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UN General Assembly Proclaims 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development

United Nations Volunteers welcomes the historic resolution by the United Nations General Assembly designating the year 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.

This monumental decision, achieved through the collaboration of Member States of the General Assembly marks a pivotal moment in recognizing the invaluable contribution of volunteers worldwide towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
“As we look ahead to the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development in 2026, let's acknowledge the vital role of volunteers as change-makers who weave through the fabric of the 2030 Agenda, helping to accelerate action in the second half of our journey. Their commitment shapes a world where sustainable development is not merely a goal but a shared reality we create together,” said Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed.

The United Nations resolution stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment and dedication of volunteers across diverse sectors, advocating for positive change and actively shaping a sustainable future. As the world prepares for the final push towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals this significant recognition amplifies the crucial role that volunteers play in driving meaningful progress for the future.

“The International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development in 2026 is a call for UN Member States to make volunteerism an integral cog in their development pathways to drive forward the Global Goals -- and a recognition that only through collective action and solidarity can we summon the strength to address the challenges that affect us all,” said UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner.

United Nations Volunteers extends heartfelt gratitude to the co-sponsoring countries for their instrumental support in the realization of this resolution and the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. These Member States’ collective endorsement underscores a shared
commitment to harnessing the power of volunteerism as a catalyst for sustainable development.

“Volunteering is where passion meets solidarity. As the UN General Assembly calls upon Member States and other stakeholders to recognize volunteers as a global force for change, we hope that passion will meet solidarity in every single corner of the world. UNV is grateful to the General Assembly for its confidence and is getting ready for 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development,” said Executive Coordination UNV, Toily Kurbanov.

As we look ahead to 2026, United Nations Volunteers stands poised to collaborate, innovate, and amplify the voices and actions of volunteers towards a more equitable and sustainable world.

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Global

Sustainable Development Goal: **SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals**