President of the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly

H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe

John W. Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda was elected President of the General Assembly’s sixty-eighth session on 14 June 2013 while serving in the dual capacity as his country’s Permanent Representative to both the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, positions he held since 2004.

Guided by a passion for sustainable development, Mr. Ashe has been in the forefront of international efforts to address the adverse effects of climate change and the fight to eradicate poverty. He has served in a leadership capacity on many of the governing bodies of the major UN environmental agreements, including as the first Chairman of the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). He also chaired the same Convention’s Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), and, most recently, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP). “We only have the planet we live on, and if we are to leave it in a reasonable state for the next generation, the quest for a safer, cleaner, and more equitable world is one that should consume us all,” he says, summing up his philosophy.

Mr. Ashe is also known for his abilities as a mediator. He successfully led negotiations that resulted in Chapter X of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (Rio+10); and co-chaired the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012. In 2004 he presided over the thirteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the body responsible for reviewing programmes on the implementation of Agenda 21—a blueprint to rethink economic growth, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection.

A veteran of the multilateral process, in 2008 Mr. Ashe was elected to serve as Chairman of the New York chapter of the Group of 77 and China, the largest coalition of developing nations in the UN system. He also chaired the General Assembly’s High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, the UN’s main policymaking body dedicated to furthering cooperation for development among the countries comprising the global South.

Well versed in the UN’s administrative and budgetary processes, Mr. Ashe was Chairman of the UN General Assembly’s Fifth Committee in 2004, successfully guiding negotiations for the world body’s 2006-2007 biennial budget. In addition, he has served on the governing boards of major UN funds and programmes, including as President of the UN Development Programme (UNDP)–UN Population Fund (UNFPA)–UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Executive Board in 2010, and as President of the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Executive Board in 2012.
Having joined his country’s Foreign Service in 1989, Mr. Ashe was awarded the Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) by Queen Elizabeth II (United Kingdom) in 2007, in recognition of his global diplomatic service.

Mr. Ashe was born on 20 August 1954 in St. John’s, Antigua and Barbuda, and holds a Doctorate in Bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania (United States). He is married and has two children.
New York, 14 June 2013

Today I stand before the General Assembly in the tradition of my sixty-seven distinguished predecessors, and I am deeply humbled and indeed honoured. I am also grateful for the trust and support that the Assembly has placed in me by electing me, by acclamation, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

The distance between my country’s seat and this podium is merely thirty-six steps, yet the journey began many moons ago. Many other Members, in addition to my own Government, have graciously supported me, including my colleagues from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community and last, but not least, those from my own regional group, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. Without them, I would not be standing here.

To each and every member of the General Assembly, I simply say “thank you”. As I have done on so many occasions in the past, I will continue to count on each member’s goodwill and willingness to work with me to find acceptable solutions in the year ahead.

Sixty-eight years ago, the Organization was founded in the wake of a terrible tragedy. Its Charter echoed a global longing for peace and cooperation. Since then, a steady stream of changes has reshaped our world, some positive, some negative, and some whose scope and magnitude are still evolving. I would posit that none among them has been more fundamental, more relentless and more far-reaching than the relationship between us, human beings, and the planet we inhabit. That reality affects each one of us.

A mere 18 months from now, the United Nations will launch its agenda for articulating the relationship between humankind and our physical environment.

That agenda must be wholly universal. It must, in my view, be a development agenda that is relevant to all people and all societies, and it must bring about global transformation for everyone, with shared but differentiated responsibilities.

Implementing such an agenda will be a complex task—politically, socially, economically, environmentally, culturally and technically. Arguably, it may be the boldest and most ambitious project that the United Nations has ever had to accomplish, and we, the General Assembly, will need to be equally bold, ambitious and collaborative if we are to rise to the task we are about to undertake and ensure its completion.

The undertaking is enormous, but we, the General Assembly, must find the courage to deliver on it. We have a shared commitment to work towards a collective goal and we are all accountable for our actions. We in the United Nations have been cautioned many times over that failure is not an option. But this time let us show the world that we are not resigned to failure and that we can be both bold and decisive in our actions.

As we consider our new agenda, let me highlight a few points. Above all, we must draw on the experiences—the lessons learned—from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, both in terms of results achieved and opportunities missed. We must also reflect on the new and emerging development challenges, with attention to two main goals, namely, overcoming poverty and insecurity and ensuring sustainable development.

Both time-bound global goals and national-level targets with measurable indicators will need to be developed. New and revised partnerships and bold political leadership at all levels are paramount. We must skilfully integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability, and we must balance the practical with the aspirational. Finally, our commitment to a world of opportunity, equity, freedom, dignity and peace—the principles of the Millennium Declaration of 2000 (resolution 55/2)—should not just be reaffirmed; they must also be re-energized.
Our agenda, which is formally known as the post-2015 development Agenda, must represent a
significant evolution in the thinking of the international community, and it must envision an inter-
dependent, planetary community regardless of development levels.

The time has come for the General Assembly—the supreme, deliberative organ of the United Nations
—to exercise its collective responsibility and begin as soon as possible the process of finalizing
the one shared, sustainable development agenda. To say it more clearly, development in general, and
sustainable development in particular, is the work of the General Assembly. Very simply put, it is our
reason for being.

During the upcoming sixty-eighth session, many of the outcomes of the Rio de Janeiro United
Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as we just heard from the President [of the sixty-
seventh session], are expected to come to fruition. We are expected to provide the requisite leader-
ship and clarity for the process. I sincerely believe we have a duty to deliver on our responsibilities in
an open, inclusive and transparent manner.

I therefore declare the theme of the sixty-eighth session, as well as that of the annual general
debate of the General Assembly, to be “The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage!”.

With that in mind, I will convene a number of related events towards fulfilling that objective. Working
closely with the Secretary-General and his team and the relevant United Nations funds, programmes and offices, including, but not limited to, the United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the recently established Office for South-South Cooperation, my team and I will host high-level events on the follow-
ing three topics: the contributions of women, the young and civil society to the post-2015 develop-
ment agenda; human rights and the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda; and
the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation and information and communication
technologies for development to the post-2015 development agenda.

In addition to those high-level events, my team and I will work closely with Member States to conve
n three thematic debates. Each debate will be geared towards the further elaboration of the
chosen theme. We will seek to provide results-oriented outcomes on the following issues: the
role of partnerships; ensuring stable and peaceful societies; and water, sanitation and sustainable
energy in the post-2015 development agenda.

In the course of the long lead-up to today, I have been deeply touched by all the advice from col-
leagues about what to highlight during the sixty-eighth session—also known as lobbying. To no
one’s surprise, in an Assembly as diverse as ours, ideas often differ. Nonetheless, I have identified
the following common elements: the need for an open, transparent and collaborative presidency;
greater involvement by the established organs of the General Assembly; and reinvigoration of the
reform agenda of the General Assembly.

First, in response to the almost universal call for an open, transparent and collaborative presidency, let
me provide a very clear answer: yes. My team and I pledge to be open and fully transparent, and we
welcome the Assembly's input for the work of the sixty-eighth session. However, let me be equally
clear on another point. Whenever and wherever true leadership is required, whenever deadlocks
must be broken and processes advanced, I will do my utmost to be resolute, fair, even-handed and
unequivocal. On that the General Assembly has my personal assurance.

Second, beyond any shadow of a doubt, there is a need for greater involvement by the various
organs of our institution in its work. Therefore, to ensure increased cooperation, coordination and
exchange of information, it is my intention to hold regular meetings with the Secretary-General and
senior members of his team and to continue the practice of holding periodic informal briefings,
during which he briefs us on his priorities, travels and most recent activities, including his participa-
tion in international meetings and events organize outside the United Nations. In my meetings
with the Presidents of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the Chairs of subsidiary bodies, I will introduce periodic informal briefings by each to update the General Assembly on the work of those principal organs. Last but not least, I will also hold regular meetings with the General Committee. That will enable the Committee to assess the ongoing progress in the work of the sixty-eighth session so that we may receive its counsel on how best to further our work. To that end, my team and I will work closely with the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management and his team to ensure a smooth and productive sixty-eighth session.

Third, with regard to reinvigorating the reform of the General Assembly, let me say that our relevance as an institution depends upon it. Any organization that cannot evolve or adapt to changing circumstances is at risk—any organization. Our time at the United Nations is a privileged time. The hopes and dreams of millions for a conflict-free world rest on us. We cannot afford to be indifferent or immune to the changing world around us. We cannot stand idly by as millions struggle, or merely settle for surviving, when there should be opportunities for all to thrive. Put another way, the United Nations must reform or it will become inconsequential.

A critical component of that reform is to revitalize the General Assembly and its work programme. What exactly does that mean? It means enhancing its role and authority and increasing its effectiveness and efficiency. Of course reform is needed in all the principal organs of the United Nations, including the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that I will strive to reinvigorate, advance and, yes, against incredible—and some would say impossible odds—conclude discussions on the reform of these organs. That is a top priority, and I call on each and every one of you in the General Assembly to join me in making it a reality.

Finally, we must also be cognizant of the evolving challenges the use cyberspace poses. To that end, I intend to work with Member States on identifying ways in which the Assembly can, and should, address emerging cybersecurity issues.

As the Assembly may know, I was born on a small island in the Caribbean. However, I take to heart the often-repeated maxim that no man is an island. I fully recognize that, given the task of my position, I will need to rely—indeed depend—on all members if I am to perform my duties effectively. As a start, I have assembled a team of highly capable, experienced professionals, most of whom are drawn from among the General Assembly’s midst and represent the rich diversity that is our United Nations. This is only the beginning. But what I really need is for each and every Member State and individual to play a role in making the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly productive and results-oriented, since in reality we are all on the same team. I therefore welcome everyone on board.
The General Assembly of the United Nations opens its sixty-eighth session on Tuesday, 17 September, at 3 p.m., at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Following a week of opening discussions, a number of high-level events will take place in quick succession. On Monday, 23 September, the Assembly will convene a High-level Meeting on persons with disability under the theme “The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond,” focusing on achieving the relevant Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed targets. (For further information, go to http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1590.)

The Assembly’s annual general debate, when Heads of State and Government and other high national officials gather to present their views about pressing world issues, will open on Tuesday, 24 September, and run through Tuesday, 1 October. On the sidelines of the general debate, the inaugural meeting of the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development, established by the Assembly in response to the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), will take place in the afternoon of Tuesday, 24 September. (For further information, go to http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556.) The following day, on Wednesday, 25 September, the President of the General Assembly will convene a special event on follow-up efforts towards achieving the MDGs in the post-2015 era. Later that week, on Thursday, 26 September, the Assembly will hold another High-level Meeting, on achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament.

Following the close of the general debate, the Assembly will convene a high-level dialogue on international migration and development on Thursday, 3 October, and Friday, 4 October, with the aim of identifying measures to enhance the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike while reducing its negative implications. (For further information, go to http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/HLD2013/mainhld2013.html.) Soon after, on Monday, 7 October, and Tuesday, 8 October, the Assembly will hold its sixth High-level dialogue on Financing for Development. (For further information, go to http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/index.htm.)

**Forum for multilateral negotiation**

Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprised of all 193 Members of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter (http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml). It also plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

The Assembly meets intensively from September to December each year, and thereafter as required.

**Functions and powers of the General Assembly**

The Assembly is empowered to make recommendations to States on international issues within its competence. It has also initiated actions—political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal—which have affected the lives of millions of people throughout the world. The landmark Millennium Declaration (http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm), adopted in 2000, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (http://www.un.org/Docs/journal.asp?m=A/RES/60/1), reflect the commitment of Member States to reach specific goals to attain peace, security and disarmament along with development and poverty eradication; safeguard human rights and promote the rule of law; protect our common environment; meet the special needs of Africa; and strengthen the United Nations.

According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly may:

- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States
• Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General

• Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament

• Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it

• Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations

• Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields

• Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries

• Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs

The Assembly may also take action in cases of a threat to the peace, breach of peace or act of aggression, when the Security Council has failed to act owing to the negative vote of a permanent member. In such instances, according to its “Uniting for peace” resolution of 3 November 1950 (377(V)), the Assembly may consider the matter immediately and recommend to its Members collective measures to maintain or restore international peace and security. (See “Special sessions and emergency special sessions”, below.)

The search for consensus

Each of the 193 Member States in the Assembly has one vote. Votes taken on designated important issues—such as recommendations on peace and security, the election of Security Council and Economic and Social Council members, and budgetary questions—require a two-thirds majority of Member States, but other questions are decided by a simple majority.

In recent years, an effort has been made to achieve consensus on issues, rather than deciding by a formal vote, thus strengthening support for the Assembly’s decisions. The President, after having consulted and reached agreement with delegations, can propose that a resolution be adopted without a vote.

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

There has been a sustained effort to make the work of the General Assembly more focused and relevant. This was identified as a priority during the fifty-eighth session, and efforts continued at subsequent sessions to streamline the agenda, improve the practices and working methods of the Main Committees, enhance the role of the General Committee, strengthen the role and authority of the President and examine the Assembly’s role in the process to select the Secretary-General.

At its sixtieth session, the Assembly adopted a text (annexed to resolution 60/286 of 8 September 2006) which encouraged the holding of informal interactive debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community. The text, which had been recommended by the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly, also invited the General Assembly President to propose themes for these interactive debates. During the sixty-seventh session, several thematic interactive debates were convened on a wide range of issues, including the role of international criminal justice in reconciliation; global economic governance; peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa; sustainable development and climate change; culture and development; and on entrepreneurship for development and inequality.

It has become an established practice for the Secretary-General to brief Member States periodically, in informal meetings of the General Assembly, on his recent activities and travels. These briefings have provided a well-received opportunity for exchange between the Secretary-General and Member States and are likely to be continued at the sixty-eighth session.

Elections for the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly and Chairs of the Main Committees

As a result of the ongoing revitalization of its work, and pursuant to rule 30 of its rules of procedure, the General Assembly now elects its President, Vice-Presidents and Chairs of the Main Committees at least three months in advance of the start of the new ses-
sion in order to further strengthen coordination and preparation of work among the Main Committees and between the Committees and the Plenary.

General Committee

The General Committee—composed of the President and 21 Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, as well as the Chairs of the six Main Committees—makes recommendations to the Assembly about adoption of the agenda, allocation of agenda items and organization of its work. (See http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/res-guide/gasess.htm#gaagen for more on the agenda.)

Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee, appointed by the General Assembly at each session, reports to the Assembly on the credentials of representatives.

General debate

The Assembly’s annual general debate, which provides Member States the opportunity to express their views on major international issues, will take place from Tuesday, 24 September, through Tuesday, 1 October. The Secretary-General will present his report on the work of the Organization immediately prior to the general debate, a practice that began with the fifty-second session.

The theme for the sixty-eighth session’s general debate will be, “The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage!” as proposed by the President-elect of the sixty-eighth session, H. E. Mr. John W. Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda, upon his election on 14 June 2013. The practice of selecting a specific issue of global concern for the debate dates back to 2003 when the General Assembly decided to introduce this innovation in an effort to enhance the authority and role of the now 193-member body (resolution 58/126 of December 2003).

The meetings of the general debate usually run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Main Committees

With the close of the general debate, the Assembly begins consideration of the substantive items on its agenda. Because of the great number of issues it is called upon to consider (171 agenda items at the sixty-seventh session, for example), the Assembly allocates to its six Main Committees items relevant to their work. The Committees discuss the items, seeking where possible to harmonize the various approaches of States, and present their recommendations, usually in the form of draft resolutions and decisions, to the Plenary of the Assembly for consideration and action.

The six Main Committees are: the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee), concerned with disarmament and related international security issues; the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee), concerned with economic issues; the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee), which deals with social and humanitarian issues; the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), dealing with a variety of political subjects not covered by any other Committee or the Plenary, including decolonization, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and the human rights of the Palestinian people; the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee), which is concerned with the administration and budget of the United Nations; and the Legal Committee (Sixth Committee), which deals with international legal matters.

On a number of agenda items, however, such as the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, the Assembly acts directly in its plenary meetings.

Working groups of the General Assembly

The General Assembly has, in the past, authorized the establishment of working groups to focus on matters of importance in more detail, and make recommendations for Assembly action. These include the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly, which will continue its work during the forthcoming session.

Regional groups

Various informal regional groupings have evolved over the years in the General Assembly as vehicles for consultation and to facilitate procedural work. The groups are: the African States; the Asia-Pacific States; the Eastern European States; the Latin American and Caribbean States; and the Western European and other States. The post of President of the General Assembly rotates among the regional groups. For the sixty-eighth session, the General Assembly has elected the President from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.
Special sessions and emergency special sessions

In addition to its regular sessions, the Assembly may meet in special and emergency special sessions. To date, the Assembly has convened 28 special sessions on issues that demanded particular attention, including the question of Palestine, United Nations finances, disarmament, international economic cooperation, drugs, the environment, population, women, social development, human settlements, HIV/AIDS, apartheid and Namibia. The twenty-eighth special session of the General Assembly, held on 24 January 2005, was devoted to the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps.


The Assembly decided, on 16 January 2009, to adjourn the tenth emergency special session temporarily and to authorize the President of the Assembly to resume its meetings at the request of Member States.

Carrying on the work of the Assembly

The work of the United Nations derives largely from the decisions of the General Assembly and is mainly carried out by:

- Committees and other bodies established by the Assembly to study and report on specific issues, such as disarmament, peacekeeping, economic development, the environment and human rights
- The Secretariat of the United Nations—the Secretary-General and his staff of international civil servants
Items included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly*

1. Opening of the session by the President of the General Assembly
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation
3. Credentials of representatives to the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee
4. Election of the President of the General Assembly
5. Election of the officers of the Main Committees
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly
7. Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee
8. General debate

A. Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences

10. Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS
11. Sport for peace and development: building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal
12. Global road safety crisis
13. 2001–2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa
14. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields
15. Culture of peace
16. Information and communications technologies for development
17. Macroeconomic policy questions:
   (a) International trade and development
   (b) International financial system and development
   (c) External debt sustainability and development
   (d) Commodities

* This is the provisional agenda as it was issued on 19 July 2013. More items may be added to this list if requested by Member States. An updated draft agenda will be available by the opening of the General Assembly in September 2013.
18. Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference

19. Sustainable development:
   (a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
   (b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
   (c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
   (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
   (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
   (f) Convention on Biological Diversity
   (g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its first universal session
   (h) Harmony with Nature
   (i) Sustainable mountain development
   (j) The role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia


21. Globalization and interdependence:
   (a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
   (b) Science and technology for development
   (c) Development cooperation with middle-income countries
   (d) Culture and development
   (e) International migration and development

22. Groups of countries in special situations:
   (a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
   (b) Comprehensive 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action

23. Eradication of poverty and other development issues:
   (b) Women in development
   (c) Human resources development

24. Operational activities for development:
   (a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
   (b) South-South cooperation (resolution 67/227)
25. Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
26. Towards global partnerships
27. Social development:
   (a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
   (b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family
   (c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing
   (d) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all
28. Advancement of women:
   (a) Advancement of women
   (b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

B. Maintenance of international peace and security
30. Report of the Peacebuilding Commission
31. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies
32. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict
33. Prevention of armed conflict:
   (a) Prevention of armed conflict
   (b) Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution
34. Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development
35. The situation in the Middle East
36. Question of Palestine
37. The situation in Afghanistan
38. The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan
39. Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte
40. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba
41. The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development
42. Question of Cyprus
43. Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo
44. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
45. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti
46. Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security

47. Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait

48. Assistance in mine action

49. Effects of atomic radiation

50. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

51. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

52. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

53. Comprehensive review of special political missions

54. Questions relating to information

55. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73e of the Charter of the United Nations

56. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

57. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

58. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

59. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

60. Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India

61. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources


C. Development of Africa

63. New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support:
   (a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support
   (b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

D. Promotion of human rights

64. Report of the Human Rights Council
65. Promotion and protection of the rights of children:
   (a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children
   (b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children

66. Rights of indigenous peoples:
   (a) Rights of indigenous peoples
   (b) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

67. Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance:
   (a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
   (b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

68. Right of peoples to self-determination

69. Promotion and protection of human rights:
   (a) Implementation of human rights instruments
   (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms
   (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives
   (d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

E. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

70. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance:
   (a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
   (b) Assistance to the Palestinian people
   (c) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions
   (d) Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

71. Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence

F. Promotion of justice and international law

72. Report of the International Court of Justice

73. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994


75. Report of the International Criminal Court
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