



WHEC Update

Briefing of worldwide activity of the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

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Lessons From The Field

On 24 October 2020, our initiative celebrates its **18th anniversary**. We thank our physician's board for their dedication and expertise to make it a success. In the past decade, health issues have become more prominent in foreign policies of countries. Health challenges now feature in national security strategies, appear regularly on the agenda of meetings of leading economic powers, affect the bilateral and regional political relationships between developed and developing countries, and influence strategies for United Nations reform. Although health has long been a foreign policy concern, such prominence is historically unprecedented.

Globalization has rendered foreign policy more relevant to health because the line between domestic and foreign impact has been blurred or obliterated, forcing countries to engage in foreign policy action across a greater range of health issues. COVID-19 pandemic, fears about bioterrorism, and controversies involving trade and health (e.g. TRIPS and access to medicines and vaccines) have forced foreign-policy-makers to grapple with issues and principles of public health.

Developed and developing countries now find health increasingly important to the fulfilment of the governance functions traditionally served by foreign policy – security, national economic well-being, political and economic development of other nations, and the protection of human dignity. This reality produces the need for countries to pursue health as a foreign policy concern in its fullest sense. The development of health as foreign policy contrasts with health's historical place in foreign policy as a “mere humanitarian” endeavor subordinate to the national interests of survival, power and influence.

A review of existing literature on health and foreign policy reveals a host of issues that require more attention. In particular, this literature at present lacks input and analysis from health and foreign policy experts in developing countries. More emphasis on non-communicable diseases, ways of improving women's health, the difficulty of building sustainable public health infrastructure and capacity, and the growing power and influence of non-state actors in global health, is also needed. The new relationship between health and foreign policy has significant implications for both policy areas. There has been a recent attempt to explore seriously what health as foreign policy means.

Health and disease are connected globally. Take, for example, COVID-19 which arrived in USA and other countries from China so rapidly in the beginning of 2020, that it impacted the trade, economy, travel and the way of living all over the world. Neither health nor disease in modern society is simply a local phenomenon. Diseases now jump rapidly from continent to continent and efforts to contain them function on a global level. Markets for drugs, vaccines and other health care commodities and the corporations that produce them span the globe. And the global processes such as pollution, modernization and technological change impact on local environments to affect the health of the residents.

Even though globalization is not a new process, and while trade and migration flows, today's globalization is different. More independent states exist in the world than before. A greater number of international organizations are now present. Transportation and communication are now easier, faster, and less costly. Different cultures now have much more of a global reach. More and more states have become influenced by democratization and capitalism. The world may be becoming flatter through globalization, but there are some hills and valleys (or bumps and dips) in the process. Share your point of view on ***WHEC Global Health Line***

Health and Foreign Policy

Rita Luthra, MD



Your Questions, Our Reply

What is the relationship between health and globalization? What exactly is a public good? How can a public good be global? What is a global public good and will COVID-19 vaccine will be in public goods domain?

Health as a Global Public Good: A public good is a good that can be considered “non-excludable” and “non-rivalrous.” This definition stands in contrast to private goods, which are “excludable” and “rivalrous.” The term non-excludable means that the good is available to all and its use cannot be restricted. The term non-rivalrous means that consumption of the good by one individual does not limit the consumption of the same good by others. The vast majority of goods, are private. The primary reason why so few public goods are available has to do with the lack of incentive to provide them. Since these goods are not restricted in any way, the provider does not receive an economic benefit for providing them while it does absorb the cost of creating or maintaining the good. Since no price can be enforced with public goods, there is a concern that individuals will “free-ride” or use the good without contributing anything. Because of this lack of economic incentive, public goods need to be provided by the state since the market is unwilling to do so.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) defines global public good as “a public good with benefits that are strongly universal in terms of countries (covering more than one group of countries), people (accruing to several, preferably all, population groups) and generations (extending to both current and future generation, or at least meeting the needs of current generations without foreclosing development options for future generations).” An alternative definition is proposed is: “a good which is rational, from the perspective of a group of nations collectively, to produce for universal consumption, and for which it is irrational to exclude an individual nation from its consumption, irrespective of whether that nation contributes to its financing.” In considering these definitions, it is apparent that global public goods should be considered as non-excludable goods that are open to everyone, regardless of the state or region in which they happen to reside.

In assessing health as a global public good, it seems that the concept does have merit. The application is particularly clear in the case of communicable disease, especially recent pandemic COVID-19. Globalization has contributed to an upturn in international cooperation. A by-product of these interactions is the spread of disease across borders. If this spread is prevented, or at least contained, the entire global population, will benefit because the risk of infection will be reduced. In terms of non-communicable diseases, the application of the concept is not quite so clear. Globalization, however, has promoted non-communicable as more of a global public good by increased linkages among the states and people.

As global economies become more interdependent, health burdens in certain states can spill over into the global economy, as we have seen with the recent pandemic of COVID-19. If the global proliferation of goods related to health risks, such as tobacco, alcohol, and processed foods enriched with sugar and saturated fats contributes to a decline in health, economic productivity may suffer at the national and global level. As a result, it would seem that regulating the spread of the products that are potentially hazardous to health would qualify as a global public good, as both the economy and the quality of life would improve for all.

The key issue with COVID-19 vaccine as global public good is who will provide them? The provision of public goods become more problematic at the global level since there is no world government. Providing a global public good creates a collective action problem - meaning that common good must be provided by more than one actor. Global health, requires the contribution of multiple actors in order for it to be provided effectively.

Share you point of view on **WHEC Global Health Line**



United Nations at a Glance

Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan at the United Nations

Kazakhstan became Member State of the United Nations on 2 March 1992



Kazakhstan, officially the **Republic of Kazakhstan**, is a transcontinental country mainly located in Central Asia with a smaller portion west of the Ural in Eastern Europe. It is world's largest landlocked country, and the ninth-largest country in the world, with an area of 2,724,900 sq. kilometer (1,052,100 sq. mi). Kazakhstan is the most dominant nation of Central Asia economically, generating 60% of the region's GDP, primarily through its oil and gas industry. It also has vast mineral resources.

Kazakhstan is officially a democratic, secular, unitary, constitutional republic with a diverse cultural heritage. Kazakhstan shares borders with Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and also adjoins a large part of the Caspian Sea. It does not border with Mongolia, although they are only 37 kilometer apart. It has estimated 18.3 million people as of 2018. Its population density is among the lowest, at less than 6 people per sq. kilometer (15 people per sq. mi.). Since 1997, the capital is Nur-Sultan, formerly known as Astana. It was moved from Almaty, the country's largest city.

Kazakhstan was the last of the Soviet republics to declare independence during the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Kazakhstan's 131 ethnicities include Kazakhs (65.5% of the population), Russians, Uzbeks, Ukrainians, Germans, Tatars, and Uyghurs. Per 2009 census, Islam is the religion of about 70% of the population, with Christianity practiced by 26%. Kazakhstan officially allows freedom of religion, but religious leaders who oppose the government are suppressed.



The Kazakh language is the state language, and Russian has equal official status for all levels of administration and institutional purposes. Kazakhstan is a member of the United Nations (UN), WTO, CIS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Eurasian Economic Union, CSTO, OSCE, OIC, CCTS, and TURKSOY. Kazakhstan has three cultural and natural heritage on the UNESCO World Heritage List: the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yassauy, Petroglyphs within Archaeological Landscape of Tamgaly, and the Korgalzhyn and Nauryzumsky reserves.

The Digital Kazakhstan program was launched in 2018 to boost the country's economic growth through the implementation of digital technologies. 82% of all public services became automated as part of the Digital Kazakhstan program.

Kazakhstan against Terrorism

Kazakhstan welcomes the initiatives to introduce a counter-terrorism strategy that provides for the elimination of the causes of terrorism and its renunciation as a tactical means to attract political attention. The success of this strategy will largely depend on the strengthening of international, regional and sub-regional cooperation in the fight against international terrorism and the growing role of regional organization in dealing with this evil. Yet building the capacity of states to prevent terrorist operations and recruitment by terrorists is the most effective element of a comprehensive strategy. Kazakhstan attaches great significance to a comprehensive legal framework successfully established by the United Nations General Assembly in the field of counter-terrorism. In addition to all twelve United Nations counter-terrorism conventions, Kazakhstan acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on September 16, 2005.

Details: <http://www.kazakhstanun.org/>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Kazakhstan



Striving to provide universal health coverage in Kazakhstan

High out-of-pocket expenditure tends to be associated with low government health expenditure, and in Kazakhstan, public expenditure on health is very low. At just 2% of gross domestic product (GDP), Kazakhstan has less than a third of the 6.5% average public expenditure on health reported by Organization for Economic Co-operation (OECD) countries. This may be about to change.

There is high expectation that the government of Kazakhstan will substantially increase its spending on health in the near future. This expectation drives in large part from recent statements made by the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, including an address to the nation in October 2018, in which he called for the government to raise the total expenditure on health, education and science.

To support implementation of that proposed increase, the Ministry of Health drew up a draft budget for 2019-2023, taking into account expenditures on science and education. The draft budget indicated the need for additional funds to cover the cost of guaranteed free medical care, salary growth for medical workers, renewal of fixed capital, and medical services for which there is a growing need, including oncology, high-tech medical services, rehabilitation and palliative care.

How much money will eventually be channeled into funding these requirements is not entirely clear. There is a preliminary agreement with Ministry of National Economy for overall health-care expenditure (including 1.3% private expenditure) to rise from the current 3.3% to 4.7% of GDP before 2023, with all the increase coming from additional government spending.

Another important area of reform relates to the digitalization of health care. The Kazakhstan health system is going paperless by investing in informatics infrastructures. In January, Kazakhstan joined the group of countries using SNOMED (Systemized Nomenclature of Medicine), a computer-processable collection of medical terms that facilitates indexation, storage, retrieval, and aggregation of medical data across specialists and sites of care.

Finally, Kazakhstan is making a major push to bolster the technical capacity required to support the transition to universal health coverage.

The Country Office is the focal point for WHO activities in Kazakhstan. The country team consists of five people including two experts on:

- Mother and child health and reproductive and sexual health;
- Public health/climate change effects on health.

The priorities for the Country Office are set out in the biennial collaborative agreement between WHO/Europe and the host country. The Office implements the agreement in close collaboration with national institutions and international partner agencies.

Details: <https://www.who.int/countries/kaz/en/>

Bulletin Board

Medical Disorders and Pregnancy

Medical complications of pregnancy may have adverse effects on the mother, fetus and newborn. The physiologic changes that occur during a normal gestation may aggravate a maternal disease process. The diagnostic and therapeutic acumen of the physician, the severity of the disease, and the stage of gestation at which the complication occurs all have an impact on the outcome of pregnancy. The sum of these variables may cause the complication to improve, equilibrate, or deteriorate during pregnancy.

Preconception counseling, behavior modification and healthy life-style are effective for good pregnancy outcomes. Pregnancy-specific materials are effective cessation aids for many pregnant women to stop smoking and use of alcohol and illicit drugs. Clinicians also may consider offering or referring patients for additional psychosocial treatment.

The purpose of this section is to provide a brief overview of the medical disorders affecting the pregnancy, labor and outcomes. The management guidelines provided have been validated by appropriately conducted clinical research. When outcomes-based research is not available, expert opinion is provided to aid the practitioner.

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsmd/>



Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

*UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)
Expert Series on Health Economics*

Is Kazakhstan vulnerable to natural resource curse?

This study utilizes panel data from 14 provinces of Kazakhstan and investigates the link between the point-source resources (oil and gas) and economic growth via institutional quality. Labor force migration from manufacturing to non-traded sector occurs as a result of wage increase in the manufacturing sector while its production price is determined and pinned down by the world market. On top of that, the manufacturing sector costs increase even more as a consequence of the price increase of non-traded goods used as inputs in the manufacturing factor. Although, the impact of interaction terms of diffuse resource (wheat) production and institutional quality is not observed, diffuse resources deteriorate the economic growth through wheat price volatility. The wheat price spikes lead to institutional inefficiencies. Moreover, rent-seeking activities of intermediaries in agricultural sector further undermine the economic growth.

Kazakhstan is one the five-resource-dependent countries in Central Asia (CA) that is rich in oil, coal, and natural gas. During the soviet rule, the country was a leading energy producer and still remains one of the few energy exporters to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIA). The energy sector accounts for 42% of total output and 30% of GDP in Kazakhstan. Over 50% of export revenues come from petroleum production.

The novelty of this study is that two types of essential resources point-source and diffuse natural resources, and commodity price volatility interaction with institutional quality are introduced as a non-linear function of economic growth. The results illustrate that institutions impact on economic growth combined with natural resource abundance. It has been documented that both point-source and diffuse resources, with interaction of institutional quality, impact the economic growth. The positive impact of natural resources associated with good institutions generate a negative effect on economic growth.

Relative unit labor costs of the non-traded to traded sectors are included into the model to test the presence of the Dutch Disease impact. It is documented that labor force demand increase causes traded sector contraction. Labor force migration from traded to non-traded sector occurs as a result of wage increase in manufacturing while its production price is determined and pinned down by the world market.

Policies addressing the inefficient activities should be applied in this case as government will have increasing responsibility for the wheat market in future years. Thus government intervention is necessary to address the market failure problem, but with careful consideration of how to do so without enabling rent-seeking and inefficiency. The big companies operate like oligopolies, creating entry barriers for small producers and their influence on the market stimulates higher prices. Therefore, the most straightforward policy would be to modify the market rules and regulations to protect small producers and motivate market competition. Legislation and reforms protecting small producers should be approached in parallel with the market establishment.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Authors: Yessengali Oskenbayev and Aziz Karimov; Sponsors: This working paper has been prepared withing the UNU-WIDER project “New Directions in Development Economics”. UNU-WIDER gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions to the research programme from the governments of Denmark, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom

Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page
<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com/content/CME>



United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)
The Effort to Advance the Global Strategy (continued)

Central Asian Republics and Kazakhstan (CARK) to discuss EFA developments



High-level officials from the Ministry of Education of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and host government Turkmenistan met to discuss progress made in achieving the Education for All (EFA) goals at the Annual CARK Education Forum. This year's theme is “Moving Forward to Achieve the EFA Goals.” The Forum focused on country planning for the EFA-mid-decade assessment, country progress reports on achieving the EFA goals, and the development of partnerships with international and non-governmental organizations for EFA. There will also be special sessions to discuss the first EFA goal of early childhood care and education or ECCE.

Representatives from UNESCO Bangkok attended the meeting and gave presentations on the coordinated approach to undertake national and regional assessment of EFA, the EFA Global Monitoring Report, gender issues in education, language in education policy issues, inclusive education, and other issues related to quality education.

The six Education for All (EFA) goals to which CARK countries, together with other countries in the world, pledged and committed to achieve by 2030:

Goal 1: Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

Goal 2: Ensuring that by 2030, all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to and complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality.

Goal 3: Ensuring that learning needs to all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programs.

Goal 4: Achieving 50% improvement in levels of adult literacy 2030, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults.

Goal 5: Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2025, and achieving gender equality in education by 2030, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality

Goal 6: Improving all aspects of the quality of education and ensuring excellence of all so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.

Details: <http://www.unesco.kz/>

To be continued....

Supporting your child's mental health as they return to school during COVID-19

How parents can help their children navigate their feelings during school re-openings.



The coronavirus outbreak has caused major disruptions to daily life and children are feeling these changes deeply. While the return to school will be not only welcome but exciting for many students, others will be feeling anxious or frightened. Here are tips to help your children navigate some of the complicated emotions they may be facing with going back to school.

My Child is scared to go back to school. How can I help him feel at ease?

Starting school or starting a new school year can be stressful at the best of times, let alone during a global pandemic. You can make him feel at ease by having an open conversation about what it is that's worrying him or her and letting him or her know that it's natural to feel anxious.

Children may feel nervous or reluctant to return to school, especially if they have been learning at home for months. Be honest – for example you could go through some of the changes they may expect at school, such as needing to wear forms of protective clothing like masks. Children may also find it difficult being physically distanced from friends and teachers while at school – you could encourage them to think about other ways to bond and stay connected.

Reassure children about safety measures in place to help keep students and teachers healthy and remind children that they can also help prevent germs spreading by washing their hands with soap and coughing or sneezing into their elbow. Remind children about the positives – that they will be able to see their friends and teachers (if they are physically returning to the classroom) and continue learning new things.

My child’s school is recommending the wearing of protective clothing, which is making my child feel more nervous. What should I say to her?

Approach this conversation with empathy, saying that you know she is feeling anxious about coronavirus, but that it’s healthy to talk about our worries and emotions. Children may also get upset or frustrated if they are finding it hard to wear masks, especially when running or playing. You can reassure your children that lots of adults are working hard to help keep your family safe but emphasize that it’s important we all follow the recommended measures to take care of more vulnerable members of our community.



How can I encourage my child to follow precautions (such as frequent handwashing, physical distancing, etc.) at school without alarming him or her?

One of best ways to keep children safe from COVID-19 and other diseases is to simply encourage regular handwashing. It doesn’t need to be a scary conversation. Sing along with their favorite song or do a dance together to make learning fun. Make sure to teach them about how even though germs are invisible, they could still be there. When

children understand why they need to wash their hands, they’re likely to continue doing so.

To be continued in November Edition....

Two Articles of Highest Impact, September 2020

Editors’ Choice – Journal Club Discussions

Fully open-access with no article-processing charges

Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. Newborn Hearing Loss Detection and Intervention;
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsnc/obsnc011.php3>
WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.
2. Newborn Abstinence Syndrome;
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsnc/obsnc010.php3>
WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

**Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (World Health Organization)
PMNCH Member**

Worldwide service is provided by the WHEC Global Health Line



Efforts of WHEC in provision of e-Governments and Integrated e-Health Care



Demographic change, rising incidence of chronic disease and unmet needs for more personalized care are trends that demand a new, integrated approach to health and social care.

Professionals must work across sections as a team with common goals and resources to deliver a coordinated response to each individual's care requirements. Advanced information and communication technology (ICT) provide a major new opportunity to realize care integration, superseding today's chain of disjoint responses to discrete threats to health.

Telehealth, the provision of care at a distance, is a key component in future integrated care.

Making the case for investment in telehealth applications requires better marshalling of existing evidence, not only to show that telehealth works, but also to show where – in what organized context – it will work.

Financial flows in health systems must be critically assessed for their ability to act as incentives or disincentives for telehealth provision, acknowledging that the “business case” for telehealth is often very different for different types players.

The use of telehealth, as a tool to help support better integrated care, can be helped through initiatives that bring policy responsibilities together.

To bring about change, mechanisms should be put in place to foster dialogue, thereby instilling a sense of partnership in reform and reducing resistance to change.

e-Government and e-Health platforms to attain United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



As Governments transition towards e-Government and e-Health throughout the world, there is growing acknowledgment of the role that the e-Government and e-Health could play to harness for women's empowerment, gender equality, and universal health coverage. Recognizing this critical gap, WHEC as a part of gender equality and universal health coverage initiatives aims to enhance knowledge awareness of good practices of gender-responsive capacity of Governments to harness this tool towards women's empowerment and health-for-all. e-Government and e-Health are here to stay.

We strongly believe, e-Government and e-Health can result in economic and social benefits in rich and poor countries alike and improve health outcomes worldwide.

Please do share your views with us on **WHEC Global Health Line**. We look forward to collaborate with your group. We welcome everyone

Join the efforts!

http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/2020_HLPF_Written_Statement.pdf

Accelerating a Safe and Effective COVID-19 Vaccine



Highlights of WHO actions so far:

- Harnessing a broad global coalition to develop and evaluate candidate vaccines as quickly and safely as possible by convening and coordinating multiple public and private partners and using the best scientific and public health evidence and ethical principles.
- Mapping candidate vaccines and their progress across the world and fostering regular open dialogue between researchers and vaccine developers to expedite the exchange of scientific results, debate concerns and propose rapid and robust methods for vaccine evaluation.
- Defining the desired characteristics of safe and effective vaccines to drive and focus research that is public health and needs oriented.
- Coordinating clinical trials across the world to accelerate multiple actions with the aim of providing a safe and effective vaccine as early as possible.

Draft Landscape of COVID-19 candidate vaccines

These landscape documents have been prepared by the World Health Organization (WHO) for information purposes only concerning the 2019-2020 global of the novel coronavirus. Inclusion of any particular product or entity in any of these landscape documents does not constitute, and shall not be deemed or construed as, any approval or endorsement by WHO of such product or entity (or any of its businesses or activities).

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<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-landscape-of-covid-19-candidate-vaccines>

WHO: A global response to a global pandemic

The WHO is leading and coordinating the global effort, supporting countries to prevent, detect, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can support directly the response coordinated by WHO. People and organizations who want to help fight the pandemic and support WHO and partners can now donate through the COVID-Solidarity Response Fund for WHO; <http://www.COVID19ResponseFund.org>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=62&v=yEIPefMsf70&feature=emb_logo

75th Session of The General Assembly



**The future we want, the United Nations we need:
reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism**

**World leaders to stay at home, in first 'virtual' United Nations
General Assembly meeting.**



Quiet corridors but a full program at virtual UN General Assembly (UNGA) 75: Five things you need to know

The 75th UNGA began on 15 September 2020 and this year, due to ongoing global pandemic, it will be unlike any other in the organization's three quarters of a century of existence. This month, there was no bumping into presidents or the occasional global celebrity in hectic and sometimes crushed corridors at

UN Headquarters in New York. There were no marveling at seemingly endless motorcades on First Avenue and no "standing-room only" moments in the gilded General Assembly Hall, as the Organization's busiest time of the year is reimagined in the time of COVID-19. Most leaders will not be appearing in person and meetings were virtual, but that's not to say that the wheels of global diplomacy and sustainable development will not be turning at the usual speed.

The President of 75th UN General Assembly Mr. Volkan Bozkir, the Turkish diplomat took the role as the Organization grapples with an unprecedented pandemic, and questions surrounding the future direction it should take. Details of interview: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1072142>

1. Presidents and Heads of State Called in Speeches.

The centerpiece of any new General Assembly, is undoubtedly the General Debate, with started on 22nd September. This year, because of pandemic, world leaders stayed away and were invited to send in pre-recorded videos of their speeches which was broadcasted "as live."

United States of America (Host country)

21 September 2020, Ambassador Cherith Norman-Chalet; Statement summary

Speaking as the host nation, said the United States is proud to remain the home of the United Nations, an organization that since its founding has transformed into a vast network. The Organization's vision is clearly outlined in its Charter, she said, adding that in many ways the United Nations has proven to be a successful experiment. The United States has played a central role in the successes of the Organization as the most reliable funder over the past 75 years. However, she noted that the United Nations remains resistant to reform and has turned a blind eye to authoritarian regimes and efforts to undermine freedoms. Commemorations of the Organization's 75th anniversary offer an opportunity to ask questions about the Organization's strengths and weaknesses, review its failures and celebrate its accomplishments.

<https://www.un.org/en/un75/commemoration/united-states-america>

2. Celebrating 75 years

An event at UN Headquarter on 21st September to celebrate the milestone aimed to "generate renewed support for multilateralism"; an issue many believe has become ever more urgent as the world faces up to the COVID-19 pandemic. The High-Level event marked the 75th anniversary in the GA Hall.

3. Transforming the world through Sustainable Development

The <https://sdgactionzone.org/> (SDG Action Zone), moved online with appearances from "inspirational leaders" promised on the bill. It also hosted a series of conversations on 'some of the most defining issues of today' including the impact of COVID-19, the development of a

vaccine, virus misinformation, and myths as well as gender equality and the urgent need to protect world's diminishing biodiversity.

4. Facing up to 'unprecedented loss' of global diversity

Over one million species are at risk of extinction, two billion hectares of land are currently degraded and 66% of oceans, 50% of coral reefs and 85% of wetlands have been significantly and negatively altered by human activity. A major international summit discussed how to reverse the accelerating deterioration of the natural environment and how it is impacting people's lives.

5. Gender: 25 years after Beijing

Progress on gender equality and women's rights has been severely impacted by COVID-19, as women and girls suffer a disproportionate social and economic fallout. Beijing Platform for Action which is widely acknowledged as the most comprehensive and forward-looking plan for advancing the rights of women and girls.

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/>

And one more ... happy New Yorkers

Not strictly part of the General Assembly, but inextricably linked: many New Yorkers dread the opening of the new GA session every September which brings the closing of streets, presidential-motorcade-induced traffic jams on First Avenue and the surrounding Midtown area, and enervating disruption to general life.

This year, while world leaders stay away, New Yorkers, despite the severe, ongoing challenges of the pandemic, which include billions of dollars in lost revenue from visitors and tourists, no doubt enjoyed a respite from the week or ten days when a small part of their global city is given over to presidents and heads of State.

<https://www.un.org/en/un75/commemoration>



Words of Wisdom

INTO MY OWN

One of my wishes is that those dark trees,
So old and firm they scarcely show the breeze,
We're not, as 'twere, the merest mask of gloom,
But stretched away unto the edge of doom.

I do not see why I should e'er turn back,
Or those should not see forth upon my track
To overtake me, who should miss me here
And long to know if still I held them dear.
They would not find me changed from him they knew –
Only more sure of all I thought was true.

- Robert Frost (1874 – 1963) American poet

*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on
The latest UN and NGO activity*

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>

