



Justice
Coalition of
Religious

79TH SESSION OF THE

United Nations General Assembly

Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations

20-30 September 2024





Justice Coalition of Religious

This guide was produced by the [Justice Coalition of Religious](#) (JCoR), a coalition of 23 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 of each year, welcoming heads of state and government to the UN Headquarters in New York. This year marks the **79th session of the UNGA (UNGA79)**, which officially opened on Tuesday, 10 September, and the most prominent meetings of the opening of the General Assembly take place during **High-Level Week**, which runs from 22-28 September. During this time, world leaders, policymakers, experts, and other stakeholders gather to confront another year of complex issues and challenges. The conversations that transpire in this space will shape policy for the future.

A central component of High-Level Week is the **General Debate**. The General Debate provides a space for leaders from UN Member States to speak in front of the entire General Assembly. Heads of state and government take turns delivering statements and addressing topics of significance in front of a world audience.

In addition to the General Debate, this year's High-Level Week also features the following events: the Summit of the Future, the SDG Moment, the High-Level Meeting on Sea-Level Rise, the High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance, and the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

The theme of UNGA79 is "Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations." Accordingly, the opening of this annual session presents an opportunity for world leaders to come together and **commit to collective action to accelerate progress on creating a more sustainable and peaceful future for all** - leaving no one behind.



UNGA79 Details

When:

22-30 September 2024

Where:

Online and at the United Nations Headquarters in New York

Official website:

For additional information, visit the [UNGA79 website](#)

Watch:

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

Programme:

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

10 September: Opening of 79th Session of the General Assembly

20-21 September: [Action days](#) for the Summit of the Future

22-23 September: [Summit of the Future](#)

24 September: [SDG Moment](#)

24-28, 30 September: [General Debate](#) (See pages 9-11 for the programme of speakers)

25 September: [High-Level Meeting on Sea-Level Rise](#)

26 September: [High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance](#)

26 September: [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>.

Instructions for In-Person Participation

From 1 September 2024, 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 the United Nations premises will be granted with valid United Nations grounds passes only until 21 September 2024. From 22-30 September 2024, the use of annual and temporary grounds passes for NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to enter the UN Headquarters complex will be suspended. The usual procedures for UN Grounds Passes will be reinstated as of 2 October 2024.

Access to the General Assembly

A limited number of special passes for the General Assembly will be distributed daily from 23-27 September by the NGO Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, on a first-come-first served basis at the corner of 2nd Avenue and 48th Street from 9:00am-10:00am and from 2:00pm-3:00pm for attendance 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 attending the morning session cannot attend the afternoon session.

Access to Special Events

For all UN high-level meetings and events, participation of civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) must be first approved through dedicated, online registration processes for each event. At the conclusion of the registration processes, participants will be notified of the approval of their registration, and will also be informed of the date, time and venue for the collection of the required Special Event Tickets (SETs). To collect their SETs, approved participants will be required to present the Letter of Approval that was sent to them by the United Nations, as well as a government-issued photo ID, such as a passport or a driver's license, etc. The SETs will indicate the name of the participant, the specific meeting, date and time of the event. Participants will be required to carry the SETs with them at all times while on UN premises. The issuance of Special Event Tickets is the responsibility of the United Nations sponsoring office. Non-United Nations guests will require a sponsoring office or delegation staff member to escort them from the access point on 2nd Avenue and 46th Street to the meeting or event location.



Featured Events during the opening of UNGA79



Summit of the Future Action Days
20-21 September

The Summit of the Future will be preceded by Action Days, which will bring together stakeholders — from young people to civil society to Heads of State — for an engaging two days of discussion and action. Learn more about the Action Days on page 8.



Summit of the Future
22-23 September

The Summit seeks to forge new consensus around how our international system can evolve to better meet the needs of current and future generations. Learn more about the Summit on page 7.



SDG Moment
24 September

The fourth annual SDG Moment will showcase examples of progress on achieving the SDGs. It will highlight the role of political leadership, investment, and global partnerships in achieving food systems transformation, renewable energy shift, and expanded digital connectivity.



General Debate
24-28, 30 September

The annual general debate provides an opportunity for Member States to raise any topic in front of a global audience. Heads of State deliver statements in the General Assembly that reflect issues of significance to the member State. See page 9-11 for the programme of speakers.



High-Level Meeting on Sea-Level Rise
25 September

Global leaders, experts, and stakeholders will convene to address the threat of rising sea levels. Participants will work towards developing comprehensive solutions and actionable commitments to combat sea-level rise, ensuring a resilient and sustainable future for all.



High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance
26 September

Governments and stakeholders will gather to accelerate progress in combating the threat of antimicrobial resistance. Participants will focus on enhancing cooperation, promoting responsible use, and the development of new treatments to safeguard global health.



International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
26 September

On this occasion the world community reaffirms its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a priority. It provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons, and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them.

Summit of the Future

The Summit of the Future is a high-level event designed to bring world leaders together to examine the state of **international cooperation** and to chart a path forward, to improve the way we **collaborate to address future challenges and opportunities**.

The Summit is composed of plenaries and interactive dialogues focused on five main subjects: peace and security, sustainable development and financing, transforming global governance, youth and future generations, and a digital future for all. It will culminate in the adoption of three agreements:

- The [Pact for the Future](#) is an action-oriented document negotiated by UN Member States. It aims include reaffirming the UN Charter, strengthening cooperation between countries, advancing progress on existing commitments (such as the Sustainable Development Goals), agreeing on solutions to rising challenges, and restoring trust. The Pact will contain the following two agreements:
 - The [Global Digital Compact](#) will establish a global framework to tackle digital, data, and technology divides. It will outline principles, objectives and actions for advancing an open, free, secure and human-centered digital future for all.
 - The [Declaration for Future Generations](#) will affirm Member States' commitment to ensure that the interests of future generations are considered in national and global decision-making, guaranteeing the rights of future generations to thrive.

Everyone has a role to play in holding our respective governments responsible for implementing the commitments detailed in these adopted agreements, delivering a safer, more peaceful, just, inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous future for everyone, everywhere. To learn more about the Summit of the Future, visit the [official website](#) and [programme](#).



Summit of the Future Action Days

As all individuals possess the capacity to play a vital role in the implementation of the Pact of the Future, it is important to provide a space for all stakeholders to participate in the process of its formulation, adoption, and follow-up. Therefore, the Summit of the Future will be preceded by two Action Days, to **provide additional opportunities for broader engagement and the inclusion of all stakeholders.**

The Summit of the Future Action Days will convene representatives from UN Member States, local governments, civil society, private sector, academia, youth, and more. The two-day action-oriented event will **maintain a dedicated focus on future generations**, and it will include keynote speakers, interactive dialogues, breakout sessions, and a panel with the UN Secretary-General. The breakout sessions will address the themes of:

1. Innovative solutions in humanitarian action
2. Foresight in climate and environmental sustainability
3. Gender equality to empower girls and young women at the heart of multilateralism
4. Intergenerational equity and solidarity for a shared future
5. Inclusive digital future for all
6. Governance for human rights, peace and security, and political processes

If you are interested in learning more about the Action Days, visit the [official website](#) for the full programme and details.

For additional information including daily updates, please follow the [Facebook account](#) of the Claretians, a JCoR member that will be actively participating in the Summit of the Future and the Action Days.



General Debate ◦ Programme of speakers

Tuesday, 24 September

9:00am-2:45pm (New York time)

Brazil, United States, Turkey, Jordan, Guatemala, Switzerland, Colombia, Qatar, South Africa, Maldives, Uzbekistan, Lithuania, Tajikistan, Sierra Leone, Serbia

3:00pm-9:00pm (New York time)

Peru, Kyrgyzstan, Algeria, Argentina, Morocco, El Salvador, Iran, Estonia, Chile, Latvia, Paraguay, Vietnam, Angola, Poland, Monaco, Nauru, Nigeria

Wednesday, 25 September

9:00am-2:45pm (New York time)

Mongolia, Seychelles, Czechia, Ukraine, Ghana, Bulgaria, Suriname, Cyprus, Ecuador, Slovakia, Namibia, Libya, Dominican Republic, Madagascar, Romania, Brunei Darussalam, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, France

3:00pm-9:00pm (New York time)

Cabo Verde, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Guyana, Panama, Mauritania, Senegal, Liberia, Togo, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Dominica, Marshall Islands, Guinea-Bissau, Bolivia



PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS A PROVISIONAL LIST AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Visit <https://gadebate.un.org/en> for an updated list of speakers!

General Debate ◦ Programme of speakers

Thursday, 26 September

9:00am-2:45pm (New York time)

Malawi, Cameroon, Kenya, Yemen, Burundi, Gabon, Central African Republic, State of Palestine, Comoros, Gambia, Haiti, Sudan, Sao Tome and Principe, Lesotho, South Sudan, North Macedonia, Uruguay, Fiji

3:00pm-9:00pm (New York time)

Micronesia, Djibouti, Mauritius, European Union, Cote D'Ivoire, Palau, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Bahrain, Portugal, Japan, Netherlands, Armenia, Iraq, Israel, Georgia, Greece, Barbados, Nepal

Friday, 27 September

9:00am-2:45pm (New York time)

Slovenia, Pakistan, Italy, Spain, Bhutan, United Kingdom, Andorra, Bangladesh, Republic of Moldova, Canada, Vanuatu, Croatia, Papua New Guinea, Ireland, Malta, Bahamas

3:00pm-9:00pm (New York time)

Montenegro, Antigua and Barbuda, Albania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Somalia, Eswatini, United Republic of Tanzania, Chad



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General Debate ◦ Programme of speakers

Saturday, 28 September

9:00am-2:45pm (New York time)

Grenada, Uganda, Guinea, Holy See, China, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Mali, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Mexico, Norway, Hungary, Singapore, Cuba, Philippines, San Marino, Malaysia, Australia

3:00pm-7:00pm (New York time)

United Arab Emirates, Turkmenistan, Germany, Liechtenstein, Saudi Arabia, Zambia, Sweden, Austria, India, Belarus, Iceland, Oman, Denmark, Thailand, Azerbaijan, Trinidad and Tobago, Ethiopia, Belize

Monday, 30 September

9:00am-2:45pm (New York time)

Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Eritrea, Nicaragua, Benin, Lebanon, Tunisia, Egypt, Costa Rica, Niger, Republic of Korea, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Belgium, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Congo, Sri Lanka

3:00pm-9:00pm (New York time)

Myanmar, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kiribati



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Recommended Events



Visit JCoR's Website

Please visit JCoR's [UNGA79 webpage](#) to access a curated list of UNGA side events and parallel events that are recommended by JCoR and our Religious community at the United Nations in New York.

[Click here](#)

Social Media Recommendations



Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR)

Twitter: [@JCoR2030](#) Facebook: [@JCoR2030](#)

JCoR Members

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

United Nations (UN)

Twitter: [@UN](#) Facebook: [@unitednations](#) Instagram: [@unitednations](#)

President of the UN General Assembly

Twitter: [@UN_PGA](#) Instagram: [@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



#UN79, #UNGA, or #UNGA79

Call to Action

We are called to “continue to stand in solidarity with the people of the world through these trying times, as we seek to forge a more peaceful, healthy, equal and prosperous future together.”

-United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

