



[The 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Takes Place](#)

The 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly's high-level portion is taking place this week, as world leaders and top diplomats gather to discuss a wide variety of issues including the global health pandemic, the promotion of human rights, and efforts to combat the climate crisis. On Tuesday, U.S. President Biden delivered his first address to the United Nations, expressing that the United States seeks to usher in a new era of foreign policy to help tackle the world's most pressing modern transnational threats through a prioritization of partnerships, diplomacy, and developmental aid. He laid out the United States' commitment to fighting climate change in particular as a bed rock of this reset in foreign relations, and stressed the need for international collaboration in order to deal with major contemporary challenges. The American president also demanded an end to the conflicts in Yemen and Ethiopia, both of which have had devastating humanitarian impacts, and pledged to defend democratic ideals against the spread of authoritarianism. Biden's speech emphasizing the themes of global cooperation and the strengthening of alliances comes at a time of some turmoil, as officials try to quell the recent AUKUS trilateral pact crisis which has emerged between France and the respective countries of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The U.S.-U.K.-Australia submarine pact, AUKUS, has created a rift among these nations and France, with the latter voicing disapproval over Australia pulling out of its previous deal with them. China has also expressed its dissatisfaction, now labeling Australia as an "adversary" due to the strategic alliance formed to try and counter its maneuvers to hold military power over the South Pacific. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic however has been by far the most pressing issue discussed at the United Nations General Assembly. As concerns over the intellectual property of these vaccines needs international consensus, the slow pace of vaccine rollouts in the developing world remains a key area of concern. With some nations having a vaccination rate as low as only 3%, countries like the United States have donated large shipments of the vaccine to help combat this, and health professionals assert that efforts like this should continue to truly alleviate the worldwide and interconnected impact of the pandemic.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres issued a grave warning to the member states of the UN, highlighting the need for a more serious and global approach to the climate crisis. Guterres also expressed worry over United States-China tensions, but despite this, President Biden attempted to reassure allies that the new age of U.S. foreign policy was focused on addressing pressing issues through cooperation for the overall common good of all – even with entities like China where major disagreements still exist. Biden added that the United States military will continue to remain a strong presence in the Pacific to not start a conflict, but instead act as a force preventing any from taking shape.

As the General Assembly meetings carry on in the upcoming days, there are a few other notable issues that will be focused on. These include the humanitarian crises in Ethiopia and Yemen, the contentious nature of the Taliban's attempts to secure global recognition at the United Nations, and the Haitian refugee situation on the U.S. border. While delegates conclude their discussions in the coming days, these subjects will be touched upon to determine any potential means for global cooperation.