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Your Excellencies:

As you prepare for the virtual informal consultation on the zero draft of the Declaration for the Commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, we are pleased to share our observations based on the recently released [UN75 People's Declaration and Plan for Global Action](#), entitled "Humanity at a Crossroads: Global Solutions for Global Challenges."

As referenced in his [letter](#) to Member States on 18 May, H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly formally received the People's Declaration at the "UN75 People's Virtual Forum for the UN We Need" that took place 14-15 May, 2020, which included registered participants from 75 countries around the world and over 600 attendees each of the two days.

The zero draft released by the Co-Facilitators of Qatar and Sweden provides a sound basis for the intergovernmental negotiations going forward. We are pleased to note that the zero draft addresses three key recommendations made in the People's Declaration including the need for (1) a formalized follow up process to strengthen multilateralism; (2) a people-centered multilateralism and civil society participation modalities; and (3) a better funded United Nations.

We also note with appreciation that the zero draft calls for the implementation of international agreements made such as the 2030 Agenda and Paris agreement as well as international arms control and disarmament agreements. We also welcome the commitment to democratic governance and the rule of law, and the importance of partnerships with all relevant stakeholders.

As you enter your informal consultations, we wish to bring to your attention certain provisions of the People's Declaration which would strengthen the zero draft. Namely, we suggest (1) the focus on good governance as a public service committed to the empowerment of all, trust that is built through an inclusive international rules-based, values-driven order supported by democratic and accountable leadership, (2) greater specificity in terms of welcoming new instruments and modalities for action to advance each of the commitments which are inclusive of civil society and other constituencies, (3) a recommitment to justice and wellbeing of every population without prejudice, grounded in international human rights frameworks and (4) a commitment to ensuring that UN reform discussions are transparent, open and inclusive.

In the last paragraph of the Zero Draft, consideration should also be given to inserting, *“Following consultations with Member States and other stakeholders, we request the Secretary-General to report back before the end of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly ...”*

In the days ahead, we look forward to working with you to ensure that the Member States adopt a Declaration worthy of the ambition upon which the UN Charter was founded. And once the UN75 Declaration is adopted, we will be ready to work together with governments, the United Nations, and all people, to advance our common agenda “in the true spirit of We the Peoples.”

Sincerely yours,

Fergus Watt
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Together First