

TBILISI DECLARATION

43RD WFUNA PLENARY ASSEMBLY

7-10 NOVEMBER 2023

TBILISI, GEORGIA

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The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) and its member Associations represented at the 43rd WFUNA Plenary Assembly held in Tbilisi, Georgia from 7 – 10 November 2023 adopt this Declaration and present it to the Member States of the United Nations and to the peoples of the world.

We share our appreciation of UN Secretary-General's leadership at a critical juncture of our world's history and welcome his Our Common Agenda report and vision presented to address rising challenges and build on existing opportunities. The eleven policy briefs provide member States and all of us concrete proposal for moving forward. As UN associations we welcome and fully support the UN Secretary-General's principled positions and statements concerning rising tensions and conflicts around the world and share his conclusions presented during the 78th session of the General Assembly: "Our world is becoming unhinged. Geopolitical tensions are rising. Global challenges are mounting. And we seem incapable of coming together to respond." We reaffirm the criticality of his independence.

At a time when multilateralism is on the wane and UN reform seems blocked, the center of political leverage is shifting away from the UN to other regional groups. The 2024 Summit for the Future represents a critical opportunity for the UN to address this and fulfil its mandate. Concomitantly, the world is faced with a multiple crises including multifaceted climate and nature crisis, economic crisis increased and simultaneous threats to global stability from inter- and intra- State conflicts, humanitarian crises affecting over 300 million people, and the lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in social and economic terms. All of these severely challenge our international institutions and threaten to reverse the progress that has been achieved at great cost in the last seven decades.

While this is not the first time the UN has had to deal with difficult global challenges, this is without a doubt one of the most difficult periods that the UN has faced in its history. The threats to international peace and security and to the planet from all these directions risks undermining the UN's relevance in the minds of governments and their citizens.

This is a time when we need more than rhetoric urging a return to multilateralism. Everyone must step up and seize this moment to make a contribution: whether it is in educating others about the SDGs, implementing community projects to support one or more of these goals, urging government leaders as well as non-State actors to adhere to international law, fighting discrimination wherever it rears its head, combatting hatred as well as dis- and mis-information, making efforts to listen and resolve differences through dialogue. Furthermore, on this 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, WFUNA expresses the importance of protecting the Human Rights of all peoples of the world, upholding international law, and preventing continued human suffering.



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WFUNA's mission is to build a better world by strengthening and improving the United Nations through the engagement of peoples who share a global mindset and support international cooperation. Toward this end, it commits itself to increasing efforts to engaging civil society around the world to support the work of the UN as advocates for peace and agents of change to make a difference in the lives of others in their communities and beyond. Intergenerational equity is at the forefront, and we commit to involve young advocates around the world in the processes. WFUNA calls on State actors to favor the strengthening of Civil Society as it is the prerequisite for any successful and lasting progress in the fields of Peace and Security, Human Rights and Sustainable Development. Being at the mid-term point of Agenda 2030, we call for the strengthening of efforts on the SDGs at all levels. We shall make the principle of Universal Declaration of Human Rights a reality in our daily lives, hence we shall pledge to always stand up for human rights, peace and security, dignity, freedom, and justice for all.

WFUNA and its Associations, representing the largest network connecting people to the United Nations, reaffirms the need for defending the foundational principles and values of the Charter as the only basis for international peace and security, cooperation and prosperity.
