



22 September 2014 - Every September, global leaders converge on United Nations Headquarters in New York for the opening of the General Debate of the [UN General Assembly](#) - commonly known as UN Week. More than 140 Heads of State and Government will be joined by business leaders, activists, philanthropists, media and more, from around the world, all coming together at what is a unique forum for finding common ground and tackling global challenges. This year's high-level week at the UN could not come at a more critical moment for the international community as the world faces pressing peace and security crises, all of which call for urgent cooperation and action.

Climate change, hunger, education and rights

The high-level week hosts a number of important events and provides the Member States with a full program. Here's snapshot of what lies ahead:

The [Climate Summit](#) hosted by UN Secretary-General on Tuesday aims to mobilize political will for a meaningful legal agreement on climate change in 2015 and deliver concrete new commitments. Also, The first [World Conference on Indigenous Peoples](#)

will gather hundreds of indigenous peoples at the UN for to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of all indigenous peoples – and A

[special session](#)

of the General Assembly will examine the major progress and challenges in addressing global population issues. With more than seven billion people living in the world today and up to 11 billion expected by 2100, major challenges lie ahead. And that population growth also means the world must resolve what is considered by many to be a global learning crisis - which will be the focus of an event for the Secretary-General's

[Global Education First initiative](#)

, featuring top-level advocates who will champion an ambitious vision for quality education for all.

The high-level week will also address the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, a crisis that is growing exponentially and that demands an exceptional global response. The UN is assisting Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, and UN SG will convene world leaders in New York to highlight the urgent needs and required response to the outbreak. Also, the unacceptable statistics of hunger continue to stir outrage around the world, as we produce enough food to feed every man, woman and child. Yet 805 million people -- one of every nine members of the human family -- go hungry. The SG's [Zero Hunger Challenge](#) aims to end hunger in our lifetimes.

The UN SG will close the week by taking part in the [Global Citizen Festival](#) in Central Park to thank thousands of young people for helping us to fight hunger, protect the planet and promote the rights of women and girls.

At this time of turmoil, the events of the week will highlight again the indispensable role of the UN in tackling global threats and seizing opportunities for common progress. The UN works for all people, everywhere. You can be part of what's happening at UN Headquarters this week - by watching the [webcast](#) , visiting the [website](#) and, of course, by getting regular updates on [social media](#).

What takes place at the UN affects every one, in every profession, and from every walk of life - so get connected, get informed and get involved.