

letter to the editor

Toward a United Nations Declaration of 2022 as The International Year of Glass

Greetings to all!

Over the past 60 years, the General Assembly of the United Nations has declared “International Years” to recognize global initiatives of important contributions to society. Across the globe, United Nations resolutions have enabled professional societies, museums, journals, and academia to recognize and celebrate their history, their current state, their future and, in their totality, their major contributions to society.

In the 21st century, the United Nations has recognized the International Year of Astronomy (2009), the Year of Chemistry (2011), the Year of Light and Light-Based Technologies (2015), and, in 2019, the Year of the Periodic Table and the International Year of Indigenous Languages. UN declarations of these major fields of international endeavor have given rise to renewed contributions to society world-wide.

International Year of Glass proposed

Against this storied background, an international groundswell has arisen to pursue a United Nations International Year of Glass for 2022. This concept was first introduced at the 2018 Fall Annual Meeting of the International Commission on Glass (ICG) in Yokohama, Japan. In May 2019, ICG, The Corning Museum of Glass, The American Ceramic Society, and The Glass Art Society endorsed the idea in a presentation to the Office of the United States Mission of the United Nations in New York City.

Encouragement received at this meeting gave rise to renewed effort to secure a UN Year of Glass. A subsequent meeting with the UN ambassador from Spain further encouraged the effort to go forth with this historical undertaking.

The work begins

Extensive planning is now underway to inform international art and scientific glass-themed societies and museums of this endeavor to secure the United Nations declaration of the 2022 International Year of Glass. Once a formal resolution is finalized to the UN General Assembly, these groups will be invited to endorse the request to recognize glass as the first material ever to be celebrated in this manner.

I encourage you to consider how your organization might participate in celebration of this seminal moment in the history of our ancient material—glass. Please contact me to learn more and to help us achieve this worthy goal.

Yours in glass,

Dr. Alicia Durán

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