



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 13

### **Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields**

## **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2023**

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/78/L.28)]

### **78/127. International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, 2026**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution [69/283](#) of 3 June 2015, entitled “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030”, and its resolution [75/233](#) of 21 December 2020, entitled “Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system”,

*Recalling* its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,



*Recalling also* its resolution [52/17](#) of 20 November 1997, proclaiming 2001 the International Year of Volunteers,

*Recalling further* its resolution [70/129](#) of 17 December 2015, entitled “Integrating volunteering in peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond”, resolution [73/140](#) of 17 December 2018, entitled “Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and resolution [76/131](#) of 16 December 2021, entitled “Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers programme and twentieth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers”,

*Noting* that 2026 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers and the fifty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Volunteers programme,

*Acknowledging* that accelerated progress in the recognition, promotion, facilitation, networking and integration of volunteer action is vital for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that volunteerism is a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the significant role that volunteers play in response to humanitarian emergencies,

*Encouraging* Member States to support volunteer action for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the integration of volunteerism into sector priorities and national development strategies, plans and policies,

*Aiming* to further strengthen links between volunteering and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, increase understanding and awareness of volunteerism through global research, information-sharing and education, and address the challenges that the new models of volunteering are facing,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 2026 the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, to observe the International Year, as appropriate, in order to promote the importance of volunteers for sustainable development;

3. *Appeals* to Member States, as well as other participants in the observance of the International Year, to recognize and measure the contribution of formal and informal volunteers and volunteerism in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, integrate volunteerism into national development planning, introduce policies that remove all inequalities and risks in volunteering, and support the setting up of knowledge and information platforms to develop and promote new forms of volunteering;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Volunteers programme, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), in cooperation with Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to facilitate implementation of the International Year;

5. *Also invites* the United Nations Volunteers programme, mindful of the provisions of paragraphs 23 to 27 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), to inform the General Assembly at its eighty-second session about the implementation of the present resolution, including an evaluation of the implementation of the International Year;

6. *Stresses* that the costs of all the activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, for appropriate observance.

*48th plenary meeting  
18 December 2023*

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