



Justice
Coalition of
Religious

78th Session United Nations General Assembly

Rebuilding trust and reigniting
global solidarity

18–26 SEPTEMBER 2023





Justice Coalition of Religious

This guide was produced by the [Justice Coalition of Religious](#) (JCoR), a coalition of 22 non-governmental organizations that are accredited to collectively represent over 200 congregations of Roman Catholic women and men Religious at the United Nations (UN). For centuries, congregations of Religious have served people who have been rendered poor, vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalized by existing global systems. Through our membership in JCoR, we have united with our sister and brother organizations to enhance collaboration among our members – at UN Headquarters and around the world – in our common mission: to improve quality of life for people who are living in poverty and to enhance our stewardship of the natural environment.

The primary aim of our collaboration is to strengthen the capacity of Catholic Religious and their partners to address the root causes of human and environmental suffering.

We work toward this goal by coordinating national, regional, and global efforts of Religious to call on political leaders to take action for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), the United Nations' Agenda for 2015–2030.

We hope these pages will help empower you join us in this mission!





What is the opening of the General Assembly?

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is the **main policy-making body of the United Nations** (UN), composed of representatives from each of the 193 UN Member States. It serves as a platform for discussion of specific issues that culminate in the voting on and adoption of resolutions.

The UNGA annual session commences in September, welcoming heads of state and government to the UN Headquarters in New York for the General Debate, a central focus of every session. The General Debate provides a space for UN Member States to deliver statements and present topics of significance in front of a world audience.

This year marks the **78th session of the UNGA** (UNGA78), which will officially open on Monday, 18 September. The first day of the high-level General Debate will begin on Tuesday, 19 September and continue through Monday, 26 September. Featured events at this year's UNGA also include SDG Action Weekend, the SDG Summit, and the Climate Ambition Summit.

The theme of this year's annual session is "Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all." Accordingly, UNGA78 presents an opportunity for world leaders to come together to **commit to collective action to accelerate progress on creating a more sustainable and just future for all** – leaving no one behind.

UNGA78 Details

WHEN:

18–26 September 2023

WHERE:

Online and at the United Nations Headquarters in New York

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Visit the UNGA78 [website](#)

WATCH:

See next page for details on in-person participation

You can join in online to follow the proceedings of the UNGA at webtv.un.org (streamed in multiple languages)

PROGRAMME:

Click [here](#) to access the provisional schedule

5 September: Opening of 78th Session of the General Assembly

16–17 September: [SDG Action Weekend](#)

18–19 September: [SDG Summit](#)

19–23, 26 September: General Debate (see the following pages for the programme of speakers)

20 September: [High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development](#)

20 September: High-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

20 September: [Climate Ambition Summit](#)

21 September: [High-level meeting on universal health coverage](#)

21 September: Preparatory ministerial meeting for the [Summit of the Future](#)

22 September: High-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis

26 September: High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the [International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#)



LINKS TO LIVE AND ON-DEMAND COVERAGE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CAN BE ACCESSED HERE: [HTTP://GADEBATE.UN.ORG](http://gadebate.un.org).

From 1 September 2023, no new passes will be approved or issued for representatives of NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council for the duration of the high-level week of the General Assembly. Access to United Nations premises will be granted with valid United Nations grounds passes only until 15 September 2023. From 18 to 29 September 2023, the use of annual and temporary grounds passes for NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to enter the Headquarters complex will be suspended.

Instructions for in-person participation

ACCESS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A limited number of special passes for the General Assembly will be distributed daily from 18 to 26 September by the NGO Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, on a first-come, first-served basis at the corner of Second Avenue and 46th Street from 9 to 10 a.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m. for participation on the same day. Tickets will be distributed upon presentation of a valid UN grounds pass. Owing to the limited number of passes available, and in order to provide equal opportunity to all NGOs in consultative status to attend the sessions, special half-day passes will be distributed to one representative of each NGO to attend either the morning session or the afternoon session of the general debate, but not both. In other words, NGOs participating in the morning session cannot participate in the afternoon session.

ACCESS TO SPECIAL EVENTS

Members of civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) whose participation has been approved through an online registration process to attend UN high-level meetings or other UN events will be required to be in possession of a government-issued photo identification and a Special Event Ticket (indicating the specific meeting, date and time) at all times. The issuance of Special Event Tickets is the responsibility of the United Nations sponsoring office and/or Permanent Mission. Non-United Nations guests will require a sponsoring office or delegation staff member escort from the access point on Second Avenue and 46th Street to the meeting or event location.

Programme of Speakers

Tuesday, September 19

MORNING

President of the General Assembly, Secretary-General of the UN

AFTERNOON

United States of America, France, More coming soon...

Wednesday, September 20

MORNING

Bhutan, Slovakia, More coming soon...

AFTERNOON

Australia, Norway, More coming soon...

PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS A PROVISIONAL LIST AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
VISIT <https://gadebate.un.org/en> for an updated list of speakers!

Programme of Speakers

Thursday, September 21

MORNING

Belgium, Republic of North Macedonia, More coming soon...

AFTERNOON

Iceland, Serbia, More coming soon...

Friday, September 22

MORNING

Coming soon...

AFTERNOON

Coming soon...

PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS A PROVISIONAL LIST AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
VISIT <https://gadebate.un.org/en> for an updated list of speakers!

Programme of Speakers

Saturday, September 23

MORNING

Coming soon...

AFTERNOON

Coming soon...

Tuesday, September 26

MORNING

Coming soon...

AFTERNOON

Coming soon...

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Additional **Featured Events**

during the opening of UNGA78



Take a look at JCoR's guide to the SDG Summit and Action Weekend by clicking the above image!

1

SDG Action Weekend

16-17 SEPTEMBER

The [SDG Action Weekend](#) invites stakeholders from all sectors (e.g., civil society, youth, coalitions, academia, local-level policymakers, and businesses) to foster dialogue, share best practices, and identify actionable strategies to advance implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Action Weekend provides a space for participants to develop fundamental messages to inform the proceedings of the SDG Summit.

2

SDG Summit

18-19 SEPTEMBER

The [SDG Summit](#) gathers governments and Heads of State with the central aims of generating renewed enthusiasm for the 2030 Agenda and catalyzing action to accelerate progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The outcome of the Summit will be a negotiated political declaration.

3

High-level Dialogue on Finance for Development

20 SEPTEMBER

The [High-level Dialogue on Finance for Development](#) assembles governments, civil society, the private sector, and financial institutions to announce new financial commitments and mobilization of resources to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda.

4

Climate Ambition Summit

21 SEPTEMBER

The [Climate Ambition Summit](#) convenes leaders, across governments, businesses, financial institutions, and civil society. It calls on each of these participants to present “credible, serious and new climate action and nature-based solutions” to respond to the urgency of the climate crisis.

Who to follow and tag on **Social Media** & suggested hashtags

JUSTICE COALITION OF RELIGIOUS (JCoR)

Twitter: [@JCoR2030](https://twitter.com/JCoR2030) Facebook: [@JCoR2030](https://www.facebook.com/JCoR2030)

JCoR MEMBERS

Click [here](#) to access Twitter list of JCoR members

UNITED NATIONS (UN)

Twitter: [@UN](https://twitter.com/UN) Facebook: [@unitednations](https://www.facebook.com/unitednations) Instagram: [@unitednations](https://www.instagram.com/unitednations)

PRESIDENT OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Twitter: [@UN_PGA](https://twitter.com/UN_PGA) Instagram: [@unpga](https://www.instagram.com/unpga)

YOUR CONGREGATION'S NGO AT THE UN

Need help? Find many congregations' NGO's social media details [here](#)

YOUR GOVERNMENT'S PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UN



#UN78, #UNGA, or #UNGA78

Sample Messaging

for social media

UNGA78

The **#UNGA** (Sept 18–26) gathers world leaders **@UN** to present important issues in front of a global audience. This year the focus is “Rebuilding trust & reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the **#2030Agenda** & **#SDGs**”
Learn more & participate: <https://jcor2030.org/communications-guides/>

We ask heads of state and government at **#UN78**, what are you doing to accelerate progress on the **#2030Agenda**? What commitments are you making to help us achieve the **#SDGs** & ensure we **#LeaveNoOneBehind**? We are listening to your statements, and we plan to hold you accountable.

CALL TO ACTION! Even if you cannot join the discussions at **#UNGA**, there are many positive steps you can take to **#Act4SDGs**: <https://youtu.be/awdUBEDpES0>
Let’s come together and unite to act for a better tomorrow. Learn more & register your action here: <https://act4sdgs.org/>

At **#UNGA78** we call on world leaders & **@UN** Member States to [. . .]



Sample Messaging

for social media

SDG Action Weekend & Summit

We call on world leaders at the [#SDGSummit](#) to recognize that we are halfway through the timeline set for the [#2030Agenda](#) & substantial work remains! The time is NOW to address our global challenges & [#Act4SDGs](#). The planet & it's people cannot wait. We need ambitious action TODAY!

The [#SDGSummit](#) encourages world leaders to make bold commitments to achieve the [#SDGs](#). Watch live at <https://media.un.org/en/webtv> to hear what your government has to say. To learn more about [#SDGActionWeekend](#) & the Summit visit <https://jcor2030.org/communications-guides/>

Climate Ambition Summit

We are at a precipice: the world that future generations inherit depends on what we do TODAY. Govts at the [#ClimateAmbitionSummit](#) must recognize the suffering caused by the [#ClimateCrisis](#) & take URGENT action. If we join together & act, we can change the future. [#ClimateActionNOW](#)



Call to Action

Now must be the time for ambition and action... The world is watching – and the planet can't wait.

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, United Nations Secretary-General

What action will you take?

