

South Africa general debate excerpt

V7 78TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 NEW YORK, USA 1 78TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 13.00 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 NEW YORK, USA 15 mins

President of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly, Mr Dennis Francis, United Nations Secretary-General Mr António Guterres, Excellencies Heads of State and Government, Ladies and Gentlemen, Seventy-eight years ago, in the aftermath of the Second World War, the nations of the world made a solemn commitment to save future generations from the horror and the suffering of war. Through the United Nations Charter these nations accepted a shared mandate to foster peace and to promote fundamental human rights, social progress and a better standard of life for all. And yet, as we gather here, much of humanity is confronted by war and conflict, by want and hunger, by disease and environmental disaster. Solidarity and trust between states is being eroded.

Inequality, poverty and unemployment are deepening. In these conditions and in the wake of a devastating global pandemic, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals seem increasingly remote. V7 78TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 NEW YORK,

USA 2 At the moment when every human effort should be directed towards the realisation of Agenda 2030, our attention and our energies have once again been diverted by the scourge of war. But these woes, these divisions, these seemingly intractable troubles, can and must be overcome. Over millennia, the human race has demonstrated an enormous capacity for resilience, adaptation, innovation, compassion and solidarity. At this moment, we are all called upon to reaffirm these essential qualities that define our common humanity. These qualities must be evident in how we work together as a global community