

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Opening Event of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY) 2026

*– Every contribution matters –*

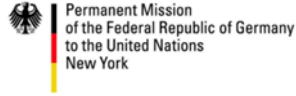
Volunteers embody the spirit of togetherness by joining efforts across differences, building bridges, and working side by side to improve lives and create a better future for all. The United Nations General Assembly, through resolution [78/127](#), proclaimed 2026 the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, thereby recognizing the critical role of volunteerism in accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

To formally inaugurate the International Year, the Permanent Missions of Kazakhstan and Germany, together with the United Nations Volunteers programme, are co-organizing a high-level event on International Volunteer Day, Friday, 5 December 2025, at 10:00 AM. The event will take place in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, with the President of the General Assembly delivering opening remarks.

This opening event will bring together Member States, United Nations entities, civil society, academia, and the private sector to elevate the visibility of volunteers and position volunteerism as a strategic enabler of sustainable development, peacebuilding and humanitarian response.

Aligned with the 2025 International Volunteer Day theme, “Every contribution matters”, the event will serve as a platform for Member States to pledge concrete actions to operationalize resolution 78/127 – such as integrating volunteerism into national development strategies and establishing national committees to lead their International Volunteer Year campaigns at the country level.

The event will feature the launch of the 2026 State of the World’s Volunteerism Report, setting the tone for a year-long global initiative to recognize, amplify and advance the contributions of volunteers to global development and resilience.



## PROGRAMME

# Opening Event of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY) 2026

*– Every contribution matters –*

**Friday, 5 December 2025, at 10:00 am in the Trusteeship Council Chamber,  
United Nations Headquarters in New York**

Co-organized by the Permanent Missions of Kazakhstan and Germany and  
the United Nations Volunteers programme

**10:00 am      Opening**

H.E. Ms. Annalena Baerbock, President of the General Assembly

H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (TBC)

H.E. Ms. Aida Balayeva, Minister of Culture and Information of the Republic of  
Kazakhstan

Statement by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (TBC)

**10:45 am      Special Remarks**

Multi-stakeholder coalition presenting  
*A Global Call to Action for the Future of Volunteering*

**11:00 am      Launch of the 2026 State of the World's Volunteerism Report:  
*Every contribution matters***

Mr. Toily Kurbanov, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers

**11:15 am      Plenary**

**12:00 pm      Closing**