#UNGA72: FAQs ABOUT THE 2017 UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
General Assembly FAQs

Focusing on People—Striving for Peace and a Decent Life for All on a Sustainable Planet

Key Dates:

- **Opening of the General Assembly**
  - **Day:** Tuesday, 12 September
  - **Time:** 3:00 pm
- **High-level Meeting on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**
  - **Date:** Monday, 18 September
- **Opening of the General Debate**
  - **Day:** Tuesday, 19 September
- **Signing Ceremony of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**
  - **Day:** Wednesday, 20 September
- **High-level plenary meeting for the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**
  - **Date:** Tuesday, 26 September
- **High-level meeting on the appraisal of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons**
  - **Date:** Wednesday, 27 September – Thursday, 28 September

Provisional Agenda for UNGA 72:

- Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the GA and recent UN conferences
- Maintenance of international peace and security
- Development of Africa
- Promotion of human rights
- Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts
- Promotion of justice and international law
- Disarmament
- Drug control, crime prevention, and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations
- Organizational, administrative, and other matters

All sessions and side events will be broadcast live on [UN Web TV](https://www.un.org/webtv)

President of the General Assembly:

- **Miroslav Lajčák** is the incoming President of the General Assembly:
  - Three-term Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
  - High and Special Representative to the European Union
  - Head of the Permanent Secretariat for the Organization of the Summit of Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States, Bratislava 2005
  - Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Albania, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2001-2005)
  - Executive Assistant to the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Balkans
  - Slovak Ambassador to Japan (the youngest ever foreign ambassador in Japan)
What is the General Assembly?

The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six main bodies of the United Nations and is comprised of all 193 member states. Each member state possesses one vote. General Assembly votes on high-level issues such as security and budget require a two-thirds majority. All other General Assembly decisions are decided by a majority. The General Assembly also comprises committees and subsidiary committees. The six main committees include: the Disarmament and International Security Committee, the Economic and Financial Committee, the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, the Administrative and Budgetary Committee, the Legal Committee.

More information on the General Assembly

What is the General Debate?

The General Debate is held annually in September and provides a platform and meeting space for all member states, specifically the Heads of State and Government and the Representatives to the UN of member states, to discuss critical international issues facing the world today. Held in the General Assembly Hall at UN Headquarters, the General Debate is a forum lasting nine working days, although it is often accommodated in just seven days. Traditionally, member states sit in English alphabetical order during the General Debate.

NGO access to the United Nations Headquarters during the General Debate:

As in previous years, due to the number of high-level events and increased security arrangements, the United Nations Headquarters (and the surrounding streets) will only be accessible to UN staff and Member State delegations from 15 to 29 September 2017. Representatives of NGOs in possession of regular, annual grounds passes will not have access to (or nearby) UNHQ during this period without special event passes. Please note that DPI does not distribute special event tickets for any event, except for the General Debate of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (#UNGA).

The Pass & ID office will not issue any temporary or annual grounds passes from 5 September to 2 October 2017.

More information on UNGA72 Arrangements from Protocol
NGO access to the General Debate:

The NGO Relations Unit in DPI is pleased to inform all DPI-associated organizations that there will be tickets to attend the General Debate of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly available for NGO Representatives. Please note the following:

1. The General Debate is divided into two sessions, morning and afternoon.

2. NGO Relations distributed 50 #UNGA tickets per day; 25 tickets for the morning session and 25 tickets for the afternoon session.

3. DPI NGO Relations only issues tickets to DPI UN Grounds Pass holders through a LOTTERY SYSTEM. ECOSOC UN Grounds Pass holders are not eligible to receive a #UNGA ticket from DPI, even if the NGO that the individual represents is also associated with DPI. NO EXCEPTIONS. (The NGO Branch in DESA is making #UNGA tickets available to ECOSOC NGOs. Their distribution system was announced to all NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC via a special announcement. You may contact the NGO Branch in DESA for more information using the Contact From in the CSO Net).

4. DPI/NGO Relations contacted the winners of the lottery tickets on Friday, 15 September 2017, with instructions on when and where to pick them up.

5. All lottery ticket winners need to present their UN Grounds Pass in order to retrieve their tickets. NO EXCEPTIONS.

All sessions of the #UNGA will be broadcast live on UN Web TV