



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 January 2019

Excellency,

I am writing to you with regard to my strong commitment in working with Member States to strengthen multilateralism in the face of the multiple challenges the United Nations and the multilateral order are facing, as well as our capacity to collectively address the most pressing global issues such as poverty and hunger, climate change, migration and conflict.

In this context, I have the honour to inform you that I will convene an informal meeting of the General Assembly to engage with a number of former Presidents of the General Assembly, on the theme: “Revitalization of the United Nations in favor of a strengthened multilateral rules-based system”. The meeting is scheduled on Monday, 4 February 2019, at 3 p.m., in Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters.

This initiative aims at discussing how to make sure that the United Nations delivers for the people effectively and efficiently, including through a reformed and reinvigorated multilateral system. A background note is herewith attached.

I would, therefore, encourage all Member States to be represented at the Ambassadorial level and engage in an interactive discussion with these eminent personalities.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "MF ESPINOSA".

Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Informal meeting of the General Assembly on the theme:
“Revitalization of the United Nations in favor of a strengthened multilateral
rules-based system”

Monday, 4 February 2019, 3 p.m., Conference Room 4

Background

The President of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés is committed to strengthen multilateralism to address the multiple global challenges we are facing today, including an emerging threat to multilateralism as well as the most pressing issues.

At the general debate of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the international rules-based system. We have the opportunity to build on this political momentum, towards promoting multilateralism and revitalizing the United Nations, in order to achieve its potential. The United Nations must continue offering the venue, the expertise, the tools and mechanisms to achieve its purpose.

We need to listen carefully and work harder to improve the way our Organization is delivering for the people. We must renew and reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism and the United Nations. A United Nations that restores trust, effectiveness and efficiency, and adapts to the new realities is our main purpose.

Objective

The theme of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly is centered around the need to deliver for the people on the ground: “Making the United Nations Relevant to All People: Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies”.

Convinced of the importance to make the Organization more relevant and react to the outstanding call by world leaders to revitalize the United Nations and benefit from its potential for an international order based on multilateralism, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, will promote dialogue among world leaders and imminent personalities.

The interactive discussion with a number of former Presidents of the General Assembly, on the theme: “Revitalization of the United Nations in favor of a strengthened multilateral rules-based system”, is meant to contribute to this overall objective.

This initiative aims at discussing a set of recommendations on how to ensure that the United Nations delivers for the people effectively and efficiently.

Format

The Event will be an informal meeting of the General Assembly, open to Member States and Observers of the General Assembly. It will be convened on Monday, 4 February 2019, at 3 p.m., in Conference Room 4, at United Nations Headquarters.

The PGA, as well as former Presidents, will make introductory remarks. Following these opening remarks, Member States will be invited to interact with the speakers.

Discussions are intended to be interactive in nature and there will be no pre-established list of speakers; intention to speak will be expressed by pressing the microphone button.