

World Leaders Summit

4 October 2021, 4.30–6 p.m. (CEST); 10.30 a.m.–12 p.m.



OVERVIEW

Dialogue on global vulnerabilities: Call from a vulnerable place



Description

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis has made evident how interconnected and vulnerable the world is. This dialogue will address two current vulnerabilities, namely, health and climate change. These are global vulnerabilities that cannot be solved without solidarity and global action. Recovery from the current health and economic crisis critically depends on the production and distribution of vaccines, which remain highly uneven, and future sustainability depends on the capacity to find equitable solutions to the climate crisis. In this dialogue, world leaders will discuss the scale of the problem and share their vision of the solutions required, including the role of trade.

Key issues

- 1. Health crisis and the role of trade.** The first months of the current crisis exposed the risks of interconnectedness and a dependency on global supply chains. At the same time, trade has played a critical role in ensuring access to essential goods. What are the socioeconomic impacts of the health crisis and how can trade alleviate these impacts and help to avoid the further loss of development gains? What role should trade play in ensuring global health?
- 2. Climate crisis and the role of trade.** How much will climate change define the future? While the COVID-19 crisis has led to temporary reductions in carbon dioxide emissions and possibly encouraged more sustainable forms of production and consumption, the targets in the Paris Agreement Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are far from being met. What role does trade play in addressing the climate crisis and reducing vulnerability to climate change? The developing world disproportionately experiences more adverse effects from climate change; what does this imply for their opportunities to benefit from global trade? What does it imply with regard to differentiated responsibilities?



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Participants

Introductory remarks:

Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

Speakers:

Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President, Seventy-Sixth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maldives

Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President, Costa Rica

Mr. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister, Antigua and Barbuda, Chair, Alliance of Small Island States, and Chair, Caribbean Community

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General, World Trade Organization

Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, World Health Organization

Moderators:

Mr. Peter Okwoche, Senior Broadcast Journalist, BBC

Ms. Sharon Marshall, Senior Broadcast Journalist and Communications Specialist

Contacts

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