

► Global governance, Palestinian state under spotlight

# World leaders gather for 80th UNGA session

By Xu Keyue and Zhao Jingru

Nearly 150 heads of state and government are expected in New York this week, alongside thousands of officials and diplomats, as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)'s high-level week commences at a difficult time in the organization's 80-year history.

The General Debate of UNGA will start on Tuesday, when representatives from each member state will speak on various issues. According to UN News, the high-level period kicked off on Monday with a full day of summits and commemorations, including the 80th anniversary of the UN itself, an SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Moment and marking 30 years since the Beijing world conference on women. Leaders will also take part in the high-

level conference on the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and the implementation of the two-state solution.

Ahead of the general debate of the 80th session of the UNGA (Tuesday-Saturday), recognition for the State of Palestine is gaining momentum as several countries, including the UK, Canada and Australia, announced on Sunday the recognition of the State of Palestine.

The recognition of the state of Palestine by more countries not only affirms the historical legitimacy of the Palestinian people's right to exist but also upholds the authority of the UN-centered international system, said Zhu Weilie, a professor of the Middle East Studies Institute of the Shanghai International Studies University. This reflects the shared will of the international community

to promote a just resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, Zhu said.

Experts believe that the current Israeli-Palestinian situation highlights the deficits in global governance, and the improvement of the UN on efficiency and effectiveness must adhere to the principles of multilateralism and align with the widespread expectations of the international community, thereby enhancing the core effectiveness of the United Nations in global governance.

At a time when the world is entering a new period of turbulence and transformation, and global governance has reached a new crossroads, China has put forward the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), offering a timely and concrete path forward, said Wang Huiyao, founder and president of think tank the Center for China and Globalization.

## South Korean president says US investment demands would spark a financial crisis: media

By Li Yawei

South Korea's economy could fall into crisis rivaling its 1997 meltdown if the government accepts current US demands in stalled trade talks without safeguards, said South Korean President Lee Jae-myung, Reuters reported on Monday. An expert noted that Lee's statement underscores the predicament that US economic bullying against South Korea has created for the country.

Lee will make a trip from Monday to New York, where he will address the United Nations General Assembly and be the first South Korean president to chair a meeting of the Security Council, per Reuters. However, the report said that trade and defense talks with the US, South Korea's military ally and a top economic partner, are overshadowing the trip.

Ahead of his trip, Lee said that Seoul and Washington verbally agreed to a trade deal in July in which the US would lower tariffs on South Korean goods in exchange for \$350 billion in investment from South Korea, among other measures. Lee said, however, they have yet to put the agreement to paper because of disputes over how the investments would be handled.

"Without a currency swap, if we were to withdraw \$350 billion in the manner that the US is demanding and to invest this all in cash in the US, South Korea would face a situation as it had in the 1997 financial crisis," he said through a translator.

Economic and trade issues constitute the most pivotal factor in South Korea-US relations, Xiang Haoyu, a research fellow at the China Institute of International Studies, told the Global Times on Monday.

Lee's statement is more of a political posturing – it serves to convey South Korea's concerns and the worries of South Korean enterprises, in an attempt to garner a certain degree of attention from the US, Xiang added.

This month Trump administration rocked South Korea with the arrest of more than 300 South Korean workers at a Hyundai Motor battery plant in Georgia, with federal officials accusing them of immigration violations.

Commenting on that, Lee said "I do not believe this was intentional, and the US has apologized for this incident, and we have agreed to seek reasonable measures in this regard, and we are working on them," per the report.

Such a stance is intended to assuage US concerns, thereby securing a relatively favorable outcome for South Korea in the upcoming bilateral trade negotiations, Xiang said. The crux of the matter, however, lies in that South Korea possesses limited bargaining leverage in its relations with the US, said Xiang, adding that as such, South Korea has to exercise restraint to avoid undermining the South Korea-US alliance.

## Typhoon aftermath



A man stands near debris on a waterfront road amid heavy rain due to Super Typhoon Ragasa in Aparri town, Cagayan province, the Philippines on September 22, 2025. Photo: VCG

## China welcomes outstanding talents from all industries and fields worldwide: Foreign Ministry

In response to the US administration's new H-1B visa application fee of \$100,000, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said that he has no comment on the US visa policy. While discussing China's policies on attracting foreign talents in technology, the spokesperson expressed a welcoming stance, saying talents from various sectors and fields

across the world are welcome to find their footing in China.

Guo's remarks were made during a press briefing on Monday, in response to inquiries on potential impacts of the US H-1B visa fees increase policy on Chinese tech industry workers, as well as the policies China has introduced in recent years to attract foreign tech talent and if there any new poli-

cies or schemes in the works on this front.

According to official introduction on the H-1B visa, it is a US nonimmigrant visa that allows employers to hire foreign professionals in specialty occupations, such as STEM fields, requiring at least a bachelor's degree. It is commonly granted to highly educated workers with expertise in tech roles at

firms like Google and Amazon.

Regarding the first question on the US H-1B visa application fee increase, Guo said that "we have no comment on the US' visa policy."

Regarding the second question on China's policy, Guo said in a globalized world, cross-border flow of talents is instrumental in global technological and economic advancement.

China welcomes talents from various sectors and fields across the world to come and find their footing in China for the progress of humanity and career success.

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