



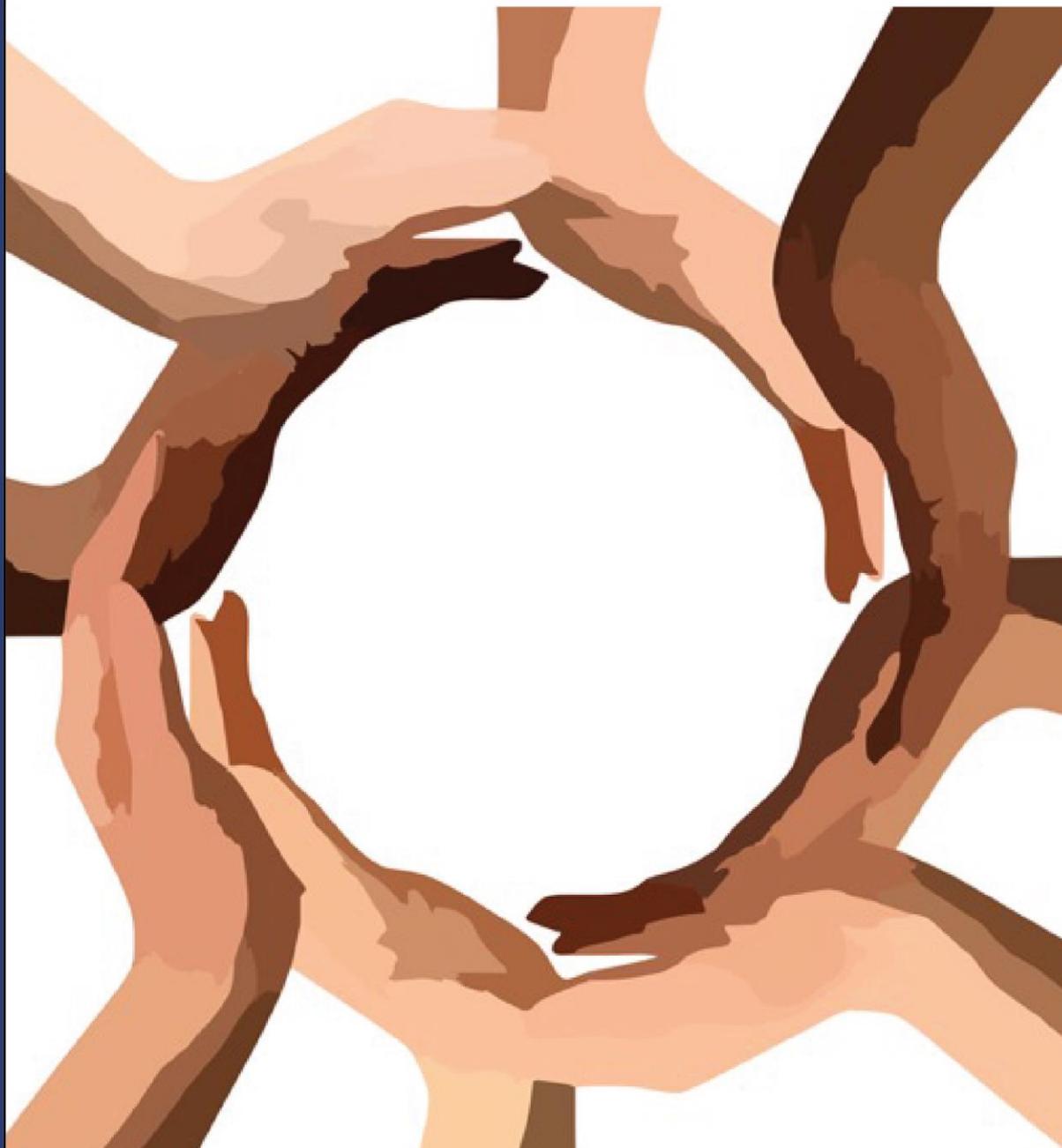
UNITED NATIONS  
GENEVA

Geneva, Switzerland

4-5 October

2021

**Peace**  
**Diversity**  
**Common Humanity**





UNITED NATIONS  
GENEVA



## HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

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# Peace, Diversity & our Common Humanity

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*4-5 October 2021*

*Geneva, Switzerland*

*Tempus 3, Palais des Nations*

The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and the Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC) are organizing a conference to reflect on the pursuit of peace and justice around the world, celebrate diversity within our common humanity; and promote sustainability through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNOG, which is located at the heart of International Geneva, is the operational hub for multilateral cooperation on these issues and many other pressing global challenges. Recognizing the critical role civil society plays in issues across the UN agenda, UNOG collaborates with a vast and diverse network of non-governmental organizations in Geneva.

This high-profile event is an example of the strong partnership between the United Nations and civil society.

Over 30 high-level UN personalities and prominent world leaders will exchange ideas and perspectives in this two-day event to encourage multilateralism in times of mounting nationalism, collaboration to bridge the deep-rooted rifts laid bare by the pandemic, and sustainability in a post-COVID-19 world. This year, the NGIC celebrates the 880<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its eponym Nizami Ganjavi (1141-1209) whose legacy includes valuable contributions to rejecting violence and promoting peace, cultural diversity and equality.



# DAY I

## 10.00 – 11.15 Opening Session

This opening session lays the foundation for the discussions that follow. The state of our world is characterized by complex, interconnected global challenges that confront our common humanity with an approaching ecological catastrophe, an unsustainable economic and social order, stark inequalities, growing mistrust, geopolitical tensions, and much more. This session looks at the unsettled world landscape that is emerging before our eyes. It seeks to discuss achievements, current challenges, and possible ways out of the multiple crises. It will also connect to the legacy of the famous Azerbaijani poet and philosopher Nizami Ganjavi.

- *Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)*
- *H.E. Ms. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Co-Chair, Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC), President of Latvia 1999-2007 (via zoom)*
- *Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Co-Chair, Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC), Vice-President of the World Bank 1992-2000*
- *H.E. Mr. Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom 2007-2010, Member of the NGIC (Video Message)*
- *H.E. Mr. Šefik Džaferović, Member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Video Message)*
- *H.E. Mr. Galib Israfilov, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to UNOG*

*Moderator:*

- *Mr. David Chikvaidze, Chef de Cabinet of the Office of the Director-General, UNOG*



## 11.30 – 13.00 Panel 1: Peace and Security in a changing world

Almost a century ago, the world was being transformed through the crucible of war, a deep depression and the Spanish flu pandemic, which set the stage for the creation of the first multilateral institution, the League of Nations. The devastation caused by the Second World War, which claimed the lives of more than 70 million victims, prompted the representatives of 51 countries to create the United Nations, and a system of international law and multilateral cooperation on common goals, which included – above all – peace among nations. Today, we seem to be moving away from the lessons we learned almost a century ago. A different set of imperatives are emerging that are pushing the existing instruments and institutions designed to ensure peace in the world to their limits.

This panel seeks to address these issues by asking questions like:

- How can peace and security be ensured in a changing and unsettled world?
- The role of regional groupings is increasing, but mostly on economic matters, not on peace and security issues. Where could these be properly addressed?
- With new countries gaining economic and political power, will multilateralism still receive sufficient support?
- How can we maintain a new and reinvigorated multilateralism?
- Where and how will matters pertaining to local and regional conflicts be addressed?
- How can the increasing number of intra-state conflicts be mediated and reduced?

Speakers:

- *H.E. Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of Croatia 2015-2020*
- *H.E. Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General, League of Arab States 2001-2011, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt 1991-2001 (Via Zoom)*
- *H.E. Mr. Mladen Ivanić, President of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014-2018*
- *Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Director, Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)*
- *Mr. Scott M. Weber, President of Interpeace*
- *Ms. Wafaa Saeed Abdelatef, Acting Director, Coordination Division, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)*

Moderator:

- *Ms. Kateryna Yushchenko, First Lady of Ukraine 2005-2010*



## 15.00 – 16.30 Panel 2: Diversity in the Context of our Common Humanity

In 1948, shortly after the creation of the United Nations, the world leaders codified a fundamental new concept: Human Rights. They unanimously adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and strengthened the declaration by adopting legal instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the end of the colonial era and of the Cold War. Today, despite the acknowledgement of the value of cultural diversity, fears and controversies about immigration and multiculturalism are spreading in many countries. The issue of immigration is a principal bone of contention between political factions, and systemic racism is apparent.

This panel seeks to address questions like:

- In 2020, the UN has recorded the largest number of refugees and Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) since the end of the Second World War, but acceptance of refugees or even legal immigration is problematic in most countries. What can be done about that?
- Multiculturalism may be enriching, but it is a divisive political issue in most countries. How can this richness be captured and recognized?
- Diversity also has major implications for the definition of the national culture, the historical narrative for the country, and for the education system – so what should be done to overcome these types of issues?

Speakers:

- **H.E. Ms. Keva Lorraine Bain**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to UNOG, Vice-President of the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council (TBC)
- **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé**, High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) (via Zoom)
- **H.E. Mr. Joseph Muscat**, Prime Minister of Malta 2013-2020
- **Mr. Ugochi Daniels**, Deputy Director General of Operations, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- **Mr. Abdulaziz Altwajiri**, former Director General of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) (via zoom)
- **Mr. Vincent Defourny**, Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office to UNOG
- **Mr. Paul Révay**, former European Director, Trilateral Commission (Via Zoom)

Moderator:

- **Dr. Ismail Serageldin**, Co-Chair of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center, Vice-President of the World Bank 1992-2000



# DAY II

## 10.00 – 11.30 Panel 3: Environment and Climate as all-embracing issues

By the start of the new century, the world had developed a largely consensual view on development aims, mediated by the UN. The United Nations Member States adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) covering the period from 2000 through 2015 and subsequently the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the period 2015-2030. Sustainability implies that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It requires that our actions today prove sustainable in economic, ecological, and social terms. However, the degradation of nature is progressing at a greater pace than our ability to care for the environment. The preservation of our common humanity requires tough tradeoffs: economic growth and a healthy ecosystem, individual freedom and collective well-being, prospering in the now and enabling opportunities for future generations cannot be reconciled easily.

This panel examines these trade-offs by discussing questions like:

- How can responsibility for the environment be balanced and distributed between international, national and local levels?
- Which sort of governance is needed to accelerate climate action?
- How can the constraints imposed by the limits of our planet be equitably distributed? What kind of future can we enable for future generations?
- Where can difficult questions best be negotiated? How will the costs and gains from climate action and climate adaptation measures be distributed?
- How can the international community deal with an increasing number of climate refugees?
- What can be learned from civil society organizations in the fight for sustainability?

Speakers:

- **Ms. Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- **Ms. Mami Mizutori**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and Head of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- **H.E. Mr. Zlatko Lagumdžija**, Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2001-2002, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs 2012-2015
- **Mr. Robert Mardini**, Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross
- **H.E. Mr. Petar Stoyanov**, President of Bulgaria 1997-2002
- **Mr. Bruno Pozzi**, Director of the Europe Office, UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Moderator:

- **H.E. Mr. Chiril Gaburici**, Prime Minister of Moldova 2015



## 11.30 – 13.00 Panel 4: Equality within the Sustainable Development Goals

The vision of sustainable development is one that is people-centered and gender-conscious, that seeks equity for all and recognizes the interdependence of all living things. However, in reality, societies around the world are facing rampant inequalities. Reducing these (SDG #10) requires serious government action. Moreover, income, wealth and social inequalities cannot be addressed without speaking about one particular discrimination: Among all inequalities, women suffer the most. The UN Secretary-General has made gender equality one of his top priorities and called it the world's greatest human rights challenge. The implementation of SDG #5 gender equality, the transformation of gender norms, and the recognition of women's achievements in all sectors require accelerated action by governments, civil society, the private sector and many others.

This panel seeks to find new impetus for accelerating action, by discussing questions like:

- How can we better spread the notion that women's rights are human rights?
- Girls education and women empowerment: How do we remove obstacles to women's greater participation in the labor force?
- How do we cope with cultural norms that discriminate against women?
- How do we ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)?
- How do we avoid losing precious gains in gender equality and women's right due to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What lessons can be learned from the work of civil society activists?

Speakers:

- *H.E. Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of Croatia 2015-2020*
- *H.E. Ms. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of Mauritius 2015-2018 (via zoom)*
- *Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary-General, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Global Board Member of the International Gender Champions*
- *H.E. Ms. Ana Birchall, Member of the Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister of Romania 2018-2019, Minister of Justice 2019*
- *Ms. Eka Tkeshelashvili, Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia 2010-2012*
- *Ms. Caitlin Kraft-Buchman, CEO/Founder, Women@TheTable and Global Board Member of the International Gender Champions*

Moderator:

- *H.E. Mr. Zlatko Lagumdžija, Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2001-2002, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs 2012-2015*



## 15.00 – 16.15 Closing Session

The closing session will discuss the results of the previous panels and provide an outlook on the next steps. How can the discussed problems and solutions for humanity be captured and followed up as effectively as possible? What kind of action is needed from different levels - international, national, local - and from different actors - governmental, societal, private - to uphold values like peace, diversity and humanity? The results of this discussion will also serve as an impulse for the VIII Global Baku Forum “The World After COVID-19” to be held in November 2021.

### Speakers:

- **Ms. Tatiana Valovaya**, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)
- **H.E. Ms. Vaira Vike-Freiberga**, Co-Chair Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC), President of Latvia 1999-2007 (via zoom)
- **H.E. Mr. Rosen Plevneliev**, President of Bulgaria 2012-2017
- **Dr. Ismail Serageldin**, Co-Chair of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center, Vice-President of the World Bank 1992-2000

### Moderator:

- **Mr. Rovshan Muradov**, Secretary-General Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC)