In light of its 75th anniversary, civil society pondered how to go about getting the UN to transform so that it reflects its founding premise of ‘We the Peoples’ and engages in meaningful civil society engagement to advance human rights and social justice.

More, not less, multilateralism! The UN remains a relevant institution, yet it must reform to be more inclusive. #theUNweneed

> This is important to effectively address the global issues of our time including the pandemic! #rebuildbetter

More civic spaces, more diverse voices in decision-making and policy implementation at all levels.

> Civil society is part of the solution to today’s challenges and a catalyst for wider, progressive change #peoplepower

Guiding principles for the revamp of UN-civil society engagement: institutionalisation, inclusivity, transparency, accountability, democratic ownership, results-oriented.

> To deliver on its founding promise, to make the UN accessible to all! #no2ndclasscitizens

Keep up the good work...at the national level! Work through and with governments!

> Because influencing decision-making at the national level has an impact and complements efforts at the UN-level.
PROPOSALS FOR A MORE OPEN, INCLUSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC UN:

Yes to civil society taking the floor and maneuvering behind the scenes at in-person fora! #stillimportant

Yes to ever-more inclusive virtual events!

Yes to greater access to and knowledge of technology!

Yes to an independent, well-funded, bold and accountable high-level focal point for civil society at the UN secretariat!

Yes to an independent fund to enable civil society engagement!

AND LET’S ENDORSE, PUSH AND FOLLOW UP ON:

...the UN World Citizens’ Initiative to bring the UN to a citizen near you (or you)

...the UN75 People’s Declaration and Plan for Global Action

...the UNSG’s 2020 Call to Action for Human Rights

Resources:

- The United Nations Secretary General’s Call to Action for Human Rights
- The UN World Citizens’ Initiative
- Coalition for the UN We need (formerly UN2020: Civil Society Partnerships for The UN We Need)