alive- The Glasgow Climate Pact and Building momentum towards COP27 hosted by Rwanda and the United Kingdom. The purpose of this event was to commend the efforts done to promote the outcomes of COP26 and to make progress on key commitments that have been made such as reducing coal usage and to keep the 1.5-degree Celsius target alive. The President of the United Nations General Assembly reiterated that we have all that is needed to transition to renewable resources such as the technology and resources in order to reduce the emissions however the political will is the only factor that is stopping us from meeting our climate commitments.



Another High-Level Event that was held was the event on ending Violence Against

Women and Girls in the Commonwealth and globally which was hosted by the First lady of Rwanda Mrs. Jeannette Kagame and Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland on 24 June 2022 which is also the International day of Women in Diplomacy.



During this event the President of the United Nations General Assembly Stated that we must promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice. And we must guarantee the right of women and girls to live a life free from violence. In these endeavours, we must redouble our collective efforts.

President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid’s Official visit to Portugal

The President of the United Nations General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid commenced an official visit to Portugal from 26-29 June 2022 ahead of the United Nations Oceans Conference being held in Lisbon.



The President of the United Nations General Assembly provided the opening remarks at the conference and stated that “The Ocean connects all of us; it connects humanity; connects our planet. There is no context whereby we live on this planet without it.”



Heads of delegations at the United Nations Ocean Conference convened under the theme, “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation on the implementation of Goal 14: stocking, partnerships and solutions”

Furthermore, one of the side-line events that the President of the United Nations General Assembly attended during the course of the conference was the “Ocean Action in Support of SDG 14 – The AISIDS Perspective”. This event was jointly held by the governments of Cape Verde, Maldives, Seychelles and Singapore. The President of the United Nations General Assembly stated the importance of staying optimistic even with the emerging challenges. Moreover, the President of the United Nations General Assembly also noted that being optimistic is not enough and called for everyone to start taking more actions to protect our oceans.



High-Level Meeting on Global Road Safety

The theme of the high-level meeting that was held on global road safety on 30 June 2022 was “The 2030 horizon for road safety securing a decade of action and delivery”.



Road traffic crashes claim nearly 1.3 million lives every year and is a leading cause of death among children and young adults. In addition to the human suffering caused by road traffic injuries, they also incur a heavy economic burden on victims and their families, both through treatment costs for the injured and through loss of productivity of those killed or disabled.

During the remarks delivered by the President of the United Nations General Assembly during the high-level meeting, UNPGA stated that “Safe mobility systems offer the promise of a safer, healthier and better future for everyone, everywhere.”



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety Jean Todt. And the Executive Secretary for United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Olga Algayerova calling for more support for United Nations Road Safety Fund to help developing countries

Regular meetings with Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers, UN Permanent Representative in New York

President of the General Assembly's regular meetings with Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers, the Permanent Representatives, and Heads of International Organisations continued in June 2022.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna Ms Ghada Fathy Waly. Discussed the need to involve youth in implementation of the Our Common Agenda proposals.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with Permanent representative of Albania to United Nations and president of Security council for June His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Ferit Hoxha. Discussed Protection of Human Rights and International Law.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with Portugal's Minister of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Mr. João Cravinho. Discussed Ukraine climate change and Youth.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with President of the International Narcotics Control Board Ms. Jagjit Pavadia. Was briefed on International Narcotics Control Board's efforts towards meeting SDGs related just & inclusive societies.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with Youth Representative for Peace of World Scouting Junbert Pabon



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid Hosted the 9th Holiuashi dialogue on the topic "Greening the Blue: How the United Nation system secures coherence between words and actions in fighting global warming."



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with Minister of Justice of Greece Mr. Konstantinos Tsirias.. Discussed issues such as Climate change and youth empowerment



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with Minister of State for European Affairs of Ireland His Excellency Mr. Thomas Byrne. Discussed the High-Level Meeting on road safety, youth and the importance of multilateralism.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with Chairperson of Committee on World Food Security Mr Gabriel Ferrero. Discussed the issue of food insecurity.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN His Excellency Ambassador Kaha Inmadze.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Chair & members of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People & Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with Sex Discrimination Commissioner of Australia Ms. Kate Jenkins. Discussed issues pertaining to women's empowerment including combatting violence against women, mainstreaming gender across UN processes, lactation rooms and the need for the next UN secretary general to be a woman.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations, His Excellency Ambassador Sven Alkalaj. Discussed a range of issues and upcoming initiatives also touched on the current political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety Jean Todt. Agreed that the adoption of the political declaration on road safety is a victory for multilateralism.