On 25 August 2023, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/77/324, proclaiming 21 December as World Basketball Day.

The resolution invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the Secretariat, other international and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, individuals and other relevant stakeholders to observe World Basketball Day in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, and to disseminate the advantages of basketball for all, including through educational and public awareness-raising activities.

The resolution further acknowledges the global presence of basketball and its impact in and across global spheres of commerce, peace and diplomacy, and that basketball creates a unique space of cooperation.

On the occasion of World Basketball Day, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, in cooperation with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, will organize a forum on “Basketball and Peace: A conversation with Julius “Dr. J” Erving” on 21 December 2023 at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Erving, popularly known as Dr. J, is basketball’s original skywalker with his climactic slam dunks. He is undoubtedly one of the greatest players to ever play basketball, a legendary NBA player with the Philadelphia 76ers. He is a Hall of Famer, an elegant ambassador for basketball, a true artist and original for the game and all it stands for.

The program is as follows:

- Opening Remarks – Amb. Ariel Rodelas Peñaranda
  Deputy Representative of the Philippines to the UN

- Remarks – Representative from Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the UN Secretariat (TBC)

- Remarks - John Doleva, President & CEO, Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame

- Remarks - Prof. David Hollander, NYU, author of “How Basketball Can Save the World”

- Conversation with Julius Erving and Open Forum - to be facilitated by Prof. Hollander

- Closing Remarks – Amb. Carlos Segura
  Deputy Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the UN