



MEETING GLOBAL CHALLENGES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

**ALBANIA**  
FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL

**2022-2023**

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65 years ago, we joined United Nations believing self-isolation from the rest of the World was the best idea. We failed.

Re-emerging from our self-imposed lockdown we saw ourselves as small and marginal, not entitled to a voice in world affairs. We failed again.

Our first sin was to believe ourselves to be superior to everyone else. Our second sin was to believe the opposite held true.

Luckily for us, the UN is not about being small or big, neither rich or poor, but about ideas, the willingness to change the world, about a vision for the future of our children. It is about being a responsible member

of the colourful and large family of member states. It is about teamwork. Those are the values we share and cherish.

During the past year, Albania successfully ran the chairmanship of the OSCE, making an enduring and long-lasting contribution to peace, human rights and equality. As an elected member of the Security Council for the very first time in our history, we aim to build further upon that experience.

This is a "Moon landing moment" for us. We are aware of the responsibility we are asking for, the level of trust we are asking for from the family of nations, but we will not shy away from these responsibilities. We will shine on.

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Albania takes this huge step with a clear agenda of priorities that reflect what modern Albania stands for. It is not common for a country like ours to be singled out by the UN, as we were singled out last year, as one of the top 5 countries in the World regarding political representation of women in government. Surely enough, we have placed Women Rights at the very top of our priorities because we deeply believe that only by empowering women and giving them their rightful place in society and decision making can we build a better world.

We focus on Human Rights and International Law because we know from our history and from the troubled history of our region that they provide the only platform to build not just better societies

at home, but also better cooperation, sustainable peace, stability and prosperity.

We have a lot to say on Countering Violent Extremism because Albania is an almost unique example of peaceful religious coexistence. Religious diversity at home has never been a source of conflict, but rather an asset, the source of a vibrant and rich culture and traditions.

Climate and Security is without a doubt the major challenge of our time. Future generations will hold us to account for our actions or inactions on climate change, so we hope to join forces with likeminded countries in taking this agenda one step further, doing our part to guarantee a better world for our children.

The pandemic reminded us that we urgently need a stronger cooperation in healthcare, to come out stronger of this silent tragic war and to prevent future occurrences.

We know that advancing these priorities at this highest of forums is not going to be easy. But we are confident that we have what it takes to contribute to the global discussion on the fate of mankind. Six hundred years after the death of our national hero, Skanderbeg, we are committed to prove him right once more: Alone we will fail, together we shall win no matter what.

**The Hon. Edi Rama**  
**Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania**

# WHO WE ARE

As a nation that has experienced war, conflict, separation, oppression, mass migration, Albania's long history finds resonance in the aims and objectives of the UN Charter. We understand the complexities of conflict as well as the importance of dialogue, confidence building, and fostering good relations with neighbors. We can share our own experience of resolving conflict, forge reconciliation and build peace.

Albania has a long-standing tradition of interreligious harmony and peaceful co-existence among Muslims, Catholics, Orthodox Christians, Jews and non-religious people. Albania's example shows that religious co-existence is not only possible but also beneficial for a country's development. We will bring in the Security Council our positive experience and use it as a good example against rising intolerance and violent extremism that undermine peace and security.

We have learnt through our own history that in order to build sustainable peace, the root causes of conflict need to be properly addressed. Peace building takes time and must be all-inclusive. All the voices of the communities must be heard. We believe that women and girls have a special role to play in building peace. These values underpin our commitment to partnership with the UN and its member states.



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# ALBANIA IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Albania joined the United Nations in 1955 and it is a member of the most relevant international organizations, both global and regional. Our membership to the Security Council for the 2022-2023 term would be an opportunity to contribute as a reliable partner, capable to actively engage in addressing the threats to global peace and security.

**ALBANIA'S ASPIRATION TO SERVE ON THIS IMPORTANT UN BODY IS AN EXPRESSION OF ITS UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM AND INSTITUTIONS, WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AT ITS CORE.**

Albania adheres to the purposes and principles set out in the United Nations Charter, and is a party to all the

major conventions and treaties of the United Nations. Albania strongly supports United Nations activities in the fields of the maintenance of international peace and security, international humanitarian law, arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, sustainable economic development, climate change, good governance, security, the promotion and protection of human rights, including the protection of women's rights and support for women's empowerment.

Albania supports the reform of the United Nations and its main bodies, with an aim to strengthen the Organization's ability to address the current emerging challenges, and threats to international peace, security and development.

# OUR CONTRIBUTION TO MULTILATERALISM

Albania remains committed to uphold the charter of the UN, convinced that a rules-based international order with effective multilateral institutions is the best way to ensure peace, security, and respect for human rights, development and prosperity.

Our experience of successful transition from dictatorship to democracy, as well as our contribution in fostering peace and stability in our region and beyond, has reaffirmed Albania's belief in multilateralism and strengthen our resolve to do our share in maintaining international peace and security, upholding human rights, protecting the vulnerable, and working together with all member states to ensure a better and more dignified life for all.

Today's crisis and challenges do not recognize geographic borders. Therefore, working closely with other Member States is the most effective and sustainable way to find common, effective solutions to global challenges, from climate change to refugees

and poverty eradication. We are far stronger acting collectively than we are acting alone.

The Covid 19 pandemic has tested multilateralism and the existing international institutions. But it has also demonstrated the alarming consequences of faltering global cooperation. This pandemic has shed a new light on humanity's need for a strengthened multilateral system.

Our foreign and security policy seeks to foster lasting strategic partnerships, based on mutual trust and respect. To that aim, we cooperate with many regional and sub-regional organization.

Albania assumed chairmanship of the OSCE during 2020.

In 2010 Albania served as President of the 10th Meeting of the State parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.





# OUR CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Albania is proactively committed to achieve the 17 SDGs and is working to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, consistently championed holistic and transformational approaches.

We supported actively the UNDS reform by becoming one of the successful pilot countries of the One UN project.

As Vice-president of the Executive board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, Albania has significantly contributed

to the Agenda's shared vision, combining the goals of economic, social and environmental development with that of building a peaceful society, based on democratic institutions, the rule of law, and the respect of human rights.

**WE ARE ENGAGED TO BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY, AND TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD A WORLD THAT IS MORE EQUAL, PEACEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND.**

# OUR CONTRIBUTION TO MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Albania has provided support to UN peace operations by sending police and military personnel in South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Georgia, as well as it participated in peacekeeping missions in Mali, Afghanistan, etc.

At regional level Albania plays a proactive role in promoting regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations. Regional cooperation is one of Albania's top foreign policy priorities.

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# ALBANIA'S PRIORITIES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

As an elected member of the Security Council, Albania intends to contribute to the preservation and strengthening of the multilateral rules-based order by addressing global challenges and promoting peace and security through resolution of current crises, peaceful

conflict settlement and mediation.

We firmly believe that respect for the rule of law and the realization of human rights for all are the foundations for peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable societies.

# WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

One of the most effective ways to achieve sustainable peace and security is through consistent focus on the strengthened implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, ensuring more inclusive peace processes, gender equality, women's empowerment and protection of women's rights.

Albania will champion the Women, Peace and Security Agenda across the full breadth of the Security Council's work. Putting women and girls at the center of peace and security, is a good investment in longer-lasting and more sustainable peace. We will make WPS a cross-cutting issue and include it in all country-specific discussions and mandates, as well as thematic discourse.

Albania will support the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all peace and security efforts, from peacemaking to peacekeeping and peacebuilding, and their involvement from the earliest stages in every peace and political process that the United Nations supports.

Albania will use its position in the Security Council to ensure the full implementation of the existing Security Council resolutions on Women Peace and Security, and will request briefers as well as UN leadership to systematically share gender analysis and information about concrete efforts to ensure women's equal participation in all areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Albania will advocate for the voice of women's civil society organizations and human rights defenders to be heard and to be taken into account in relevant Council outcome and deliberations.

At the national level, Albania is committed to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325. We have adopted a costed and budgeted National Action Plan and have increased the participation of women in the security sector.

**AS PART OF THESE EFFORTS, ALBANIA WILL ALSO STRENGTHEN THE COUNCIL'S ACTIONS AND COMMITMENTS TO COMBATING CONFLICT- RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE.**

The use of sexual violence as a tactic of war and terror continues to be a common element in conflicts around the world. During the last decade of the 20th century our region, the Balkans, has witnessed firsthand sexual violence being used as a weapon of war, as well as the challenges faced by post-conflict societies in dealing with the trauma.

Albania will engage in strengthening the work of the Security Council and our collective response in protecting the rights of the survivors as well as ensuring accountability for perpetrators, including through use of sanctions and ad-hoc justice mechanisms.

In order to promote justice and reconciliation, and to contribute to sustainable peace, Albania will work to strengthen the survivor-centered approach and to better integrate preventive and early warning capacities, as well as accountability measures.



# HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Albania is deeply committed to the protection and promotion of human rights, including through our foreign policy. Convinced that respect of fundamental rights and freedoms for all individuals and groups is a key precondition for long-lasting peace, security and sustainable development, we will work to advance human rights standards around the world.

Human rights are a core security issue. Serious and widespread violations of human rights result from crisis. But they are often also the catalyst and cause of violent conflicts. Sustainable peaceful solutions cannot be achieved unless human rights are respected. This is why progress in human rights related matters across the spectrum – civil, cultural, economic, political and social

– are a fundamental component for crisis prevention.

Albania believes that increased promotion and human rights education are valuable tools for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Albania will closely work with like-minded countries to increase the synergies between the Security Council and the Human Rights Council by inviting UN special mandate holders and the relevant civil society actors, to brief the Security Council on human rights situations in countries in crisis and to share their experience of human rights violations on the ground. We will also work to strengthen the role of OHCHR in the activities of the Security Council.

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# COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Albania will support the strengthening of multilateral policies and practices that address all drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, with a focus on countering terrorist narratives, both online and offline, in a balanced manner as set out in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Albania will bring in the work of the Security Council its long and positive experience of religious harmony and respect for cultural differences, as a good practice that stands against rising intolerance and violent extremism.



# CLIMATE AND SECURITY

Albania will work to ensure that the climate-security nexus remains on the Security Council agenda, in order to address the consequences of climate change and its links to security. Human-induced climate change is not only an environmental phenomenon but also one of the main security threats of the 21st century. Wherever climate change threatens people's livelihoods, the international community must step in before conflicts erupt or escalate. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the

importance of the relationship between human health, nature and security. The continued loss of biodiversity and the unsustainable use and degradation of ecosystems have profound and adverse consequences for peace and security, our well-being and ultimately our survival. In this regard, the value of an integrated One Health approach that fosters cooperation on human, animal and environmental health, needs to be used as a strong prevention, including as a conflict prevention tool.





# INCLUSIVE SOLUTIONS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Albania strongly believes that regional and local actors play a major role in finding sustainable solutions to issues. The involvement of a wide range of actors with direct interest in the matter, from local civil

society groups to state actors and regional organizations in affected locations, could create the necessary long-term conditions for conflict prevention to peacebuilding, and sustainable development.



# WORKING METHODS

Albania is committed and will work closely with like-minded countries to increase the efficiency, accountability and transparency of the work of the Security Council.

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# WHY SUPPORT ALBANIA

A UN member since 1955, Albania has never before served on the UN Security Council.

Albania has demonstrated its constructive approach for the peaceful solution of regional crisis and has made its contribution for the maintenance of peace and security in several areas around the world.

Albania will bring a small state perspective and act as an advocate for their common interests in the activities of the Security Council.

Albania will strive to build bridges between the Security Council and Member States, ensuring that their

concerns are given appropriate consideration on the international agenda. We will work with UN members from all regions, regularly consulting them and taking a constructive approach, while seeking to find consensus.

We will work towards increased transparency and accountability in the work of the Council.

**AS A RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, ALBANIA IS READY AND CAPABLE TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN ENSURING THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL EFFECTIVELY RESPONDS TO INTERNATIONAL CRISES AND CONFLICTS.**

We count on your valuable support.



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