



# General Assembly

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## Eightieth session

Agenda item 123

### Strengthening of the United Nations system

#### **Letter dated 19 January 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Riyadh Declaration of the Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly (see annex). The meeting was hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and convened in Riyadh on 15 December 2025, under the chairmanship of the President of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser.

I would highly appreciate the circulation of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 123.

(Signed) Abdulaziz Alwasil  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 19 January 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

### **Riyadh Declaration of the Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
15 December 2025**

1. The Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly (UNCPGA) convened in Riyadh on 15 December 2025, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting was attended by nine Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly.

2. The meeting was convened alongside the 11th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Global Forum in Riyadh. UNAOC is a global platform for intercultural dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among nations and peoples, trying to reduce polarization at all levels. UNCPGA congratulates the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting this important Forum and expresses its deep appreciation that its members were able to participate in the UNAOC Global Forum sessions. UNCPGA commends the efforts of UNAOC to promote peace through dialogue, mediation, and mutual understanding.

3. UNCPGA discussed armed conflicts that are dangerously proliferating around the world:

3.1. Concerning Ukraine, UNCPGA expresses profound concerns over the ongoing war, which continues to result in significant loss of civilian lives, widespread displacements, and severe humanitarian consequences. In this context, UNCPGA welcomes and strongly supports the ongoing negotiation process initiated by the President of the United States, as well as other efforts aimed at ending the war and achieving lasting peace in Ukraine.

3.2. The comprehensive peace plan proposed by the President of the United States to end the Gaza conflict, as endorsed by the UN Security Council, is the framework for ending the extreme suffering in Gaza. There is an urgent need to stop all the bloodshed and give full humanitarian access, including the important presence of UNRWA. UNCPGA deplores the significant loss of Palestinian lives after the ceasefire was agreed upon. It supports the rapid deployment of an international security force and total Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and appeals to the international community to act against further settlement activity in the West Bank. UNCPGA calls for all parties to refrain from committing acts that can cause obstacles to the peace process. It also supports Palestinian self-determination in the framework of the two-state solution.

3.3. UNCPGA expresses its grave concern about the ongoing conflict in Sudan, in particular the deteriorating humanitarian situation, including famine, and calls upon the international community to support the efforts of the United Nations Organization to respond more effectively to the crisis. The number of people lost to the conflict in the Sudan far outnumbers deaths and displacement from any other conflict in the world today.

3.4. Similarly, UNCPGA calls for an end to all killings in South Sudan. All parties must protect civilians and respect international humanitarian and human rights law. It also calls on the UN Security Council and other key actors to

urgently coordinate and intensify efforts to support de-escalation, inclusive political dialogue, and the full implementation of existing peace commitments.

3.5. UNCPGA expresses serious concern over the detention of the United Nations personnel in Yemen and calls for their immediate and unconditional release. This violates international law and the UN principles. We call on the United Nations and other key actors to intensify efforts toward de-escalation and a comprehensive and sustainable political settlement for Yemen.

3.6. UNCPGA expresses grave concern about the renewed hostilities between Cambodia and Thailand despite the recent peace agreement and supports all international efforts to end the conflict. It also calls for the UN Secretary-General to play a more active role to this effect.

4. UNCPGA also discussed Artificial Intelligence (AI) and, in particular, Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). While there have been several UN General Assembly resolutions, UN Secretary-General's reports and panels, three UN Security Council sessions about current forms of AI, there have been nothing of a similar nature to manage emergency of AGI. Currently, there are no regulations on the development of AGI. To address this gap, UNCPGA requested and received the report by its High-Level Expert Panel on AGI: *Governance of the Transition to Artificial General Intelligence (AGI): Urgent Considerations for the UN General Assembly*. Central among the report's recommendations is that the UN General Assembly should stimulate a conversation among political leaders and AGI experts. The report was submitted to the President of the General Assembly. UNCPGA recommends that the PGA circulate the report to Member States and convene an informal UNGA briefing on AGI.

5. UNCPGA expresses its sincere appreciation to the "Group of Friends of the President of the UN General Assembly", composed of the former PGA Member States from all five UN Regional Groups, for its support for the UNCPGA's initiative to secure Permanent Observer status in the UN General Assembly, which would enable the UNCPGA to more effectively contribute to the work of the United Nations. UNCPGA was especially pleased that the Chair of the Groups of Friends, H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Alwasil, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the UN, was able to address UNCPGA at its Opening Session.

6. The Council of Presidents of the UN General Assembly expresses its deep appreciation to His Majesty the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Crown Prince, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to the esteemed Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for generously hosting its meeting alongside the UNAOC Global Forum. UNCPGA further expresses its deep appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its strong and long-time commitment to the United Nations as a founding member of the Organization. It has contributed to the work of the United Nations in many fields, including its admirable role in mediating and resolving conflicts around the world and promoting multilateralism.

7. Concerning its role in strengthening the UN General Assembly, UNCPGA recalls with great appreciation that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through the most creative efforts of the late Ambassador Samir Shihabi, President of the 46th Session of the UN General Assembly, founder and first Chairman of the UNCPGA, played an instrumental role in establishing UNCPGA in 1997.