

REPORT FROM UNGA 81 AND CLIMATE WEEK

SEPTEMBER 22-26, 2026 UNGA 81 HIGH LEVEL WEEK

Francisco Saloman Luna, Servas International co-Peace Secretary
and Rachel Elion Baird, Servas Main Representative to the UN-NY
Attended the UNGA 81 High Level Week and Climate Week side events in New York.
Some of the highlights of the week were:

ON PEACE

International Day of Peace: The Work of Peace - See separate report on this event co-sponsored by US Servas

THE BIOMETRIC PEACE INDEX

<https://hubcastnetwork.com/event/the-biometric-peace-index/3657>

This hybrid event outlined the structure to co-design the future of global systems by placing PEACE as the central tenant, built into the fabric of all systems. Watch the replay by following the link

CLIMATE

AI Future Forecasting the Weather:

Providing early and more detailed information and
Warning of extreme weather events. This will provide improved and accurate data leading to less economic and crop loss and less loss of life and shorter response times for assistance in the Global South.

Climate Week NYC

Side Event lead by **Event Partners:** [PEAC Institute](#), Alliance of Social Transformers for Sustainable Development, ACEN, [Waohlife Media](#), CoNGO Regional Committee in Africa - **Circular Economy & Green Finance** From Circular Materials to Climate Capital Net-Zero Partnerships. This event laid out the the “how,” pathways of a green and just energy transition, economic inclusion, and sustainable industrial development.

GENDER EQUITY AND PEACE

There was a focused lens on Gender Equity with the full GA renewing the priority on gender equality as the most vital element in moving the world forward towards lasting peace. Currently the statistic is that it will take another 170 for women to reach parity in the workplace with men.

YOUTH

UN Women Leaders Network hosted Intergenerational Dialogue on Women Sharing Power.

The topic was support for one another. In many events the unified call for greater solidarity and mentorship with physical support was expressed. Move over and give your spot! Share the power, trust the youth can lead, value their voice and support when and where it is needed.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL RACE HEATS UP DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Servas representatives attended the Democracy and Rights Panel where H.E. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés (Ecuador), Candidate for Secretary General, and other experts laid out the path forward for a positive transition at the United Nations.

Speaking with Moderator, CNN International Correspondent Larry Madowo afterwards, “It is still anyone’s race, as the straw polls are shifting with every vote.” This is the time candidates spend in deep conversation with the Security Council members who have not voted for them, clarifying their individual platforms and plans for bringing the United Nations forward. Informally, the consensus is that the next Secretary General will be a woman.

Gratitude to:

ECOSOC/UN-NY, CoNGO, STUF United Fund, PEAC, Open Society Foundations, NGO CSW/NY, UN Women Leaders Network, Scandinavia House, Wind Borne Systems, and Devex Impact House, among others.