



ACHIEVING OUR COMMON HUMANITY

Celebrating global cooperation
through the United Nations



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CELEBRATING GLOBAL COOPERATION THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS

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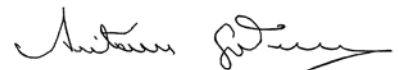
FOREWORD

The founding of the United Nations in 1945 was the result of an extraordinary effort at the end of the Second World War to prevent the horrors of another devastating global conflict. Across the decades since, this collective engagement among nations has fostered an international community guided, at its best, by consensus and a mutually agreed rules-based order. The United Nations is the cornerstone of this community and the embodiment of the yearnings of people everywhere for lives of dignity and peace on a healthy planet.

Today the world faces both long-standing ills—poverty, hunger, hatred and armed conflict—and formidable new challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the downsides of technological advances. We must address these twenty-first century threats with constructive, twenty-first century solutions defined by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Prevention, gender equality, and a fair globalization will be essential for securing a better future for all.

In pursuing this work, the world can draw hope from the many achievements and advances across the history of the United Nations, including the victory over apartheid, the eradication of deadly diseases, the emergence of peacekeeping, and the advancement of international law and human rights protections. At a time of ever-deepening interdependence, the United Nations continues to promote an inclusive and networked multilateralism that can address the world's fragilities, seize shared opportunities and strengthen global governance.

The stories in this publication span the early years of the Organization through the rivalries of the Cold War up to the present moment. They illustrate the value of international cooperation as we continue our shared work to realize the enduring vision set out in the Charter.



António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York, July 2020

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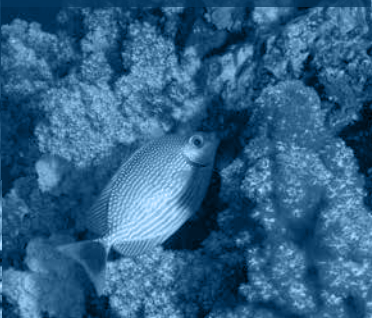


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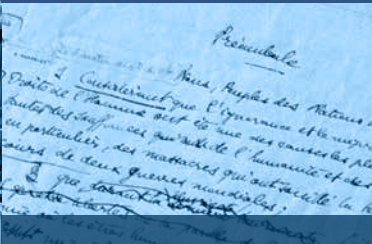
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The United Nations
keeping the peace



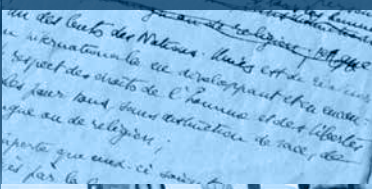
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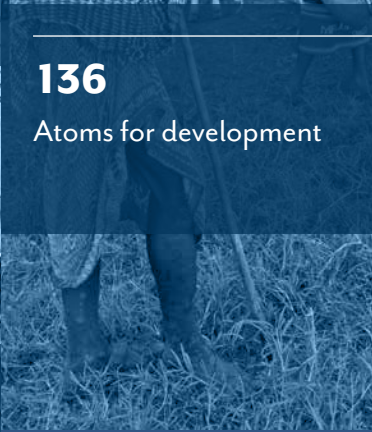
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THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

UN PRINCIPAL ORGANS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SECURITY COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

SECRETARIAT

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL⁶

Subsidiary Organs

- Disarmament Commission
- Human Rights Council
- International Law Commission
- Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
- Main Committees
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Funds and Programmes¹

- UNDP** United Nations Development Programme
- **UNCDF** United Nations Capital Development Fund
- **UNV** United Nations Volunteers
- UNEP⁸** United Nations Environment Programme
- UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund
- UN-HABITAT⁸** United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- UNICEF** United Nations Children's Fund
- WFP** World Food Programme (UN/FAO)

Subsidiary Organs

- Counter-Terrorism Committee

- International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
- Military Staff Committee

Functional Commissions

- Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- Narcotic Drugs
- Population and Development
- Science and Technology for Development
- Social Development
- Statistics
- Status of Women
- United Nations Forum on Forests

Regional Commissions⁸

- ECA** Economic Commission for Africa
- ECE** Economic Commission for Europe
- ECLAC** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- ESCAP** Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- ESCSA** Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Departments and Offices⁹

- EOSG** Executive Office of the Secretary-General
- DCO** Development Coordination Office
- DESA** Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- DGACM** Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
- DGC** Department of Global Communications
- DMSPC** Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
- DOS** Department of Operational Support
- DPO** Department of Peace Operations
- DPPA** Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
- DSS** Department of Safety and Security
- OCHA** Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

- OCT** Office of Counter-Terrorism
- ODA** Office for Disarmament Affairs
- OHCHR** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- OIOS** Office of Internal Oversight Services
- OLA** Office of Legal Affairs
- OSAA** Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
- SRS/CAAC** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
- SRS/SGV** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- SRS/VA** Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

Research and Training

UNIDIR United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNSSC United Nations System Staff College

UNU United Nations University

Other Entities

ITC International Trade Centre (UN/WTO)

UNCTAD⁸ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNHCR¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNOPS¹ United Nations Office for Project Services

UNRWA¹ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

UN-WOMEN¹ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Related Organizations

CTBTO PREPARATORY COMMISSION
Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

IAEA^{1, 3} International Atomic Energy Agency

ICC International Criminal Court

IOM¹ International Organization for Migration

ISA International Seabed Authority

ITLOS International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

OPCW³ Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

WTO^{1, 4} World Trade Organization

Peacebuilding Commission

HLPF

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

- Peacekeeping operations and political missions
- Sanctions committees (ad hoc)
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Other Bodies¹⁰

- Committee for Development Policy
- Committee of Experts on Public Administration
- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNEGN United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

UNGGIM Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Research and Training

UNICRI United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

UNRISD United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

UNDRR United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNODC¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNOG United Nations Office at Geneva

UN-OHRLS Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

UNON United Nations Office at Nairobi

UNOP² United Nations Office for Partnerships

UNOV United Nations Office at Vienna

Specialized Agencies^{1, 5}

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

ILO International Labour Organization

IMF International Monetary Fund

IMO International Maritime Organization

ITU International Telecommunication Union

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization

UNWTO World Tourism Organization

UPU Universal Postal Union

WHO World Health Organization

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization

WMO World Meteorological Organization

WORLD BANK GROUP⁷

- **IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **IDA** International Development Association
- **IFC** International Finance Corporation

Notes

- 1 Members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).
- 2 The UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP) is the UN focal point vis-à-vis the United Nations Foundation, Inc.
- 3 IAEA and OPCW report to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA).
- 4 WTO has no reporting obligation to the GA, but contributes on an ad hoc basis to GA and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) work on, inter alia, finance and development issues.
- 5 Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations whose work is coordinated through ECOSOC (intergovernmental level) and CEB (inter-secretariat level).
- 6 The Trusteeship Council suspended operations on 1 November 1994, as on 1 October 1994 Palau, the last United Nations Trust Territory, became independent.
- 7 The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.
- 8 The secretariats of these organs are part of the UN Secretariat.
- 9 The Secretariat also includes the following offices: the Ethics Office, United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and the Office of Administration of Justice.
- 10 For a complete list of ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies, see un.org/ecosoc.

This chart is a reflection of the functional organization of the United Nations system and for informational purposes only. It does not include all offices or entities of the United Nations system.



THE ARCHITECTURE OF BUILDING PEACE

“Efforts to build and sustain peace are necessary not only once conflict has broken out, but long beforehand through preventing conflict and addressing its root causes.” | SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, 6 MARCH 2018

The United Nations works to make, keep and build lasting peace. The concept of peacebuilding was institutionalized by the United Nations at the dawn of the twenty-first century as a response to historical dynamics that altered the nature of global conflict following the end of the Cold

War. By the early 1990s, inter-State wars had become overshadowed by complex civil wars that were occurring in fragile countries. Such conflicts were often proving to be intractable, due to factors such as the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the growth of non-State armed

groups and unresolved historical grievances. Significantly, conflict recurrence became more common than the onset of new conflicts. Sixty per cent of civil wars ending in the early 2000s, for example, relapsed within five years. To deal with that changing landscape of international



Weapons being burned during the official launch of the UN-supervised disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration process in Muramuya, Burundi, in December 2004. The Burundian military voluntarily agreed to be disarmed under the auspices of UN peacekeepers and observers. The Burundian civil war broke out in 1993 and officially ended in 2005. A year later, the Peacebuilding Commission placed Burundi on its agenda for assistance from the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, which helps countries emerging from conflict rebuild and avoid descending again into unrest. By 2020, Burundi was widely regarded as a peacebuilding success story, despite remaining political challenges. 2 DECEMBER 2004/UN PHOTO/MARTINE PERRET

Facing page: Secretary-General António Guterres visits the Grand Mosque in Mopti, Mali, in May 2018. As part of UN efforts to help bring about sustainable peace in Mali, the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund allocated \$32 million between 2017 and 2019 to initiatives such as projects for dialogue and reconciliation and support to the justice and security sectors. 30 MAY 2018/UN PHOTO/MARCO DORMINO

The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund 2017–2019

Addressing critical gaps for sustaining peace (Number of projects listed next to country name)

COUNTRIES WITH APPROVED PROJECTS FOR THREE YEARS				COUNTRIES WITH APPROVED PROJECTS FOR ONE YEAR	
Burkina Faso (10)	\$15,678,171	South Sudan (7)	\$15,398,462	Albania (1)	\$2,999,745
Burundi (11)	\$18,145,948	Sri Lanka (5)	\$5,894,054	Congo (1)	\$2,880,048
Cameroon (6)	\$10,334,553	Yemen (6)	\$12,186,459	Ecuador (1)	\$3,000,000
Central African Republic (21)	\$43,160,151	COUNTRIES WITH APPROVED PROJECTS FOR TWO YEARS		Ethiopia (1)	\$2,840,341
Chad (8)	\$18,548,389	Bosnia and Herzegovina (2)	\$3,933,294	Kosovo (1)	\$2,772,780
Colombia (13)	\$24,673,735	Democratic Republic of the Congo (8)	\$17,118,229	Lesotho (1)	\$1,500,000
Côte d'Ivoire (18)	\$21,325,724	Guatemala (7)	\$10,722,560	Libya (1)	\$2,950,705
El Salvador (4)	\$8,441,837	Guinea-Bissau (4)	\$11,529,289	Mauritania (1)	\$3,000,000
Gambia (8)	\$13,949,995	Haiti (2)	\$5,500,000	Montenegro (1)	\$946,335
Guinea (15)	\$18,505,418	Honduras (2)	\$3,000,000	Philippines (1)	\$3,000,000
Kyrgyzstan (11)	\$16,028,967	Lebanon (2)	\$5,999,628	Rwanda (1)	\$1,499,999
Liberia (13)	\$24,987,861	Madagascar (10)	\$13,653,361	Serbia (1)	\$1,304,363
Mali (18)	\$32,087,571	Myanmar (5)	\$6,708,544	Tanzania (1)	\$945,581
Niger (13)	\$22,051,993	Nigeria (1)	\$3,000,000	Togo (1)	\$2,701,111
Sierra Leone (1)	\$9,799,797	Papua New Guinea (3)	\$7,500,000	Tunisia (1)	\$2,998,889
Solomon Islands (3)	\$6,947,569	Sudan (10)	\$23,000,000	Uganda (1)	\$2,487,750
Somalia (15)	\$26,726,146	Tajikistan (2)	\$3,000,000	Uzbekistan (1)	\$2,199,369
				Zimbabwe (1)	\$3,143,861

Data source: United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (website)



Football for peace: former combatants of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People's Army (FARC-EP) and members of the Colombian Armed Forces play a friendly football match along with other residents of the village of Dabeiba, Antioquia. The Peacebuilding Fund has been actively supporting the peace process in Colombia since 2014. The Fund's Colombian Peacebuilding Priority Plan, signed in September 2017, responds directly to national priorities identified by the Government of Colombia, and is closely coordinated with the priorities of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC). The Plan includes reintegration interventions that support the transformation of FARC-EP into a democratic political actor. The football match was organized as part of the UNVMC Football for Peace and Reconciliation initiative. 19 JUNE 2018/UN PHOTO/JENIFFER MORENO CANIZALES

peace and security, the United Nations conceived a peacebuilding architecture for reducing the risk of conflict relapse in fragile situations by strengthening national capacities and laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development. As a complement to UN peacemaking and peacekeeping, the new structure would comprise three main elements: the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)—also referred to as the Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund—and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).

The PBC serves as the linchpin of UN peacebuilding architecture. It is an intergovernmental body that identifies and supports peacebuilding priorities in conflict-affected countries. It mobilizes resources for peacebuilding through partner conferences and public advocacy, including in contexts where additional international attention is deemed beneficial. The PBC—whose diverse membership includes the top donor and troop contributing countries—further works to foster national ownership, partnerships and mutual accountability.

Within the first year of its establishment, the PBC placed Burundi and Sierra Leone on its agenda (2006), followed by Guinea-Bissau (2007), the Central African Republic (2008), Liberia (2010) and Guinea (2011). In Burundi, the PBC facilitated a dialogue to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections in 2010. In Guinea-Bissau, the Commission contributed to peace consolidation by mobilizing financial support for elections in 2008 and 2009, and by actively encouraging national dialogue among all key stakeholders starting in 2007. In Sierra Leone, the PBC helped coordinate international assistance in support of a landmark nationally owned peacebuilding strategy. In the Central African Republic, however, the peacebuilding situation deteriorated to the extent that the UN peacebuilding office was replaced



A sign at the entrance to the Gbarnga Justice and Peace Hub construction site in Gbarnga, Bong County, Liberia. Inaugurated in 2013 and featuring courts, barracks and training centres for security agencies, the \$3.7 million Hub was paid for by the Peacebuilding Fund and built by the United Nations Office for Project Services. 13 APRIL 2012/UN PHOTO/STATON WINTER

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Michael Keating, participates in a group art project at an event in November 2016 in Mogadishu aimed at empowering political participation among youth in Somalia. The event was hosted by the United Nations Mission in Somalia as part of UN efforts to help build peace in that country. Between 2009 and 2018, the Peacebuilding Fund invested a total of \$29.9 million in different peacebuilding projects in Somalia. 4 NOVEMBER 2016/UN PHOTO/TOBIN JONES



in 2014 with a military peacekeeping operation mandated to protect civilians and establish security. More recently, the PBC has diversified its working methods and expanded its focus by convening discussions on countries in complex situations such as Colombia, the Gambia, Papua New

Guinea, Somalia and Sri Lanka as well as on regional matters affecting the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel.

The PBF serves as a financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk or affected by violent conflict. It invests

DID YOU KNOW

... that the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund supports activities such as demobilizing and reintegrating ex-combatants, improving prisons, strengthening police forces, fighting corruption, eliminating impunity and denial of basic human rights, promoting the private sector, creating youth employment, rebuilding infrastructure and providing safe drinking water and proper sanitation?

Local singer Magda Musa performing for prisoners and police officers at the inauguration of a new workshop organized by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Development Programme in Al Shallah Federal Prison in El Fasher, North Darfur, Sudan. Some 80 inmates graduated from the intensive training course, in which they acquired various vocational skills, including in welding, masonry and electrical work. As at early 2020, UNAMID was one of seven UN peacekeeping operations worldwide that had a multidimensional mandate from the Security Council to also undertake peacebuilding activities.
17 DECEMBER 2013/UNAMID/
ALBERT GONZÁLEZ FARRAN



A United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) helicopter dropping off election-day materials and personnel for polling centres in Sibuni and Atudara in advance of the second round of presidential elections in April 2012. A year earlier, in February 2011, the Security Council mandated UNMIT to support preparations for the 2012 parliamentary and presidential elections, as requested by the Timorese authorities. 15 APRIL 2012/
UN PHOTO/MARTINE PERRET



in four areas: implementation of peace agreements; dialogue and coexistence; peace dividends and re-establishing basic services—responding quickly and flexibly to peacebuilding opportunities; and catalysing processes and resources in a risk-tolerant fashion. The Fund emphasizes crucial early interventions as well as longer-term programmes.

From 2006 to 2017, the PBF allocated a total of \$772 million to 41 recipient countries, and from 2017 to 2019, it scaled up its commitments by approving \$531 million for 51 countries. Some 58 UN Member States have contributed to the Fund since its inception. One priority is gender equality and the empowerment of

women, which saw a record amount of \$207 million approved during the 2017–2019 period.

The PBSO is entrusted with supporting the PBC by providing strategic advice and policy guidance while managing and mobilizing resources. The PBSO also disseminates lessons

learned and good practices on peacebuilding within the United Nations and beyond.

In parallel, over the last two decades, UN peacekeeping operations have evolved from carrying out primarily military functions to include multidimensional mandates involving a broad range of peacebuilding tasks, including security sector reform. In addition, a larger percentage of UN peacebuilding work is being conducted in volatile and geographically charged operational settings, such as in Afghanistan and Somalia. Between 2009 and 2018, for example, the Fund invested a total of \$29.9 million in different peacebuilding projects in Somalia.

The PBF-funded programmes have helped strengthen federal and local government institutions and improve their responsiveness to various needs of the population in south and central Somalia, including in local governance, security, justice and economic and social solutions. In Puntland between 2009 and 2011, the PBF, with the United Nations Development Programme, supported police reform efforts, and between 2011 and 2012 it provided emergency interventions for easing tensions between internally displaced people and host communities.

A review of UN peacebuilding architecture in 2015 gave renewed impetus to the peacebuilding work

of the United Nations. Under its five-year strategy through 2024, the PBF is investing \$1.5 billion in 40 countries, focusing on inclusion of women and youth, cross-border and regional approaches and facilitating transitions. In addition, in 2019, Secretary-General António Guterres launched a review of the peacebuilding architecture designed to evaluate and measure its impact in the field. The review will enable the United Nations to take stock, consolidate gains and push forward in adapting to the ever-changing challenges and complexities of conflict, as the United Nations continues to play its pivotal role in brokering and fostering peace around the world.

Members of the Sri Lankan contingent of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) assist in refurbishing the façade of Notre Dame Cathedral in the capital city, Bangui, ahead of the November 2015 visit of Pope Francis to the country. As at early 2020, MINUSCA was one of seven UN peacekeeping operations that had a multidimensional mandate from the Security Council to also undertake peacebuilding activities. 26 AUGUST 2015/ UN PHOTO/NEKTARIOS MARKOGIANNIS



RESOURCES

- United Nations Peacebuilding (website)
- General Assembly resolution 60/180 (The Peacebuilding Commission) and Security Council resolution 1645(2005) (Post-conflict peacebuilding)
- Identical letters dated 29 June 2015 from the Chair of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council
- General Assembly resolution 70/262 (Review of United Nations peacebuilding architecture) and Security Council resolution 2282(2016) (Review of United Nations peacebuilding architecture)
- United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (website)



HELPING REFUGEES THRIVE, NOT JUST SURVIVE

“[We are] navigating extraordinarily difficult waters. The combination of multiple conflicts and resulting mass displacement, fresh challenges to asylum, the funding gap between humanitarian needs and resources, and growing xenophobia is very dangerous.”

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES FILIPPO GRANDI, 4 JANUARY 2016

A student of accountancy at Damascus University, Eid Aljazairli became in 2016 one of the millions of Syrians who had fled their country since civil war began there five years earlier. During his perilous journey from Damascus and then across the Mediterranean Sea, Eid, who could not swim, nearly drowned off the coast of Greece. Today, as a refugee in the

United Kingdom, Eid is studying English and Mathematics at a local college in London, along with training to be a competitive swimmer. He plans to return home to Syria to finish the degree he started there.

Eid is a refugee—a person who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence and who has a well-founded

fear of facing persecution if he or she returned to his or her country of origin. Every two seconds—less than the time it takes to read this sentence—someone somewhere in the world is forcibly driven from his or her home. That means that 30 people are displaced every minute of every day.

War, conflict, religious violence and human right violations are the

Eid Aljazairli, a refugee from Damascus who nearly drowned during his perilous journey from Syria, now attends college in London, where he is also training to swim competitively. 6 DECEMBER 2018/UNHCR/PAUL WU

Facing page: A sewing workshop brings sustainable employment to Rohingya women at the Nayapara refugee camp in Bangladesh. Set up in 2011 by a partner of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the workshop trains women how to sew, earn money and open their own businesses. UNHCR oversees the safety and resettlement of more than 20 million refugees and some 41 million internally displaced persons and asylum seekers worldwide. Over the past 75 years, the UN system has assisted and restarted the lives of refugees and internally displaced persons, advocated for them and helped the world see those individuals not as statistics, but as fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, neighbours and friends—people with hope and talent who enrich their host societies.

14 DECEMBER 2017/UNHCR/ANDREW MCCONNELL



leading causes of mass displacement, and the numbers when added up are staggering. As at the end of 2018, around 65 million women, men and children were forcibly displaced from their homes. Of those, some 20.4 million people—half of them under 18 years of age—became refugees. Altogether, two thirds of those 20.4 million refugees came from Syria (6.7), Afghanistan (2.7), South Sudan (2.3), Myanmar (1.1) and Somalia (0.9). Some 41 million people were displaced within their own country, thereby becoming internally displaced persons, while another 3.5 million people were seeking asylum or sanctuary in a different country. The largest internally displaced populations were located in Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Syria. The lead agency mandated to protect forcibly displaced persons worldwide is the Office of the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

There are also another 5.6 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Their protection falls under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

Refugees are victims of circumstances, yet they give back to their communities as artists, doctors, journalists, teachers ... and in many other roles. An inspiring example is the athlete Yusra Mardini, a refugee from Syria who was granted asylum in Germany. In 2017, Yusra was appointed as the youngest UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, lending her voice to spread the message about refugees, their lives, needs and hopes.

Eid and Yusra and millions of displaced individuals had international protection when they were forced out of their countries in search of safety and a decent life. In 1946, the United Nations established the International Refugee Organization (IRO) as a temporary agency to arrange the repatriation or resettlement of Europeans made homeless by the Second World War. IRO was succeeded five years later by UNHCR. The General Assembly initially established UNHCR for three years, and regularly renewed its mandate for five-year periods until 2003, when the Assembly decided to extend the mandate of UNHCR until the refugee problem was solved.

UNHCR provides refugees with international protection—first and foremost with access to safety, health care, basic supplies like shoes, soap,

Cambodians returning from refugee camps in Thailand aboard a UNHCR train as it approaches Phnom Penh, Cambodia. More than 360,000 people returned to Cambodia in a UNHCR-coordinated repatriation effort from March 1992 to May 1993, after having fled in the 1970s from the Khmer Rouge regime. United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials provides technical assistance to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, a domestic court established in accordance with Cambodian law to bring to trial senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea and those who were most responsible for the crimes and serious violations of Cambodian penal law, international humanitarian law and custom, and international conventions recognized by Cambodia that were committed from 17 April 1975 to 6 January 1979. 1 JUNE 1992/UN PHOTO/PERNACA SUDHAKARAN



kitchen sets and solar lamps, cash assistance and materials for housing. Once basic needs are met, UNHCR helps resettle refugees as citizens back home, in countries of asylum or in a third country.

The first challenge for UNHCR in 1951 was to come to the aid of an estimated 1 million mainly European civilians uprooted in the aftermath of the Second World War. In July of that year, the General Assembly strengthened the UN refugee protection framework when it adopted the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The Convention, which entered into force in 1954, outlines the rights of displaced persons as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them, critically through the principle of *non-refoulement*, or the non-return of a refugee to the country of origin where he or she has a well-founded fear of facing persecution.

Five years later, in 1956, UNHCR faced another emergency situation in coordinating help for more than 200,000 Hungarians who had revolted against their Government and fled to neighbouring Austria and Yugoslavia.



An Afghan asylum seeker stands with two of his children at a reception centre in Fylakio, Greece.
14 FEBRUARY 2020/UNHCR/ACHILLEAS ZAVALLIS

A family of Somali refugees inside their tent in Malkadiida, Ethiopia. In 2011, the Horn of Africa experienced a severe food crisis, with over 12 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia in urgent need of humanitarian aid. The United Nations declared famine in parts of Somalia. Large parts of Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya were suffering from severe food insecurity as a result of drought, high food prices and significant inflows of refugees fleeing drought in Somalia. Thousands of Somalis took up residence in camps across the border in Ethiopia. UNHCR and its partners helped over 85,000 Somalis voluntarily return to Somalia between December 2014 and the end of 2019.
25 AUGUST 2011/UN PHOTO/ESKINDER DEBEBE



DID YOU KNOW

... that in 2018, for the fifth straight year, Turkey hosted more refugees than any other country? That year, Turkey hosted some 3.7 million refugees, Pakistan 1.4 million, Uganda 1.2 million and Sudan and Germany 1.1 million each.



Children at the Zaatari Refugee Camp, located near Al Mafraq, Jordan, in 2016. The United Nations Children's Fund had established nine school complexes at the settlement to ensure seats for the 28,000 school-age children living in the camp, which housed nearly 80,000 Syrian refugees. By 2018, over 5.5 million people had fled Syria since 2011, seeking safety in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and other countries. 27 MARCH 2016/UN PHOTO/MARK GARTEN



In 1959, the United Nations Postal Administration issued stamps commemorating the World Refugee Year (1959–1960) to help focus interest on the refugee problem.

During the 1960s, as Africa decolonized, the focus of UNHCR increasingly shifted away from Europe. In many cases, colonial powers handed over the reins of government to independence movements in a relatively peaceful manner. In other instances, however, they refused to yield, resulting in major conflicts that in turn triggered

refugee crises. By the end of the decade, there were some 1 million refugees in Africa.

The large numbers of refugees meant that it was impracticable to screen each and every individual. UNHCR instead identified groups of people forced to flee their country

of origin with a well-founded fear of persecution if they returned.

Significantly, those refugees in Africa did not at first benefit from the 1951 Convention, which remained confined to people who had become refugees before 1 January 1951. To address this gap, the 1967 Protocol

relating to the Status of Refugees expanded the scope of the Convention by removing its initial geographical and temporal limits. Over the following two decades, that change allowed UNHCR to assist uprooted populations in Asia and Latin America. As at May 2020, there were 146 parties to the 1951 Convention, and 147 to the 1967 Protocol.

The Convention and the Protocol proved inspirational for regional frameworks such as the 1969 Organisation of African Unity Refugee Convention in Africa, the 1984 Cartagena Declaration in Latin America and a common asylum system in the European Union.

In the 1970s, UNHCR further extended its protection to include stateless persons—estimated to be at least 10 million people worldwide—that is, individuals whom no State recognizes as citizens. Statelessness can deprive a person of rights required to engage in activities often taken for granted, such as enrolling in school, finding legal employment, getting married or burying the dead. UNHCR works with countries to help stateless persons acquire legal status and—if possible—citizenship. Common standards of treatment are provided through the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. As at May 2020, States parties to the Conventions were 94 and 75, respectively.

In 2018, the General Assembly affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees, built on the recognition that a sustainable solution to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation. As a transformative vision of the way the world can respond to refugee situations, the Compact provides a blueprint for governments, international organizations and other stakeholders to ensure that host communities receive the support that they need to help refugees thrive and lead productive lives.



Secretary-General António Guterres meeting with children during the International Conference on 40 Years of Hosting Afghan Refugees in Pakistan, which was organized by UNHCR. The children were part of a choir made up of refugee children from Afghanistan and children from Pakistan. 17 FEBRUARY 2020/UN PHOTO/MARK GARTEN

Hanan Jaber Abdallah (seated at left) with her five children as they display their hard-won Sudanese citizenship documents. When South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011, Hanan had no idea that the historic move would make her five children invisible by rendering them stateless. Like thousands of people with parents of mixed South Sudanese and Sudanese descent, they lost their Sudanese nationality immediately after the split. UNHCR provided legal aid to Hanan and to over 500 families who lost their Sudanese nationality and were unable to obtain South Sudanese nationality. 20 FEBRUARY 2020/UNHCR/MOHAMED ELFATHI ELNAIEM



RESOURCES

- UNHCR Global Trends reports (annual)
- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951
- Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967
- Yearbook of the United Nations, Part Three: Economic and social questions, Chapter XII: Refugees and displaced persons
- UNHCR data (website)



ON THE WAY TO ERADICATING HIV/AIDS

“Science has made remarkable contributions in the global HIV epidemic, among them impressive global progress towards the elimination of HIV in newborn babies. To defeat AIDS, we need to redouble our research efforts to create new and better prevention and treatment methods, strategies for sustainable implementation and, eventually a cure.”

CHAIR OF THE UNAIDS SCIENTIFIC EXPERT PANEL SALIM S. ABDOOL KARIM, 25 JUNE 2015

The acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a chronic condition caused by infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Originally a chimpanzee virus that jumped to humans through cross-species transmission—as did the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that became a pandemic in March 2020—infection with HIV has led to the death of millions of people. HIV/AIDS has been considered responsible for the single greatest reversal in modern human development, reducing life expectancy in many countries, and, at its peak in the early 2000s, depriving the hardest hit countries of skilled workers in critical sectors such as education and health due to illness and death. In the early 1980s, when AIDS was first recognized as a new disease in the United States—with similar cases reported in other areas of the world soon after, and even before HIV was identified as the cause of AIDS—the infection gave rise to fear and prejudice against certain segments of society, in particular the gay community, within which many of the first cases emerged.

HIV was isolated and identified in 1983. That same year, concerned by the global spread of infections, the World Health Organization (WHO), which guided the international response to HIV/AIDS, convened the first meeting to assess the worldwide situation and

to encourage collaboration among those countries affected by the disease. It gradually became apparent that HIV was also being transmitted among heterosexual populations through blood transfusions as well as to newborns by infected mothers. In 1987, WHO established its Special Programme on AIDS, which became the Global Programme on AIDS. Later that year, AIDS became

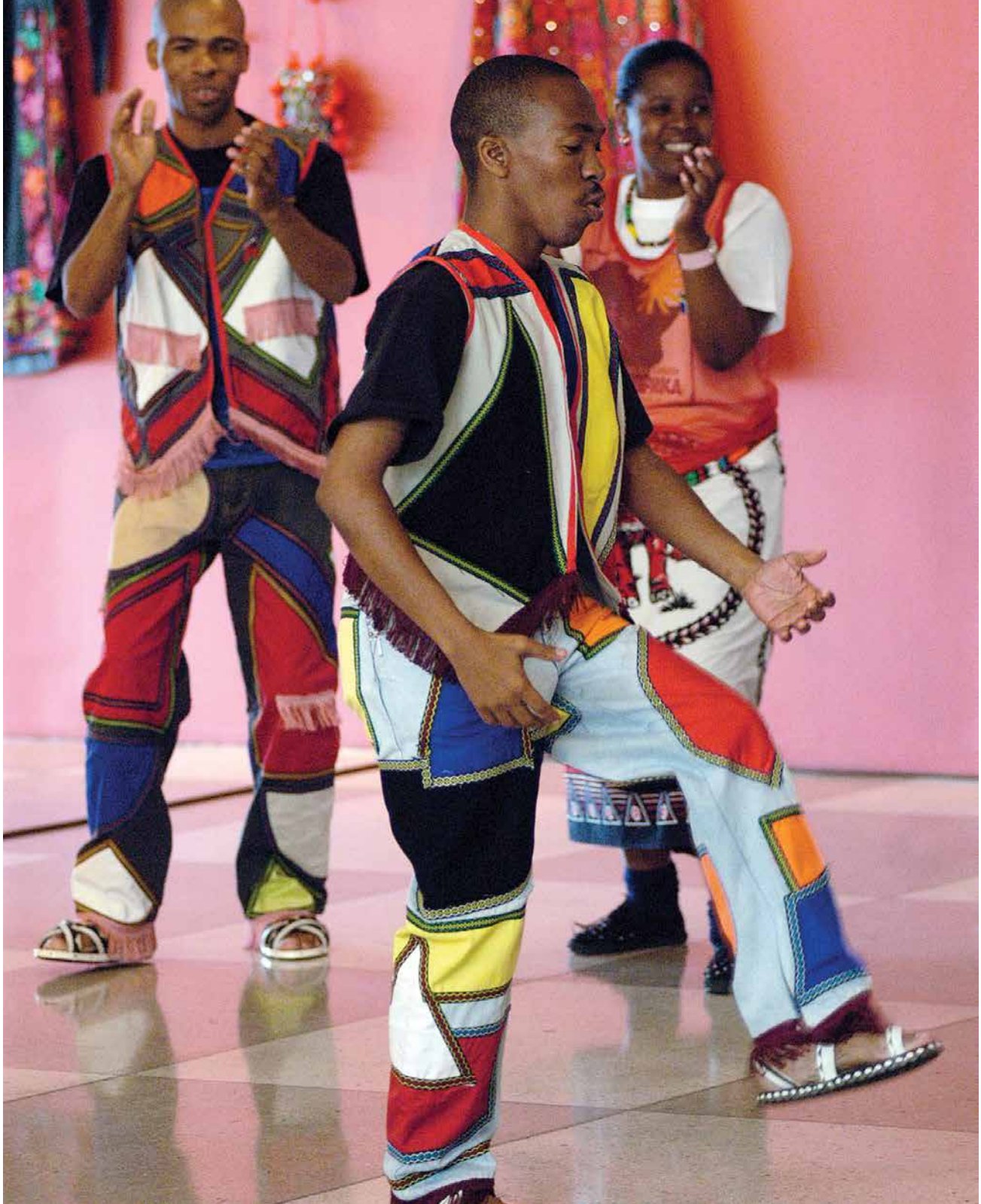
the first disease ever debated on the floor of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

As the epidemic continued to spread largely unabated, the clear need for a global multisectoral response that would better address the health as well as the socioeconomic threats of HIV/AIDS led the Economic and Social Council to create the



The ashes of patients who died at an AIDS hospice in Thailand. According to UNAIDS data, of the 37.9 million people worldwide who were living with HIV at the end of 2018, 5.9 million were in Asia and the Pacific. 27 JUNE 2010/UN PHOTO/KIBAE PARK

Facing page: The UN Secretariat building in New York is illuminated with the red AIDS ribbon—designed in 1991 as a visual symbol to show compassion for people living with HIV and their caregivers—demonstrating the Organization’s commitment to the battle against HIV/AIDS and spotlighting the 2001 General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS. 23 JUNE 2001/UN PHOTO/ESKINDER DEBEBE



Members of the Sinikithemba Choir performing at UN Headquarters in New York on the occasion of World AIDS Day (1 December). 'Sinikithemba' is a Zulu word meaning 'we bring hope'. The members of the South African choir were brought together by the non-musical bond of being HIV-positive. Women and girls make up over half the number of people living with HIV. Ending AIDS by 2030 requires that we address the diverse roles of women and girls by putting them at the centre of the response. Unequal gender norms deny women and girls the ability to make their own choices about health care, assign them with higher levels of domestic work and caregiving responsibilities, curtail their freedom to enter and remain in the labour force on terms that suit their needs, and impact the economic independence, security and control of women. 8 DECEMBER 2003/UN PHOTO/KATE SHAFFER

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Fully operational since 1996, UNAIDS was and remains the only co-sponsored joint programme in the UN system. It draws on the expertise, experience and resources of eleven UN agencies: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the International Labour Organization,



A child receives a dose of an antiretroviral drug used to prevent and treat HIV at lunchtime in the UNICEF-supported La Maison Arc-en-Ciel (Rainbow House) orphanage for children affected by HIV/AIDS in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The orphanage was providing food, shelter, medical, nutritional and psychosocial care, and education for children between the ages of 6 months and 6 years who were living with or had been orphaned by HIV/AIDS. 15 JUNE 2004/UNICEF/ROGER LEMOYNE

FACT SHEET: WORLD AIDS DAY 2019

GLOBAL HIV STATISTICS

- 24.5 million [21.6 million–25.5 million] people were accessing antiretroviral therapy (end of June 2019).
- 37.9 million [32.7 million–44.0 million] people globally were living with HIV (end of 2018).
- 1.7 million [1.4 million–2.3 million] people became newly infected with HIV (end of 2018).
- 770 000 [570 000–1.1 million] people died from AIDS-related illnesses (end of 2018).
- 74.9 million [58.3 million–98.1 million] people have become infected with HIV since the start of the epidemic (end of 2018).
- 32.0 million [23.6 million–43.8 million] people have died from AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the epidemic (end of 2018).

NEW HIV INFECTIONS

- New HIV infections have been reduced by 40% since the peak in 1997.
 - In 2018, around 1.7 million [1.4 million–2.3 million] were newly infected with HIV, compared to 2.9 million [2.3 million–3.8 million] in 1997.
- Since 2010, new HIV infections have declined by an estimated 16%, from 2.1 million [1.6 million–2.7 million] to 1.7 million [1.4 million–2.3 million] in 2018.
 - Since 2010, new HIV infections among children have declined by 41%, from 280 000 [190 000–430 000] in 2010 to 160 000 [110 000–260 000] in 2018.

90–90–90 TREATMENT TARGET

- In 2018, 79% [67–92%] of people living with HIV knew their status.
- Among people who knew their status, 78% [69–82%] were accessing treatment.
- Among people accessing treatment, 86% [72–92%] were virally suppressed.
- Of all people living with HIV, 79% [67–92%] knew their status, 62% [47–74%] were accessing treatment and 53% [43–63%] were virally suppressed in 2018.

WOMEN

- Every week, around 6 000 young women aged 15–24 years become infected with HIV.
 - In sub-Saharan Africa, four in five new infections among adolescents aged 15–19 years are in girls. Young women aged 15–24 years are twice as likely to be living with HIV than men.

- More than one third (35%) of women around the world have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at some time in their lives.
 - In some regions, women who have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence are 1.5 times more likely to acquire HIV than women who have not experienced such violence.

AIDS-RELATED DEATHS

- AIDS-related deaths have been reduced by more than 56% since the peak in 2004.
 - In 2018, around 770 000 [570 000–1.1 million] people died from AIDS-related illnesses worldwide, compared to 1.2 million [860 000–1.6 million] in 2010 and 1.7 million [1.3 million–2.4 million] in 2004.
- AIDS-related mortality has declined by 33% since 2010.

KEY POPULATIONS AT HIGHER RISK OF ACQUIRING HIV

- The risk of acquiring HIV is:
 - 22 times higher among men who have sex with men.
 - 22 times higher among people who inject drugs.
 - 21 times higher for sex workers.
 - 12 times higher for transgender people.
- Key populations and their sexual partners account for:
 - 54% of new HIV infections globally.
 - More than 95% of new HIV infections in Eastern Europe and central Asia.
 - 95% of new HIV infections in Middle East and North Africa.
 - 88% of new HIV infections in Western and central Europe and North America.
 - 78% of new HIV infections in Asia and the Pacific.
 - 65% of new HIV infections in Latin America.
 - 64% of new HIV infections in Western and central Africa.
 - 47% of new HIV infections in the Caribbean.
 - 25% of new HIV infections in eastern and southern Africa.

HIV/TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

- TB remains the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, accounting for around one in three AIDS-related deaths.
- In 2017, an estimated 10.0 million [9.0–11.1 million] people developed TB disease, of whom approximately 9% were living with HIV.
 - People living with HIV with no TB symptoms need TB preventative therapy, which lessens the risk of developing TB and reduces HIV-associated TB death rates by around 40%.
- It is estimated that 49% of people living with HIV and TB are unaware of their co-infection and are therefore not receiving care.

Source: UNAIDS (website)

DID YOU KNOW

... that World AIDS Day, which takes place on 1 December each year, was created in 1988 to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS? Since the beginning of the epidemic, some 75 million people have become infected with HIV and about 32 million people have died from AIDS-related illnesses.



Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS, briefs reporters on the launch of the annual UNAIDS Global Aids Update Report. The 2020 report showed significant, but unequal, progress and conveyed that the global HIV targets for 2020 would not be met given that the achievements had not been shared equally within and between countries. Although there had been gains with HIV testing and treatment, and increased access to antiretroviral therapy, there were still 690,000 AIDS-related deaths and 1.7 million new infections worldwide in 2019. It further noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had the potential to steer the HIV response off course. 6 JULY 2020/UN PHOTO/LOEY FELIPE

the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, WHO and the World Bank. UNAIDS, with offices in 70 countries, is also the only UN entity with civil society represented on its governing body.

As part of intensifying global cooperation, the Security Council addressed HIV/AIDS in 2000, discussing for the first time a health issue as a threat to international peace and security. A Special Session of the General Assembly the following year focused on further expanding the fight against the epidemic. Member States adopted the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,

by which world leaders agreed on common targets for reducing the spread of HIV and alleviating its impact. The Declaration represented a watershed moment in the response to the epidemic, establishing time-bound targets on prevention, care, support and treatment, impact alleviation, and improving the situation of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. The 2001 Declaration was followed by the 2006, 2011 and 2016 Political Declarations adopted during subsequent General Assembly High-level Meetings on HIV/AIDS.

The 2016 Political Declaration committed Member States to end

the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030—a key target enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Acknowledging the critical relationship between poverty and HIV, the 2016 Declaration included specific targets on HIV testing and treatment, on tackling HIV and tuberculosis co-infection, and on eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

When World AIDS Day (1 December) was first observed in 1988, life prospects for HIV-positive persons were very different from what they have become. In the early days, a positive diagnosis was tantamount

to a death sentence because there was scarcely any treatment available. Today, accessible testing, antiretroviral treatment and a range of prevention options including pre-exposure prophylaxis are reaching vulnerable communities in both rich and poor countries. AIDS, however, remains a serious public health threat. Nearly a million people still die every year from the virus, which continues to disproportionately affect marginalized groups such as men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, prison populations, sex workers and transgender people. UNAIDS works to shape public policy on HIV for the better by mobilizing investment, building health and community systems, helping establishing legal frameworks and leading efforts towards eliminating HIV-related stigma and discrimination. It also advocates for stepping up HIV testing services, lowering the cost of antiretroviral therapy and brokering deals to reduce the price of viral load tests. Those efforts compose a model for international cooperation to mitigate, prevent and recover from the health and socioeconomic consequences of the devastating epidemics to which our globalized world seems increasingly prone.

Below: A peer educator at Mahama Refugee Camp in Rwanda highlights one of the messages from the 2016 UNAIDS 'Hands up for #HIVprevention' campaign. The UNHCR Kirehe Sub Office, in cooperation with the Government of Rwanda, is in charge of the camp—the country's largest, which at mid-2019 was hosting some 60,000 refugees fleeing violence and political instability in neighbouring countries.



UNAIDS Regional Goodwill Ambassador for Latin America and the Caribbean Alejandra Oraa (far right) meets Venezuelan refugees and migrants arriving at the Binational Border Centre near Tumbes, Peru—the main entry point for Venezuelans crossing into the country from Ecuador. UNHCR supported the Peruvian Government and host communities in responding to the needs of new arrivals. Accommodation, assistance, counselling, training and livelihood opportunities were being provided by partner non-governmental organizations to those displaced by their country's crisis, including people with HIV/AIDS and refugees with other vulnerabilities or specific needs. 15 MAY 2019/UNHCR/SANTIAGO ESCOBAR-JARAMILLO

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), in collaboration with the South Sudan Ministry of Health, graduated 30 HIV/AIDS counsellors to help reduce the spread of HIV and counter stigma. Since 2011, the UNMISS HIV/AIDS Unit has provided training to promote voluntary confidential counselling and testing. 8 JUNE 2017/UNMISS/ISAAC BILLY



RESOURCES

- UNAIDS (website)
- WHO HIV/AIDS (website)
- Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030 (General Assembly resolution 70/266)
- Yearbook of the United Nations, Part Three: Economic and social questions, Chapter XIII: Health, food and nutrition



THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF ALL PEOPLES

“Decolonization is one of the most significant chapters of the Organization’s history. But this story is still being written, as 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remain. Each deserves attention.” | SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, 21 FEBRUARY 2019

Self-determination—the freedom to choose for oneself—is a key principle of the Charter of the United Nations. When the United Nations was founded in 1945, some 750 million people—nearly one third of the world’s population—lived in Territories that were governed by colonial powers. Today, fewer than 2 million people live in the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. As a result of decolonization, many countries gained their independence. As those countries joined the United Nations, membership in the Organization more than tripled from its founding 51 Member States in 1945 to 154 in 1980, when Zimbabwe and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, respectively, became the 153rd and 154th Member States.

At its inception in 1945, the United Nations established, under Chapter XII of the Charter, the International Trusteeship System to promote the advancement of the inhabitants of Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence. Eleven Territories were placed under this system. Those Territories had been formally administered under mandates from the League of Nations, or separated from countries defeated in the Second World War, or voluntarily placed under the system by their administering Power. The Charter also established the Trusteeship Council as a main organ of the United Nations to monitor the situation in those eleven Trust Territories and to ensure that Governments responsible

for their administration took adequate steps to prepare them to achieve the aims of the Charter. Today, all of the Trust Territories have either become independent States or have voluntarily joined neighbouring independent countries. The last one to do so was the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Palau, under the administration of the United States. As the country became independent on 1 October 1994, joining the United Nations as its 185th Member State, the Trusteeship Council completed its historic task, suspending operations the following month.

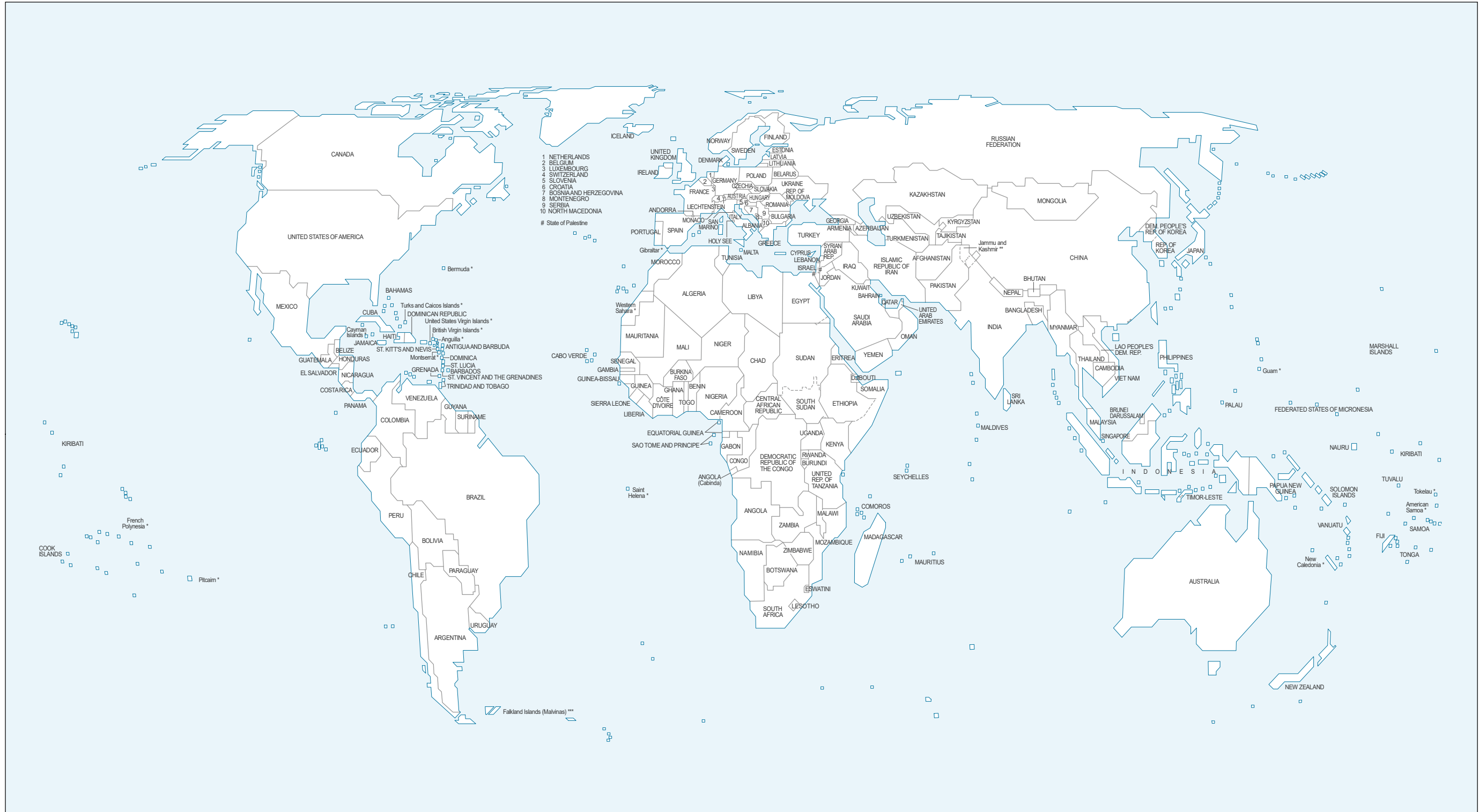
In 1946, several Member States (Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and

Independence Day celebrations being held in Dili in May 2002, when the United Nations handed over authority to the democratically elected Government of East Timor (renamed Timor-Leste). In October 1999, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor began administering the Territory after the people of East Timor had voted in August to begin a process towards independence.
20 MAY 2002/UN PHOTO/SERGEY BERMENIEV

Facing page: A statue symbolizing humankind and hope in the Trusteeship Council at UN Headquarters in New York. The Trusteeship Council supervised the administration of Trust Territories placed under the Trusteeship System. The Council suspended its operations on 1 November 1994, one month after the independence of Palau, the last UN Trust Territory.
6 SEPTEMBER 2016/UN PHOTO/CIA PAK



STYLIZED MAP OF THE WORLD



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

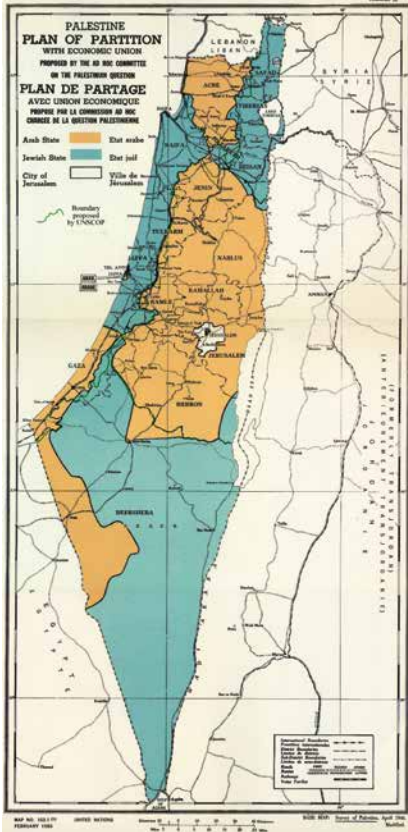
Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

*Non-Self-Governing Territory

**Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

***A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

In 2020, 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remained on the agenda of the Special Committee on Decolonization: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), French Polynesia, Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara.



Above: The United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine was adopted by the General Assembly as Resolution 181(II) on 29 November 1947. MAP NO. 103.1 (B)/UNITED NATIONS/BASE MAP: SURVEY OF PALESTINE, APRIL 1946/MODIFIED FEBRUARY 1956

the United States) also identified a total of 72 dependencies under their administration as Non-Self-Governing Territories—territories whose people had yet to attain the full measure of self-government. Eight of those became independent by 1959.

The question of Palestine has concerned the United Nations since its inception. In November 1947, the General Assembly endorsed a plan for the partition of Palestine that provided for the creation of an Arab State and a Jewish State along with the withdrawal of British troops, as Palestine had been under British control since 1917. The plan—which organized Palestine into three Jewish sections, four Arab sections and the internationally



Students from Fale Island taking a boat to Tialeniu School, which is located on Fanuafula Island, Tokelau. A small Pacific atoll nation, Tokelau has been on the UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories since 1946. 29 MARCH 2016/UNICEF/VLAD SOKHIN

A mural in Windhoek, Namibia became an independent nation on 21 March 1990. The electoral process was monitored by the United Nations Transition Assistance Group. 12 MARCH 1990/UN PHOTO/JOHN ISAAC



administered city of Jerusalem—met with strong opposition among Arab nations and Palestinian Arabs. In May 1948, the United Kingdom relinquished its mandate over Palestine, and the State of Israel was proclaimed. In the ensuing 1948 war involving neighbouring Arab States, hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs were expelled or fled from their homes and became refugees. Following that first of several wars fought in the region between Arab and Israeli forces, the United Nations established its first peacekeeping force to monitor the truce. Since then, the United Nations has remained engaged in the quest for a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine via six additional peacekeeping operations as

well as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and through the efforts of the Secretary-General, the Security Council and the General Assembly, together with those of other UN entities.

The desire of the peoples of dependent Territories to achieve self-determination, and the international community's perception that the principles of the UN Charter were being too slowly applied, led the General Assembly to adopt in 1960 the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which affirmed the right of all peoples to self-determination and proclaimed

DID YOU KNOW

... that in 1960 the United Nations experienced the greatest increase in its membership? Seventeen countries joined the Organization that year: Cameroun (today Cameroon), Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville) (today Congo), Congo (Leopoldville) (today Democratic Republic of the Congo), Cyprus, Dahomey (today Benin), Gabon, Ivory Coast (today Côte d'Ivoire), Malagasy Republic (today Madagascar), Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Togo and Upper Volta (today Burkina Faso).

that colonialism should be brought to a speedy and unconditional end. In turn, the Assembly established a Special Committee to monitor implementation of the Declaration and to make recommendations on its application.

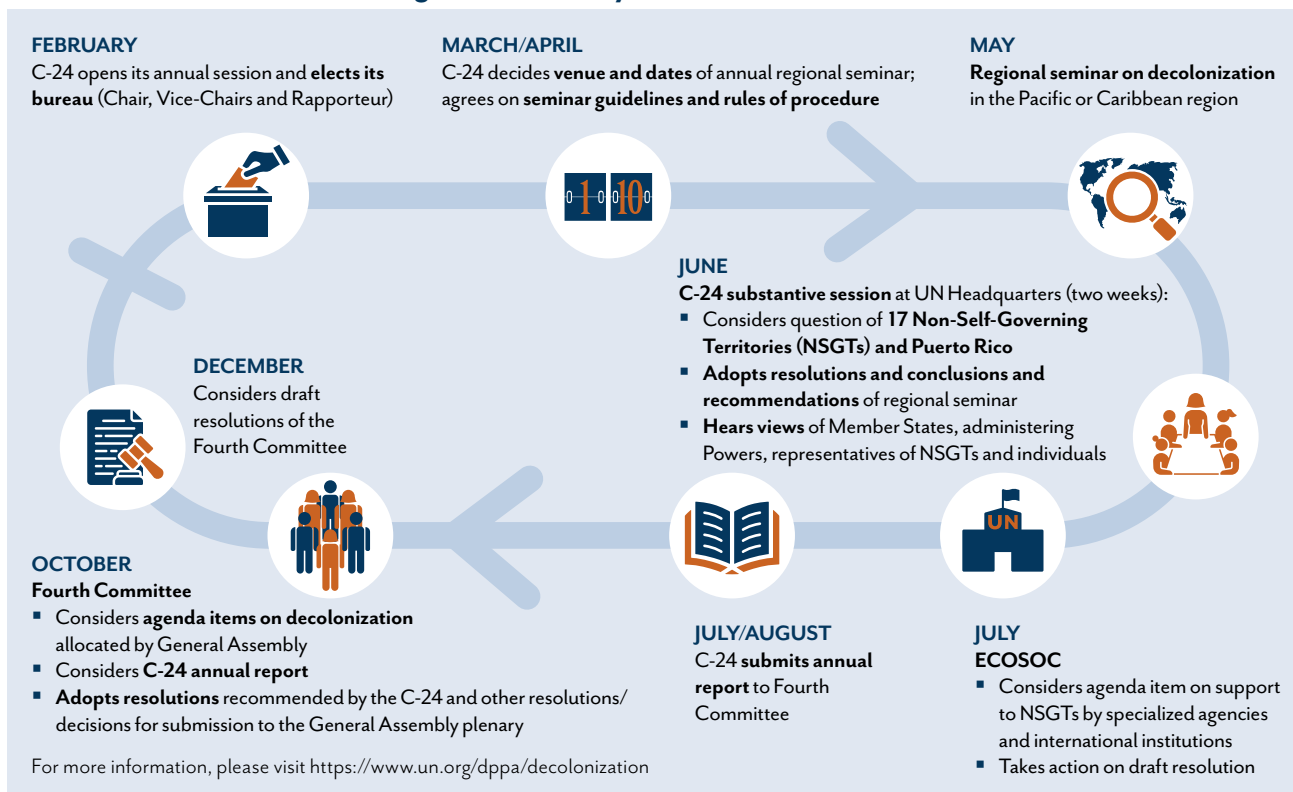
The Special Committee, or C-24, which commenced its work in 1962, meets annually to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applies, hear petitioners and representatives of the Territories,

dispatch visiting missions to the Territories, and organize seminars on the political, social, economic and educational situations in the Territories. Since 1965, the Committee has dispatched 37 visiting and special missions to 23 Non-Self-Governing Territories. The very first mission, undertaken to the Cook Islands (administered by New Zealand), had the mandate to supervise elections held there in April 1965. The most recent visiting mission was to Montserrat (administered by the United Kingdom)

in December 2019, where the mission gathered information on the political, economic, social and environmental situation and challenges to achieving sustainable development in the Territory, including the lasting impacts of the devastating 1995–1999 Soufrière Hills volcanic eruptions.

The Non-Self-Governing Territory that most recently changed its status was Timor-Leste, which, following three years of UN administration, achieved its independence in 2002.

United Nations decolonization agenda (annual cycle)



Data source: DPPA (website)

Timor-Leste—a former Portuguese colony known as East Timor—was placed on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories by the General Assembly in 1960. A popular consultation organized by the United Nations in 1999 gave the East Timorese people the chance to choose between autonomy within Indonesia and independence. The people chose the latter. In August 2001, more than 91 per cent of East Timor’s eligible voters went to the polls in their first election of members of the constituent assembly. In March 2002, the constituent assembly approved the Territory’s first constitution. Three months later, the Territory attained independence and the new country adopted the name Timor-Leste. In September 2002, it became the 191st Member State of the United Nations.

UN missions have also supervised elections leading to independence in such dependencies as Togoland (1956 and 1968), Western Samoa (1961) and Namibia (1989).

Today, 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remain, with France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States as their administering Powers.

Mirroring the words of the Preamble to the UN Charter, the story of decolonization is an inspiring tale of the collective will of the international community to reaffirm faith in the equal rights of nations, both large and small; to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom; and to employ international machinery to promote the economic and social advancement of everyone, everywhere. Since the founding of the United Nations, 80 former dependencies have gained their independence. The United Nations continues to monitor the situation in those remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, working to help them achieve the self-determination that is the right of all peoples.



People singing at a rally prior to election day in Lomé in 1958. The United Nations Trust Territory of Togoland under French administration became independent as Togo on 27 April 1960. 1 APRIL 1958/UN PHOTO/TW

A peacekeeper from the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) visits Bedouin families in Bir Lahlou, Western Sahara. Established in April 1991, MINURSO was originally mandated to monitor the ceasefire and organize a referendum in which the people of Western Sahara would choose between independence and integration with Morocco. The organization of the referendum, however, has not been possible to date. Western Sahara has been on the UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories since 1963. 21 JUNE 2003/UN PHOTO/EVAN SCHNEIDER



RESOURCES

- Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514(XV))
- Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence of Colonial Countries and Peoples (website)
- International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism (website)
- Charter of the United Nations



The United Nations flag flies on the opening day of the General Debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly at UN Headquarters in New York. 23 SEPTEMBER 2010/UN PHOTO/MARK GARTEN

GROWTH IN UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP

1945

Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Bolivia¹
Brazil
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (today Belarus)²
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba

Czechoslovakia³
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt⁴
El Salvador
Ethiopia
France
Greece
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
India
Iran⁵
Iraq
Lebanon

Liberia
Luxembourg
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippine Republic (today Philippines)⁶
Poland
Saudi Arabia
Syria⁴
Turkey

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (today Ukraine)⁷
Union of South Africa (today South Africa)⁸
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (today Russian Federation)⁹
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Yugoslavia¹⁰

¹ In 2009, Bolivia changed its name to Bolivia (Plurinational State of).

² On 19 September 1991, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Belarus.

³ Czechoslovakia, an original Member of the United Nations from 24 October 1945, changed its name to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic on 20 April 1990. It was dissolved on 1 January 1993 and succeeded by the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, both of which became Members of the United Nations on 19 January 1993.

⁴ Egypt and Syria, both of which became Members of the United Nations on 24 October 1945, joined together—following a plebiscite held in those countries on 21 February 1958—to form the United Arab Republic. On 13 October 1961, Syria, having resumed its status as an independent State, also resumed its separate membership in the United Nations; it changed its name to the Syrian Arab Republic on 14 September 1971. The United Arab Republic continued as a Member of the United Nations and changed its name to the Arab Republic of Egypt on 2 September 1971.

⁵ On 5 March 1981, Iran informed the Secretary-General that it had changed its name to Iran (Islamic Republic of).

⁶ In 1947, the Philippine Republic changed its name to Philippines.

⁷ On 24 August 1991, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic changed its name to Ukraine.

⁸ In 1961, the Union of South Africa changed its name to South Africa.

⁹ The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was an original Member of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. On 24 December 1991, the President of the Russian Federation informed the Secretary-General that the membership of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in all United Nations organs was being continued by the Russian Federation.

¹⁰ The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original Member of the United Nations, the Charter having been signed on its behalf on 26 June 1945 and ratified on 19 October 1945, until its dissolution following the establishment and subsequent admission as new Members of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia were admitted as Members of the United Nations on 22 May 1992. On 8 April 1993, the General Assembly decided to admit as a Member of the United Nations the State being provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” pending settlement of the difference that had arisen over its name. The country name was changed to the Republic of North Macedonia, effective 14 February 2019. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was admitted as a Member of the United Nations on 1 November 2000. In February 2003, it informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Serbia and Montenegro, effective 4 February 2003. In a letter dated 3 June 2006, the President of the Republic of Serbia informed the Secretary-General that the membership of Serbia and Montenegro was being continued by the Republic of Serbia following Montenegro’s declaration of independence from Serbia on 3 June 2006. On 28 June 2006, Montenegro was accepted as a United Nations Member State by the General Assembly.

■ 1946

Afghanistan
Iceland
Siam (today Thailand)¹¹
Sweden

■ 1947

Pakistan
Yemen¹²

■ 1948

Burma (today Myanmar)¹³

■ 1949

Israel

■ 1950

Indonesia¹⁴

■ 1955

Albania
Austria
Bulgaria
Cambodia
Ceylon (today Sri Lanka)¹⁵

Finland
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Jordan
Laos (today Lao People's
Democratic Republic)¹⁶

Libya¹⁷
Nepal
Portugal
Romania
Spain

■ 1956

Japan
Morocco
Sudan
Tunisia

■ 1957

Ghana
Federation of Malaya
(today Malaysia)¹⁸

■ 1958

Guinea

■ 1960

Cameroun
(today Cameroon)
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo (Brazzaville)
(today Congo)¹⁹
Congo (Leopoldville)
(today Democratic
Republic of the Congo)²⁰
Cyprus
Dahomey (today Benin)²¹
Gabon
Ivory Coast (today
Côte d'Ivoire)²²
Malagasy Republic
(today Madagascar)²³
Mali
Niger
Nigeria
Senegal
Somalia
Togo
Upper Volta
(today Burkina Faso)²⁴

■ 1961

Mauritania
Mongolia
Sierra Leone
Tanganyika (today United
Republic of Tanzania)²⁵

■ 1962

Algeria
Burundi
Jamaica
Rwanda
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda

■ 1963

Kenya
Kuwait
Zanzibar²⁵

■ 1964

Malawi
Malta
Zambia

¹¹ On 11 May 1949, Siam informed the Secretary-General that it had changed its name to Thailand.

¹² Yemen was admitted to the United Nations on 30 September 1947 and the People's Republic of Southern Yemen on 14 December 1967. On 22 May 1990, the two countries merged and were thereafter represented as one Member of the United Nations under the designation Yemen.

¹³ On 18 June 1989, the Union of Burma informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to the Union of Myanmar. On 30 March 2011, it changed its name to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

¹⁴ On 20 January 1965, Indonesia informed the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw from the United Nations. On 19 September 1966, it notified the Secretary-General of its decision to resume participation in the activities of the United Nations. On 28 September 1966, the General Assembly took note of that decision, and the President invited the representatives of Indonesia to take their seats in the Assembly.

¹⁵ On 19 September 1991, Ceylon informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Sri Lanka.

¹⁶ On 2 December 1975, Laos changed its name to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

¹⁷ In 1969, the Kingdom of Libya informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. In 2011, the United Nations was notified of a Declaration by the National Transitional Council of 3 August changing the official name of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to Libya.

¹⁸ On 16 September 1963, Sabah (North Borneo), Sarawak and Singapore joined with the Federation of Malaya (which became a Member of the United Nations on 17 September 1957) to form Malaysia. On 9 August 1965, Singapore became an independent State; on 21 September 1965, it became a Member of the United Nations.

¹⁹ In 1970, the country name was changed to the People's Republic of the Congo, and on 15 November 1971, to the Congo.

²⁰ In 1964, the country name was changed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; on 27 October 1971, to the Republic of Zaire; and on 17 May 1997, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

²¹ On 1 December 1975, the Republic of Dahomey changed its name to the People's Republic of Benin.

²² On 6 November 1985, Côte d'Ivoire requested that the designation Côte d'Ivoire be used and its name no longer be translated into the different languages.

²³ In 1975, Malagasy Republic changed its name to Madagascar.

²⁴ In 1984, Upper Volta changed its name to Burkina Faso.

²⁵ Tanganyika was admitted to the United Nations on 14 December 1961 and Zanzibar on 16 December 1963. Following ratification, on 26 April 1964, of the Articles of Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar, the two States became represented as a single Member: the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which changed its name to the United Republic of Tanzania on 1 November 1964.

■ **1965**

Gambia (The)
Maldivé Islands
(today Maldives)
Singapore¹⁸

■ **1966**

Barbados
Botswana
Guyana
Lesotho

■ **1967**

People's Republic of
Southern Yemen¹²

■ **1968**

Equatorial Guinea
Mauritius
Swaziland
(today Eswatini)²⁶

■ **1970**

Fiji

■ **1971**

Bahrain
Bhutan
Oman
Qatar
United Arab Emirates

■ **1973**

Bahamas
Federal Republic
of Germany
(today Germany)²⁷
German Democratic
Republic²⁷

■ **1974**

Bangladesh
Grenada
Guinea-Bissau

■ **1975**

Cape Verde
(today Cabo Verde)²⁸
Comoros
Mozambique
Papua New Guinea
Sao Tome and Principe
Suriname

■ **1976**

Angola
Samoa
Seychelles

■ **1977**

Djibouti
Viet Nam

■ **1978**

Dominica
Solomon Islands

■ **1979**

Saint Lucia

■ **1980**

Saint Vincent and
the Grenadines
Zimbabwe

■ **1981**

Antigua and Barbuda
Belize
Vanuatu

■ **1983**

Saint Christopher
and Nevis (today Saint
Kitts and Nevis)²⁹

■ **1984**

Brunei Darussalam

■ **1990**

Liechtenstein
Namibia

■ **1991**

Democratic People's
Republic of Korea

Estonia
Latvia
Lithuania
Marshall Islands
Micronesia
(Federated States of)
Republic of Korea

■ **1992**

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bosnia and
Herzegovina¹⁰
Croatia¹⁰
Georgia
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Republic of Moldova
San Marino
Slovenia¹⁰
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan

■ **1993**

Andorra
Czech Republic⁵
Eritrea
Monaco
Slovakia⁵
The former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia
(today North
Macedonia)¹⁰

■ **1994**

Palau

■ **1999**

Kiribati
Nauru
Tonga

■ **2000**

Federal Republic
of Yugoslavia
(today Serbia)¹⁰
Tuvalu

■ **2002**

Switzerland
Timor-Leste

■ **2006**

Montenegro¹⁰

■ **2011**

South Sudan³⁰

²⁶ The Kingdom of Swaziland informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to the Kingdom of Eswatini, effective 19 April 2018.

²⁷ Through accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany on 3 October 1990, the two German States (both of which had become Members of the United Nations on 18 September 1973) united to form one sovereign State. As from that date, the Federal Republic of Germany has acted in the United Nations under the designation Germany.

²⁸ On 25 October 2013, the Republic of Cape Verde informed the United Nations that it had changed its name to the Republic of Cabo Verde.

²⁹ In 1986, Saint Christopher and Nevis changed its name to Saint Kitts and Nevis.

³⁰ The Republic of South Sudan formally seceded from the Sudan on 9 July 2011 as a result of an internationally monitored referendum held in January 2011 and was admitted as a new Member State on 14 July 2011.



ON THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY: LEAVING NO COUNTRY BEHIND

“We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.”

PREAMBLE OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 25 SEPTEMBER 2015

Countries in special situations—in particular, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)—face unique challenges in their quest for sustainable development. Extreme poverty, acute susceptibility to external economic shocks and natural disasters, systemic economic weaknesses and the lack of capacities related to growth and development, often compounded by geographical handicaps and deficits in infrastructure, can hamper efforts by these countries to improve the quality of life of their peoples.

LDCs represent the poorest and weakest segment of the international community. They comprise more than 880 million people (about 12 per cent of the world population), but account for less than 2 per cent of world gross domestic product (GDP) and about 1 per cent of global trade in goods. LLDCs lack territorial access to the sea. Because they are relatively isolated from world markets, high-transit costs impose serious constraints on their economies. SIDS are ecologically fragile, and their small size, limited economic diversity and relative remoteness place them at a further disadvantage.



A woman in Bhutan waters her vegetable garden, making use of a new irrigation system made possible by the Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods project supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The pressurized piped irrigation, which is climate resilient and ensures uninterrupted water flow as opposed to conventional open-irrigation systems that often get blocked by slides, falling tree branches and debris that can further trigger landslides, enables farmers to grow off-season vegetables. 2019/UNDP BHUTAN

Facing page: Women from the drought-affected Ziway Dugda woreda, Oromia Region in Ethiopia, a Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Country, during a visit by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2016. Failed spring rains and El Niño weather conditions that weakened summer rains impacted the production of food for some 80 to 85 per cent of Ethiopia's people. This led to increased food insecurity and malnutrition and devastated livelihoods across six affected regions of the country. The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) coordinates policy support, follow-up, implementation and review of development needs for such countries in special situations. 31 JANUARY 2016/UN PHOTO/ESKINDER DEBEBE

Least Developed Countries

(47 countries as at May 2020)

AFRICA: 33	
Angola	Madagascar
Benin	Malawi
Burkina Faso	Mali
Burundi	Mauritania
Central African Republic	Mozambique
Chad	Niger
Comoros	Rwanda
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sao Tome and Principe
Djibouti	Senegal
Eritrea	Sierra Leone
Ethiopia	Somalia
Gambia	South Sudan
Guinea	Sudan
Guinea-Bissau	Togo
Lesotho	Uganda
Liberia	United Republic of Tanzania
	Zambia

ASIA: 9	
Afghanistan	
Bangladesh	
Bhutan	
Cambodia	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	
Myanmar	
Nepal	
Timor-Leste	
Yemen	

CARIBBEAN: 1	
Haiti	

PACIFIC: 4	
Kiribati	
Solomon Islands	
Tuvalu	
Vanuatu	

Data source: UN-OHRLLS (website)

Concerted efforts by the United Nations to identify and counter the marginalization of LDCs date back to the 1960s. The second session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in 1968, recommended that special

measures be devised to enable the least developed among the developing countries to derive more equitable benefits from the world's economy. In 1969, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to carry out a comprehensive examination of the

special problems of such countries and to recommend particular measures to assist them. Two years later, the Assembly approved the first list of LDCs.

At the policymaking level, the United Nations has helped generate



UNDP Bhutan has equipped a local private company, Bio-Bhutan, with a high-end steam distillation unit for the production of essential oils from rhododendron plants grown in the Dagala region of the country. Supported by UNDP, Bio-Bhutan is working with communities to develop natural products from rhododendron species in its Thimphu laboratories. 2017/UNDP BHUTAN - NPIF

Landlocked Developing Countries

(32 countries as at May 2020)

AFRICA: 16	
Botswana	
Burkina Faso	
Burundi	
Central African Republic	
Chad	
Eswatini	
Ethiopia	
Lesotho	
Malawi	
Mali	
Niger	
Rwanda	

South Sudan	
Uganda	
Zambia	
Zimbabwe	
ASIA: 12	
Afghanistan	
Armenia	
Azerbaijan	
Bhutan	
Kazakhstan	
Kyrgyzstan	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	

Mongolia	
Nepal	
Tajikistan	
Turkmenistan	
Uzbekistan	
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: 2	
North Macedonia	
Republic of Moldova	
LATIN AMERICA: 2	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	
Paraguay	

Data source: UN-OHRLLS (website)

international support for countries in special situations through a series of initiatives designed to put them on the road to prosperity. The Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs has set an ambitious goal of enabling half the number of LDCs—48 countries at the time of its adoption—to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020. The Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs addresses challenges in transit policy, infrastructure, trade facilitation and regional cooperation. The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action articulates the sustainable development pathways and aspirations for SIDS.

The UN system assists countries in special situations in their quest for sustainable development through its country offices, providing robust technical and policy expertise, and helping with monitoring and implementing the programmes of action. In Bhutan, an LLDC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works to help communities and the economy as a whole become more resilient to climate-induced disasters and biodiversity loss.

Bhutan—located on the southern slopes of the Eastern Himalayas—consists mainly of high mountains ranging between 300 and 7,000 metres. The country faces distinct challenges in accessing world markets. Due to rugged terrain and the often intense monsoon season, many areas are prone to landslides that result in topsoil

loss and cause damage to roads and irrigation systems. Since 2017, the project Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods (2017–2023) has supported the conversion of steep slopes into arable land. The UNDP project includes installing climate-resilient pressurized irrigation

Challenges faced by Landlocked Developing Countries

- NO DIRECT ACCESS TO THE SEA**
 - High transit and transaction costs
 - Dependency on transit countries
 - High impact of non-tariff measures
 - Elevated import prices
- LIMITED CONNECTIVITY**
 - High ICT infrastructure development costs
- REMOTENESS FROM FROM WORLD MARKETS**
 - Prohibitive transport and logistics costs
 - High economic vulnerability
 - Limited product and market diversification
 - Difficulty in accessing and moving up value chains

Data source: International Trade Centre. ITC in LLDCs

DID YOU KNOW

... that Kazakhstan is the country located farthest from the sea, at 3,750 km, followed by Afghanistan, Chad, the Niger, Zambia and Zimbabwe at distances from the nearest seacoast in excess of 2,000 km?

systems, and building the country's first climate-proof road incorporating bioengineering elements such as better drainage systems and stabilized slopes to ensure safer driving during heavy rainfall.

Through another project on Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing, UNDP is helping farmers in Bhutan boost their livelihoods by employing their traditional knowledge while protecting the country's biodiversity. The farmers—mostly women in hard-to-access villages—possess unique knowledge of hundreds of local plant species such as mountain ginger and rhododendron that are used to manufacture essential oils, lip balms, organic candles, bio-soaps and other high-value products for sale in domestic and international markets.



Workers in Dagala, Bhutan, harvesting the Annapurna rhododendron variety. A project supported by UNDP Bhutan brings together a community of yak herders who have limited income-generating opportunities and Bio-Bhutan, a private company known for its work with essential oils. This partnership strengthens a long-standing tradition of harvesting medicinal plants and developing products for eventual sale in domestic and international markets. 6 NOVEMBER 2016/UNDP BHUTAN - NPIF

Small Island Developing States

(38 UN Member States as at May 2020)

ATLANTIC, INDIAN OCEAN AND SOUTH CHINA SEA: 9		PACIFIC: 13
Bahrain	Barbados	Fiji
Cabo Verde	Belize	Kiribati
Comoros	Cuba	Marshall Islands
Guinea-Bissau	Dominica	Micronesia (Federated States of)
Maldives	Dominican Republic	Nauru
Mauritius	Grenada	Palau
Sao Tome and Principe	Guyana	Papua New Guinea
Seychelles	Haiti	Samoa
Singapore	Jamaica	Solomon Islands
CARIBBEAN: 16	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Timor-Leste
Antigua and Barbuda	Saint Lucia	Tonga
Bahamas	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Tuvalu
	Suriname	Vanuatu
	Trinidad and Tobago	

Data source: UN-OHRLLS (website)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has maintained a dedicated programme for LLDCs since 2003 to support their information and communications technology (ICT) development initiatives and address their specific challenges. ITU and UNDP have assisted Bhutan in drafting its national telecommunication plan as well as its broadband plan and consumer framework for e-commerce. ICT development has been instrumental in bridging the gap between government and citizens, and allowing people to communicate with each other as well as with the rest of the world.

Bhutan's efforts in improving the lives of its people have begun to pay off. The country cut its poverty rate by two thirds in the last decade. Since the early 1980s, Bhutan's average annual GDP growth has been 7.8 per cent, making it one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

In March 2018, the Committee for Development Policy—a subsidiary of the Economic and Social Council mandated to review the progress of LDCs—recommended Bhutan, due to its development achievements, for graduation from the LDC category in 2023.

In addition to Bhutan, four other countries are scheduled for graduation: Vanuatu in 2020, Angola in 2021, Sao Tome and Principe in 2024 and Solomon Islands in 2024.

As at the end of 2019, five countries had graduated from LDC status: Botswana in 1994, Cabo Verde in 2007, Maldives in 2011, Samoa in 2014 and Equatorial Guinea in 2017. The United Nations continues its efforts to help LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS overcome the unique challenges they face on the way to achieving sustainable development and realizing the promise of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one—and no country—behind.



A marketplace in Port Vila, Vanuatu. UN country offices in the Pacific island nations of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu support women through productive and safe work opportunities. Markets for Change (M4C) is a project led by UN-Women in partnership with UNDP to ensure that marketplaces are safe, inclusive and non-discriminatory. Market vendors are predominantly women, and marketplaces offer important venues for women's social and economic progress. 17 MAY 2019/UN PHOTO/MARK GARTEN

UN peacekeeping missions also support development activities. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali supports community farming. The Mission's Quick Impact agricultural project helps improve living conditions in many communities by meeting the needs of local farmers while promoting youth employment and providing livelihood skills to curb the high rate of youth migration to other locations. 13 MAY 2017/UN PHOTO/HARANDANE DICKO



RESOURCES

- United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (website)
- Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. Report of the Secretary-General, 18 June 2019
- Political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (General Assembly resolution 74/3)
- Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, 2011



THE EVOLVING STORY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

“In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other. That time is now. ... [T]here can be no peace without equitable development; and there can be no development without sustainable management of the environment in a democratic and peaceful space.” | NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE WANGARI MAATHAI, 10 DECEMBER 2004

Climate change affects every country on every continent. The past decade has witnessed retreating polar and glacial ice, record sea levels, increasing ocean heat and acidification, and extreme weather phenomena. In January 2020, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reported that 2019 was the second warmest year on record after 2016 and that average temperatures for the most recent five-year (2015–2019) and ten-year (2010–2019) periods were the highest on record. Each decade since the 1980s has been warmer than the previous one. This trend was expected to continue due to record levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Current levels of carbon dioxide emissions have raised concerns that the world is heading towards a temperature increase of 3°C to 5°C by the end of the twenty-first century. That course threatens to increase the frequency and intensity of adverse climate phenomena, including heatwaves and storms.

The story of climate change and related United Nations engagement has evolved considerably over the last four decades. The desire that emerged in the 1970s to understand climate change along with its impact on human activities and vice versa developed by the 1990s into concerns about the threats to people and the

planet posed by climate change. That in turn fuelled a 30-year multilateral endeavour to formulate an effective global strategy for combating climate change, which the United Nations has supported by aiding scientific research as well as the development of international agreements.

As early as 1977, WMO was engaged in research on predicting the global

effects of climate phenomena such as seasonal anomalies, droughts and changes in atmospheric composition. The intensified study of climate change culminated in the formation of the World Climate Programme. The Programme, instituted in 1979, gave way to the creation in 1988 of a WMO/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate



Swedish activist Greta Thunberg joins other young climate activists at the Fridays For Future protest in front of UN Headquarters in New York with her sign ‘Skolstrejk för Klimatet’ (School strike for the climate). 30 AUGUST 2019/UN PHOTO/MANUEL ELÍAS

Facing page: Amaia, an Inupiat girl, stands on an Arctic ice floe in Barrow, Alaska, United States. The accelerated melting of the Arctic ice is one of the many global warming effects seriously impacting humans and wildlife. 1 JULY 2016/UNICEF/VLAD SOKHIN



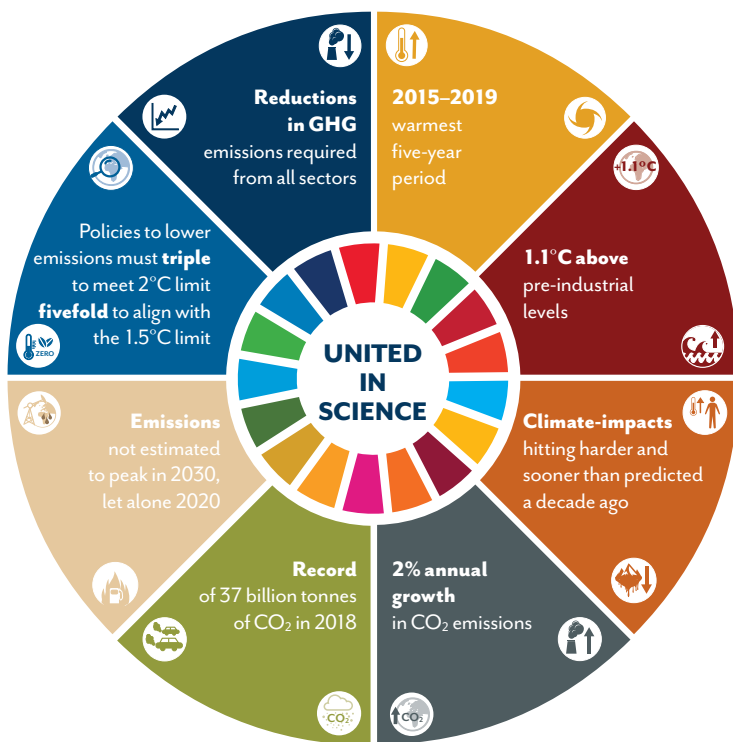
Sixteen-year-old Peia Kararaua swims in a flooded area of Aberao village in Kiribati, one of the countries worst affected by rising sea levels. During high tides, many villages become flooded, making large parts of them uninhabitable. Small island developing States disproportionately bear the effects of climate change and natural disasters. 26 OCTOBER 2014/UNICEF/VLAD SOKHIN

Change (IPCC), which became the UN body responsible for assessing the science of climate change. The IPCC First Assessment Report, issued in 1990, served as the scientific basis for the epochal 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which opened for signature at the Earth Summit of the same year. The Convention obligates States parties to reduce greenhouse gases as a means of preventing harmful

human-induced interference with the climate system. The annual UN climate change conference, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention, assesses progress on measures to combat climate change.

Subsequent IPCC reports helped strengthen existing international climate policies and drove the formulation of new approaches. The second report provided guidance

for the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which set legally binding emissions targets for 2008–2012, while the third report focused on climate change impacts and adaptation. The fourth report—Climate Change 2007—verified with 90 per cent certainty that significant global warming was not only underway but was increasing to a degree that was directly attributable to human activity. In its fifth report, IPCC definitively



Key messages from the United In Science high-level synthesis report of the latest climate science information issued by the Science Advisory Group of the UN Climate Action Summit 2019.

Source: World Meteorological Organization. United in Science 2019 report

Priority areas for climate action in 2020

1. Stronger commitments by the major emitters
2. Commitments to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050
3. Nature-based solutions
4. Jobs and livelihoods
5. No new coal power plants after 2020
6. Transition to 100% renewable energy
7. Tax the polluters, not people, and access to sustainable finance
8. Support people affected by climate change
9. Assist Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries
10. Deep decarbonization of the economy

Source: Report of the Secretary-General on the 2019 Climate Action Summit and the Way Forward in 2020

DID YOU KNOW

... that because more than 90 per cent of excess atmospheric heat is stored in the world's oceans, ocean heat content is a good way to quantify the rate of global warming?

Cattle drinking water drawn from a well in the drought-stricken area of Dali, Senegal. In 1984, about 20 per cent of the livestock in Dali perished due to drought. Four years later, WMO, in collaboration with UNEP, established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to better understand the science behind climate change.

1 JANUARY 1984/UN PHOTO/JOHN ISAAC



Pahmung Krui Damar Forest in Damar, Indonesia. As ecosystems, forests play a critical role in mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting biodiversity. Expanding forests is an effective way to create 'negative emissions' and remove large amounts of CO₂ from the atmosphere. 10 APRIL 2010/
UN PHOTO/EKA FENDIASPARA



concluded that climate change was real and human activities were the main cause. Such insights helped lay the groundwork for a post-Kyoto agreement, with a focus on limiting global warming to 2°C.

In 2007, IPCC and former United States Vice President Albert Gore, Jr. were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to combat climate change.

The increasing build-up of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere occupies the forefront of the climate change discussion. Since 2010, the annual UNEP Emissions Gap Report has compared the level of emissions against where they should be to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Each year, the report has stated that the world is not doing enough. New momentum was generated in 2015, however, when Member States committed themselves

to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and especially SDG 13, which calls for urgent action on climate change. That same year, the landmark Paris Agreement adopted at the twenty-first COP session obligated countries to ensure that global temperatures rise by no more than 2°C through their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As at April 2020, the Paris Agreement had 189 parties.



Coal-fired power station. One of five energy transition options presented in the 2019 UNEP Emissions Gap Report is the phasing out of coal, which would lower health hazards (air, water and land pollution) and provide opportunities for promoting renewable sources of energy and creating sustainable jobs.
3 FEBRUARY 2019/CC BY 2.0/BEYOND COAL & GAS IMAGE LIBRARY

change caught the attention of her peers and the media, and inspired global weekly classroom walkouts. On 20 September 2019, an estimated 4 million people on all seven continents participated in the Global Climate Strike—the largest climate protest in history.

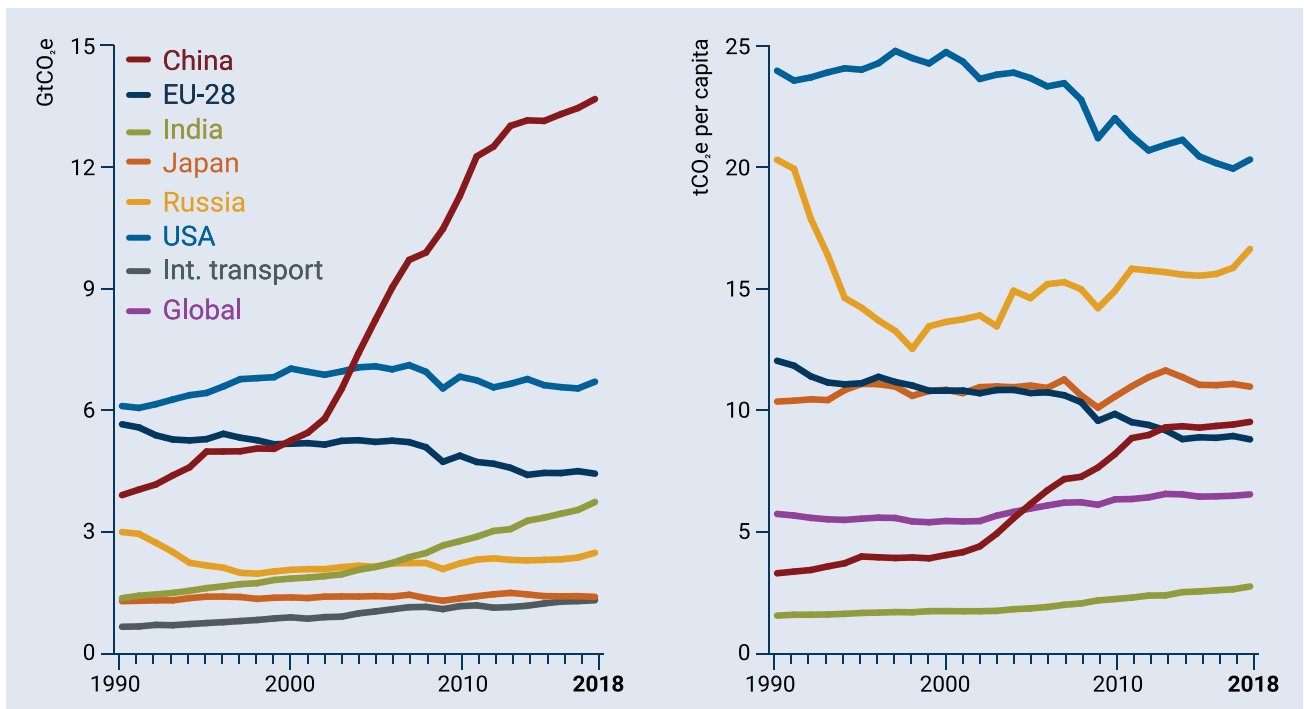
Progress in tackling climate change, regrettably, remains uneven. The adoption of new climate agreements and policies, each attempting to address its predecessor's flaws, has created an impetus for action by governments and stakeholders. There have been, however, some notable implementation setbacks. The 2019 UNEP Emissions Gap Report stated that in 2018, global emissions had hit a new high of 55.3 gigatons of CO₂ equivalent. In order to reach the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, nations needed to raise their NDC pledges fivefold when

Combating climate change has become a focus especially for youth activism. In 2018, then 15-year-old Greta Thunberg became a driving force behind a movement that witnessed more than 2 million

teens worldwide taking part in Fridays For Future school strikes against climate change. Her decision to skip school and sit outside the Swedish Parliament with a sign highlighting the effects of climate

Top greenhouse gas emitters

Excluding land-use change emissions due to lack of reliable country-level data, on an absolute basis (left) and per capita basis (right). GtCO₂e and tCO₂e denote gigatons and tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, respectively.



Source: UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2019

the time came to revise them in 2020, and to at least triple them in order to reach the 2°C goal.

At the twenty-fifth COP session in December 2019, a consensus was reached among countries and non-governmental organizations, including those representing youth, that called for more ambitious

efforts, including commitments to the UNFCCC Action for Climate Empowerment initiative. The initiative provides guidelines for accelerating climate change solutions through education, training and public awareness.

The story of climate change has arrived at an inflection point that is

absolutely critical for the future life of the planet and the peoples of the world. To meet the existential threat to humanity posed by climate change and secure the future for people and the planet, government, industry and civil society must work together to limit global warming and so protect the environment as part of the world we want to create.

Forest fire in Bandipur National Park in Karnataka, India. While wildfires can be part of some ecosystems, human-induced climate change is making them more frequent, larger and more widespread. In January 2020, it was estimated that hundreds of millions of animals had been killed in unprecedented wildfires across Australia during a summer that saw record temperatures, drought and high winds.

24 FEBRUARY 2019/CC BY-SA 4.0/
NAVEEN N KADALAVENI



At an event held during the twenty-fifth COP session, children and youth urged adults to do their part to ensure a safe future. Youth speakers from left to right: Brianna Fruean (Samoa), Nkosilathi Nyathi (Zimbabwe), Licypriya Kangujam (India), Julieta Martinez (Chile) and Zheng Shuang (China).

10 DECEMBER 2019/ROSA CASTAÑEDA



RESOURCES

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (website)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992
- WMO Statement on the State of the Global Climate reports (annual)
- Paris Agreement, 2015

ACTNOW FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change requires urgent, coordinated and consistent action. ActNow is the United Nations global call to individual action on climate change. By changing our habits and routines and making choices that have less harmful effects on the environment, we have the power

to confront the climate challenge. Small changes can make a big difference if we all work together. Be a part of the movement!

ActNow harnesses advances in Artificial Intelligence to spur behaviour change.

The ActNow bot recommends daily actions to reduce our carbon footprints such as travelling more sustainably, saving energy or eating less meat. ActNow highlights the impact that collective action can have at this critical moment in our planet's history. The more people act, the bigger the impact.



FIVE-MINUTE SHOWERS



DRIVE LESS



MEAT-FREE MEALS



LOCAL PRODUCE



RECYCLE



LIGHTS OFF



UNPLUG



REFILL AND REUSE



ZERO-WASTE FASHION



BRING YOUR OWN BAG



#ACTNOW FOOD CHALLENGE
un.org/ActNow



#ACTNOW FASHION CHALLENGE
un.org/ActNow

DID YOU KNOW

... that producing a single beef burger requires an average of 1,695 litres of water? Eating less meat helps save water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The United Nations launched the 'Angry Birds Happy Planet' campaign in 2016 to encourage youth to step up their actions to address climate change and ensure a sustainable, happier future for all. That same year, on the occasion of the International Day of Happiness (20 March), Secretary-

General Ban Ki-moon designated Red of the Angry Birds as Honorary Ambassador for Green, to link tackling climate change with fostering people's well-being. A second 'Angry Birds ActNow Campaign' launched in 2019 engages support for the ActNow Campaign for Climate Action.

By registering and sharing your actions, you send a message that you want climate action and are willing to take it yourself.

You can join the movement to engage in and show support for urgent climate action at <https://www.un.org/en/actnow/>

ACT NOW

TAKE 5-MINUTE SHOWERS



#AngryBirdsHappyPlanet

#ActNow

[un.org/ActNow](https://www.un.org/actnow)

Angry Birds™ & ©2019 Rovio. ©2019 SPAI



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

A B C D E F
G H I J K L
M N O P Q R
S T U V W X
Y Z



MAKING EVERY CHILDHOOD RIGHT

“The Convention [on the Rights of the Child] is not only a visionary document. We are reminded daily that it is an agreement that works—and its utility can be seen in the everyday use to which I have seen it increasingly being put by country after country, in policy, in practice and in law.”

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CAROL BELLAMY, 8 SEPTEMBER 1998

The notion that children are human beings with their own rights and dignity is a relatively recent one in the evolution of humanity. Children have been traditionally viewed as the property of parents or of the State, devoid of any rights, with no recourse or protection from violence, abuse or mistreatment. The exploitation of children has included forced labour—often under hazardous conditions—recruitment in armed conflict, slavery, sexual exploitation and trafficking, and the use of children in criminal activities. Such abuses have had severe repercussions for the physical and mental development of children worldwide. Learning and education have also been commonly reserved for the privileged few, which often excluded girls.

After the First World War, a concerted effort to recognize children’s rights through the establishment of international standards gained momentum and led to the adoption in 1924 by the League of Nations—

Facing page: Nursery-level children learning the English alphabet in school in Kapuri, South Sudan. The Convention on the Rights of the Child affirms that every child has the right to education.

1 OCTOBER 2014/UN PHOTO/JC MCILWAINE



1 JANUARY 2004/UNICEF/UNI154561/GIACOMO PIROZZI

predecessor to the United Nations—of the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The United Nations expanded upon the principles of the Geneva Declaration in 1959 by adopting an extended form of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the first UN statement devoted to the rights of children. Thirty years later, the Declaration became the foundation for the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child. The result of a UN-driven multilateral process of negotiation, the Convention represented the first time a commitment was made—in the form of a legally binding international agreement—to ensure the fulfilment of child rights and monitor progress on the situation of children. It provided a common legal and ethical framework for the realization of children’s rights. Today, the Convention, with 196 parties, remains the most widely

ratified human rights treaty in history—in force in almost all countries of the world.

The standards in the Convention were elaborated and negotiated by Governments, non-governmental organizations, human rights advocates, lawyers, health specialists, social workers, educators, child development experts and religious leaders from all over the world, over a 10-year period. The

consensus treaty that emerged from those consultations took into account the importance of traditional and cultural values for the development and protection of the child.

The Convention established for the first time that children—defined as persons up to the age of 18 years unless otherwise specified under a national legislation—are individuals with their own rights. They are not simply the property of their parents or the State, but instead enjoy equal status as members of the human family. The Convention recognized the fundamental dignity of all children and the importance of securing their well-being and development. Moreover, the Convention enshrined the idea that children’s rights could no longer be perceived as at best discretionary and that children’s rights entail obligations that had to



Secretary-General António Guterres being photographed by a pupil at a school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) at Baqa'a Camp in Amman, Jordan. UNRWA provides hundreds of thousands of children with high quality education services (including in times of crisis) and access to effective primary health services. The schools incorporate a unique human-rights, conflict-resolution and tolerance curriculum. 6 APRIL 2019/UN PHOTO



be upheld by States. It clarifies the idea that a basic quality of life should be the right of all children. By elaborating specific rights, the Convention established in international law that States parties must guarantee that all children—without discrimination in any form—benefit from special protection measures and assistance; have access to services such as education and health care; can develop their personalities, abilities and talents to the fullest potential; grow up in an environment of happiness, love and understanding; and are informed about and participate in achieving their rights in an accessible and active manner.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, a body of independent experts, monitors implementation of the Convention and its first two Optional Protocols, on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, respectively. A third Optional Protocol on a communications procedure allows individual children to file complaints for violations of their rights under the Convention and its first two Optional Protocols. Through its reviews of country reports, the Committee urges States to use the Convention as a guide in policymaking and implementation, including having a national plan for children, monitoring national budget spending on children, conducting regular impact assessments throughout every government department, and having an independent children's ombudsman. The Committee also calls, as needed, for international assistance from other

DID YOU KNOW

... that the Declaration of the Rights of the Child was drafted by the British social reformer Eglantyne Jebb and first adopted by the League of Nations in 1924, and then in an extended form by the United Nations in 1959?

Governments and technical assistance from organizations like the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Setting milestones and monitoring progress are key to realizing all human rights. The Millennium Development Goals, adopted in 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit, served as a guiding light on children's issues for fifteen years. Significant progress was made in reducing child deaths and extreme poverty, as well as in increasing school attendance, especially for girls. In 2015, Member States adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, including a specific target (SDG 16.2) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end all forms of violence against children as a step towards realizing the rights of every child.

Although much remains to be done in championing children's rights, numerous achievements have been realized since the Convention's adoption over three decades ago. Many countries have applied its principles to strengthen their national legislation and adopted new policies to improve the lives of children. Those born today are twice as likely to reach their fifth birthday due to greater attention to children's right to health, and are more likely to attend school due to countries' obligation to provide free primary education. The number of children enrolled in school in least developed countries has increased from 53 per cent to 81 per cent. With greater restrictions on employing children, child labour rates dropped from nearly 1 in 4 children under 15 years of age working in 1990 to less than 1 in 8 in recent years. Girls are one-third less likely to be subject to female genital mutilation than a generation ago. Countries prohibiting all forms of



A child practices his writing during a kindergarten class in Tachilek, Myanmar. An estimated 617 million of 1 billion children between 6 and 14 years are still unable to reach minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics due to a lack of trained teachers, poor sanitation facilities and makeshift classrooms. 13 JUNE 2011/UN PHOTO/KIBAE PARK

A group of children in Aden, Yemen, read brochures about the measles and rubella vaccine they are about to receive. More contagious than Ebola, tuberculosis or influenza, the measles virus can kill malnourished children or babies too young to be vaccinated. Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children have the right to good quality health care. 9 FEBRUARY 2019/UNICEF/MAHMOOD FADHEL





A view of a UNICEF installation on the lawn of UN Headquarters in New York. The installation featured 3,758 backpacks in rows reminiscent of a graveyard, each one representing a young life lost to conflict during 2018. The installation took place in conjunction with the annual General Debate of the General Assembly and the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. 9 SEPTEMBER 2019/UN PHOTO/MANUEL ELIAS

corporal punishment against children number 42, compared to 4 in 1989, when the Convention was adopted.

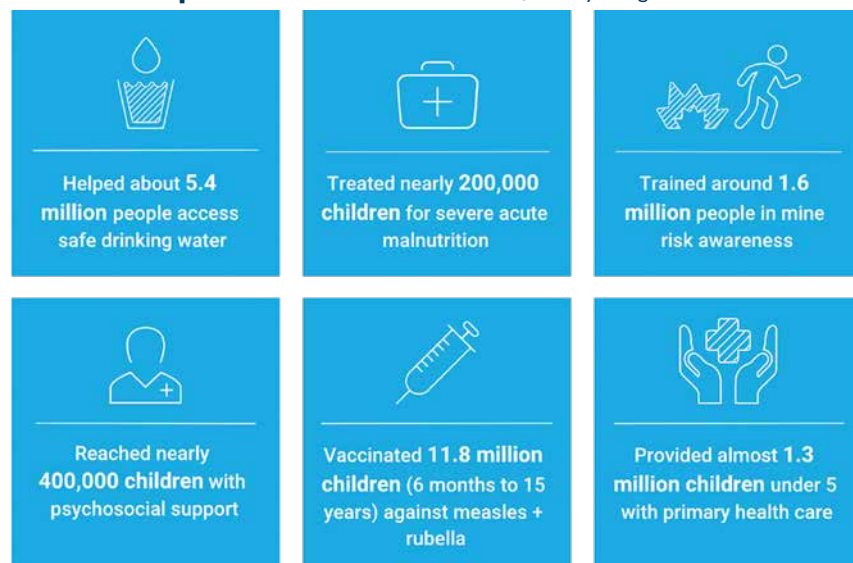
UNICEF, the only organization named in the Convention as a source of expert assistance and advice, contributed to those advances and plays a lead role in protecting the rights of children. In the civil war in Yemen—ongoing since 2015—children represent over half of the 24 million people affected by the world’s largest humanitarian crisis. Children have been killed and maimed in the conflict, suffer from acute malnutrition and lack access to education and health services due to damage and closure of schools and hospitals. Across Yemen, UNICEF addresses those issues and more, such as access to safe drinking water, vaccinations and psychosocial support. Its efforts have saved children’s lives and helped them cope with the impact of conflict.

In the more than 30 years since the adoption of the Convention, the lives of millions of children have been improved through the progressive

realization of the rights and fulfilment of the obligations enshrined in the Convention and its three Optional Protocols. Fully halting the abuse of children’s rights remains a challenge. Nonetheless, the Convention continues to inspire real changes throughout the

world, including the incorporation of the principles of children’s rights into legislation and the establishment of national agendas for children and programmes aimed at fostering child survival and development—and so helping make every childhood right.

UNICEF and partners at work in Yemen (January–August 2019)



Source: UNICEF. Yemen crisis (website)

A form of violence against children, bullying affects a high percentage of children, compromising their health, emotional well-being and academic work; and it is associated with long-lasting consequences continuing on into adulthood. Cyberbullying can take place on social media, messaging platforms, gaming platforms and mobile phones. Examples include spreading lies about or posting embarrassing photos of someone on social media; sending hurtful messages or threats via messaging platforms; and impersonating someone and sending mean messages to others on their behalf. Working with partners in civil society, UNICEF as well as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization have developed resources on how to take action to stop violence against children in schools and cyberspace.

Source: UNICEF. How to stop cyberbullying (website)



Pupils on the playground of their school in Faizabad, the largest city of Badakhshan, a northern province of Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, where 3.7 million children are out of school, girls compose 60 per cent of out-of-school children. UNICEF helps build education systems that create opportunities for quality learning. Working at the national, provincial and community levels with the Ministry of Education and other partners, UNICEF focuses on the most vulnerable people in disadvantaged areas, particularly girls, to combat exclusion due to poverty, discrimination and conflict. 24 AUGUST 2019/UNICEF/FRANK DEJONGH



RESOURCES

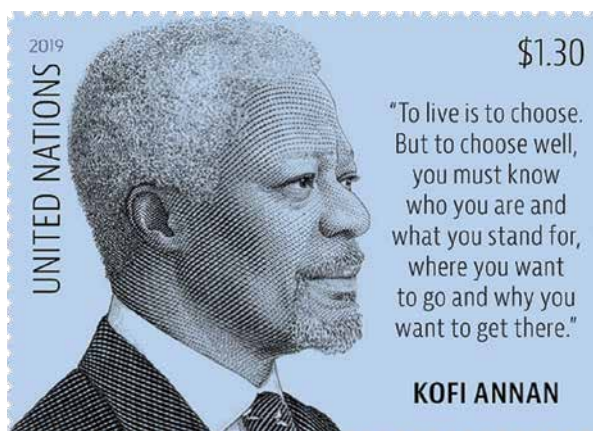
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989
- Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000
- Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure, 2011
- The State of the World's Children reports (annual)



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AS PEACEMAKER

"[I]t is possible for the Secretary-General to carry out his tasks in controversial political situations with full regard to his exclusively international obligation under the Charter and without subservience to a particular national or ideological attitude." | SECRETARY-GENERAL DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD, 30 MAY 1961

The United Nations Secretary-General is perhaps the world's most visible diplomat, routinely quoted by media outlets worldwide on topics as varied as peace and security, climate change, economic development, Internet governance and global health. Of the many functions associated with the Secretary-General's position, one of the most important is the role of peacemaker, loosely referred to as the use of 'good offices'—steps taken publicly and in private, drawing upon the independence,



impartiality and integrity of this chief administrative officer of the United Nations, to resolve international disputes or prevent them from arising, escalating or spreading. Since the founding of the United Nations, this role has evolved through extensive practice to include mediation, facilitation, dialogue processes and even arbitration.

The Secretary-General's peacemaking activities are usually set in motion through a request from the Security Council or the General Assembly, a request from one or more of the parties to a dispute, or at the Secretary-General's own initiative. This diverse range of mechanisms illustrates the creative tension that accompanies the good offices role. The Secretary-General would fail if

he or she did not take careful account of the concerns of Member States, but he or she must also uphold the values and moral authority of the United Nations, and speak and act for peace, even at the risk, from time to time, of challenging or disagreeing with those same Member States. Bearing in mind the ubiquity and often protracted nature of conflicts around the world, the Secretary-General sometimes carries out the peacemaking

functions in person, but the Secretary-General may also deploy Special Representatives and Envoys to act on his or her behalf in conflict theatres and report back on a regular basis. The majority of the Secretary-General's peacemaking activities, however, happen behind the scenes, away from the headlines, in order to help reduce tensions, build trust and maintain open lines of dialogue with Member States.

Under the auspices of the Security Council or the General Assembly, Secretaries-General have focused many of their peacemaking efforts on mediating long-standing crises, such as in the Middle East since the late 1940s and concerning the Cyprus problem since the mid-1960s. The intractability of such crises

Facing page: A view of the Peace Bell located at UN Headquarters in New York. The Bell was donated to the United Nations in 1954 by the United Nations Association of Japan. Cast from coins donated from 60 nations and individual contributions of various kinds of metal, it is housed in a typical Shinto shrine-like structure made of Japanese Cyprus wood. In September each year, the Secretary-General rings the Peace Bell at an annual ceremony held in observance of the International Day of Peace (21 September). 1 JANUARY 1974/ UN PHOTO/MICHOS TZOVARAS



The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) helps with transporting ballot boxes from the capital of the western province of Ghor, Cheghcharan, to Kabul. Following the country's Presidential election run-off on 14 June 2014, all ballot boxes—some 23,000 boxes containing approximately eight million ballots—were brought to Kabul for an audit by the Independent Election Commission in the presence of international and domestic observers, candidates' agents, the media and UN advisors. UNAMA, established in 2002, is a political mission that provides political good offices in Afghanistan; works with and supports the Government; supports the process of peace and reconciliation; monitors and promotes human rights and the protection of civilians in armed conflict; promotes good governance; and encourages regional cooperation. 3 AUGUST 2014/UNAMA/FARDIN WAEZI

illustrates some of the difficulties that accompany the Secretary-General's peacemaking role. Notable successes include Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar's mediation that helped bring an end to the 1980–1988 Iran-Iraq War, and his role in the Central American peace process in the late 1980s.

As at January 2020, the United Nations had 25 field missions around the world mandated primarily by the Security Council but also by the General Assembly. In recent years, these included the United Nations Assistance Missions in Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia; the United Nations Support Mission in Libya; and Special Envoys for Myanmar, Syria and Yemen. In addition, numerous Special Representatives were engaged in peace talks or crisis diplomacy while overseeing Security Council-mandated peacekeeping operations, for example, in the Central African Republic, Mali and South Sudan.

Secretaries-General have occasionally launched peacemaking efforts on their own initiative during instances of Security Council deadlock. One of the most celebrated examples in this regard occurred in 1955 following the Korean War, when Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld secured the release of fifteen United Nations Command personnel detained by China, including eleven United States airmen sentenced to imprisonment. Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai accepted the 'Peking Formula', in which Hammarskjöld acted in his independent role as Secretary-General under the Charter of the United Nations. Secretaries-General have also taken the initiative to mediate in disputes where the Security Council opted to not involve itself, such as when Secretary-General Kofi Annan successfully mediated the Bakassi territorial dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria from 2002 to 2006.

In 2006, the United Nations enhanced its operational readiness to implement and support such diplomatic efforts worldwide by establishing a Mediation Support Unit (MSU) within what is now the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA). Within MSU, the Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers was created to deploy anywhere in the world within 72 hours, on a temporary basis, to provide technical advice to the Secretary-General's Special Envoys and other UN officials engaged in preventive diplomacy or mediation. Members of the Standby Team have been deploying over 100 times a year to conflict hotspots around the world, including on multiple assignments from 2017–2019 to support an African Union-led peace initiative in the Central African Republic that resulted in a Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, signed in February 2019, that led to the formation of an inclusive Government.

As the United Nations takes up the challenges of the twenty-first century, Secretary-General António Guterres has articulated a vision for concentrating UN peacemaking efforts on preventive diplomacy—actions taken to keep disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of conflicts when they occur. In 2018, for example, through the efforts of a Special Adviser, the United Nations was able to help different parties in Madagascar resolve mounting political tensions around the 2018 electoral process; while in late 2019, the quick deployment of a Personal Envoy to Bolivia helped bring opposing parties together around a plan for elections and a peace consolidation programme following the fall of the country's Government. Peacekeeping operations and special political missions have also been increasing their focus on preventive diplomacy as a strategy for aiding the Secretary-General in his endeavours to avert

DID YOU KNOW

... that in 2008, the United Nations created a standby team of world-leading mediation experts that can be deployed within 72 hours to conflict theatres around the globe to support mediation and preventive diplomacy?

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld meets with Chou En-Lai, Premier of the People's Republic of China. The Secretary-General travelled to Beijing to seek the release of fifteen United Nations Command personnel detained by China following the Korean War, including eleven United States airmen sentenced to imprisonment. Hammarskjöld premised the visit on his 'Peking Formula', through which he acted in his independent role as Secretary-General under the Charter of the United Nations. Four of the prisoners were released in May 1955, while the eleven airmen were released in August 1955.

10 JANUARY 1955/UN PHOTO



conflict escalation or recurrence worldwide. As at April 2020, three regional offices served as forward platforms for preventive diplomacy in West Africa, Central Africa and Central Asia.

At the same time, the Secretary-General continues to use his good offices in the face of unexpected challenges. Such was the case in March 2020, when Secretary-General Guterres urged warring

parties across the world to lay down their weapons in support of the battle against the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, a common enemy threatening all of humankind. As at April 2020,



Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar talking to news reporters as he was leaving UN Headquarters in New York. The Security Council on 4 September 1987 requested the Secretary-General to visit Iran and Iraq in an effort to implement Security Council resolution 598(1987). Pérez de Cuéllar's mediation was widely credited with helping bring an end to the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War.

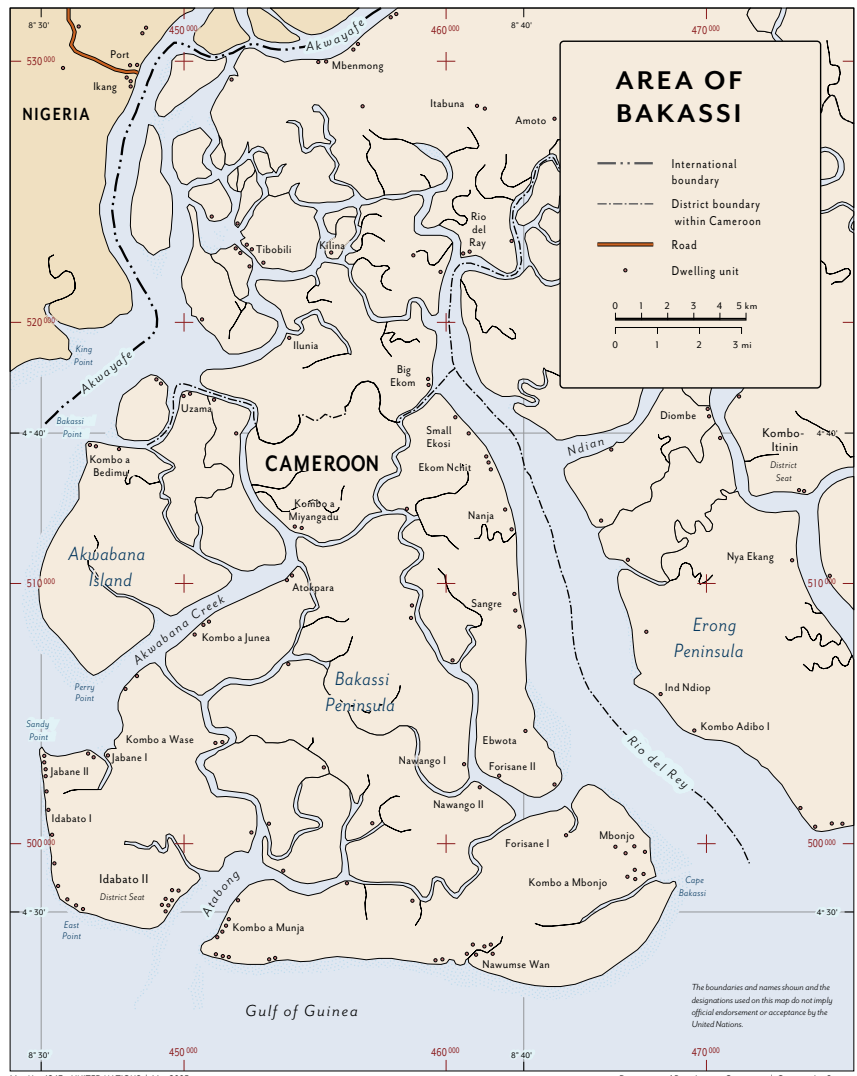
10 SEPTEMBER 1987/UN PHOTO/MILTON GRANT

the call had been endorsed by over 70 Member States, regional partners, civil society networks and organizations. A substantial number of parties to conflicts around the world had expressed acceptance for the call, including in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Libya, Myanmar, the Philippines, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Yemen. These latest endorsements highlight the unique global reach of the Secretary-General in mobilizing action towards the peaceful resolution of conflicts.



Secretary-General Kofi Annan claps as Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo (right) and Cameroonian President Paul Biya (left) shake hands after signing an agreement regarding their dispute over the Bakassi Peninsula. The Secretary-General mediated the dispute from 2002 to 2006. 12 JUNE 2006/UN PHOTO/ESKINDER DEBEBE

Map of the Bakassi Peninsula, which was the subject of a territorial dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria. The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission—the mechanism established by the Secretary-General in 2002 at the request of the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria to facilitate the implementation of the International Court of Justice ruling of 10 October 2002 on the border dispute between them—was given the responsibility for the demarcation of the land and maritime boundaries between the two countries; the withdrawal of civil administration, military and police forces and a transfer of authority in relevant areas along the boundary; the demilitarization of the Bakassi peninsula; the protection of the rights of the affected populations; the development of projects to promote joint economic ventures and cross-border cooperation; and the reactivation of the five-member Lake Chad Basin Commission (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Nigeria), created in 1964 for the regulation and planning of the uses of the lake and other natural resources of the conventional basin.



Map No. 4247 UNITED NATIONS | May 2005

Department of Peacekeeping Operations | Cartographic Section

Yemen's foreign minister Khaled al-Yamani (left) and the head of Yemen's Houthi delegation Mohammed Amdusalem (right) shake hands shortly after agreeing on a ceasefire in and around the Yemeni port of Hodaydah, in the presence of Secretary-General António Guterres and Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström (far left) on the last day of United Nations-led peace talks in Sweden. The United Nations has been a principal mediator in Yemen's civil war since 2012, when the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen was created to enable the Secretary-General to mediate that conflict. In April 2020, the international coalition supporting the Government of Yemen in the civil war declared a two-week ceasefire in response to the Secretary-General's global appeal for all belligerents to cease hostilities as a means to helping halt the spread of COVID-19. 13 DECEMBER 2018/GOVERNMENT OFFICES OF SWEDEN/NINNI ANDERSSON



Margaret Vogt, the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, briefs the Security Council on developments in the Central African Republic. Women have increasingly served as conflict mediators at the rank of Special Representative of the Secretary-General. 15 MAY 2013/UN PHOTO/RICK BAJORNAS



Elizabeth Spehar (centre), Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, facilitates a meeting between the Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci (second left) and the Greek Cypriot leader Nicos Anastasiades (far right) in Chardonne, Switzerland. Seated next to Mr. Anastasiades is Espen Barth Eide, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus. Aside from maintaining a peacekeeping operation in Cyprus since 1964, the United Nations has also served as one of the principal mediators in the Cyprus dispute. 20 NOVEMBER 2016/UN PHOTO/VIOLAINE MARTIN



RESOURCES

- United Nations Secretary-General (website)
- Charter of the United Nations
- United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (website)
- United Nations Peacemaker online mediation support tool (website)
- Yearbook of the United Nations, Vol. 60 (2006), Part One: Political and security questions, Chapter II: Africa (on the signing of the peace agreement between Cameroon and Nigeria concerning the Bakassi Peninsula)



UN staff mark the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations by joining in a formation that reads 'What R U Doing 4 Peace?' around the circle in front of the Secretariat at Headquarters in New York. 17 SEPTEMBER 2015/UN PHOTO/RICK BAJORNAS

SECRETARIES-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council, and described by the Charter of the United Nations as

the chief administrative officer of the Organization, the Secretary-General establishes general policies and provides overall guidance to the United Nations. Equal parts

diplomat, advocate, civil servant and manager, the Secretary-General is a symbol of UN ideals and a vocal champion for the needs and interests of the world's peoples.



1 JANUARY 1952/UN PHOTO



1 JUNE 1959/UN PHOTO/JO



1 NOVEMBER 1962/UN PHOTO

TRYGVE LIE (NORWAY)

1946–1952

“Our organization did not come into being spontaneously. It emerged during a long period of intense discussion between governments and among members of the public who energetically seized the unprecedented opportunity to express their views on every detail of the Charter during its development.”

DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD (SWEDEN)

1953–1961

“[I]t is important to remember that the work of building peace is a day-by-day, week-by-week and year-by-year affair. It is rarely marked by much-publicized achievements. It consists rather in continuing accommodations of differing interests and differing points of view and in a continuing effort to remove those obstacles that divide and hamper men and nations. For such purposes the Organization was created, and these it is steadily seeking to fulfil.”

U THANT (BURMA, TODAY MYANMAR)

1961–1971

“The changing patterns of endeavour which man weaves in his search for peace, and in his efforts ‘to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom’, are reflected, with all their complexities, in the many and diverse activities of the United Nations and the intergovernmental agencies related to it. These organizations serve, in a sense, as looms of history where the strands of human hopes and aspirations can be woven together into action by co-operation between nations.”

DID YOU KNOW

... that Gladwyn Jebb (United Kingdom) served as Acting Secretary-General from 24 October 1945 to 1 February 1946?



1 JANUARY 1980/UN PHOTO/D BURNETT



16 DECEMBER 1981/UN PHOTO/BACKRACH



3 DECEMBER 1991/UN PHOTO/MILTON GRANT

KURT WALDHEIM (AUSTRIA)

1972–1981

“[T]he work of the United Nations has changed and expanded since its foundation But despite the movement of the world organization into new fields of activity not anticipated by its founders, the essential objectives have not changed. These are the restoration and establishment of lasting peace; the elimination of injustice and oppression; and the eradication of human suffering and misery in all its forms.”

JAVIER PÉREZ DE CUÉLLAR (PERU)

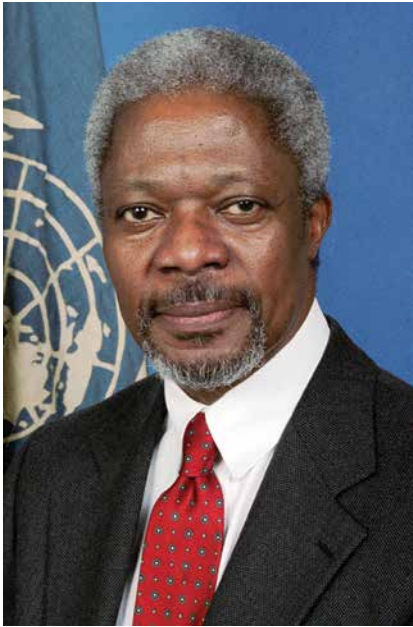
1982–1991

“Far removed from the headlines is the quiet drama, the unsung heroism infusing the enterprise of the United Nations in far-flung lands. Unarmed, a blue-bereted soldier dies while trying to keep apart warring parties in a country not his own; a tree is planted to hold back the encroaching desert; a shelter is built for refugees to provide against the coming monsoon; and a malnourished child receives the food vital to her very existence. This is the human face of plans and programmes launched by the world body.”

BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI (EGYPT)

1992–1996

“For five decades, the United Nations has brought nations together to deal with challenges that no single nation could resolve on its own. Through the United Nations, the world has embraced the ideals of peace and security and has pledged itself to the goals of development and respect for human rights and international law. Within its halls, consensus can be built, sometimes on issues where Member States initially had diametrically opposed views, and strategies have been devised and implemented to realize the vision of a better world for all humanity.”



17 DECEMBER 1996/UN PHOTO/MILTON GRANT

**KOFI ANNAN
(GHANA)**

1997–2006

“The end of the cold war has encouraged democratization in all parts of the world, but it has also brought increasing national and ethnic strife to many regions. The globalization of economic activity and information has generated untold prosperity and new opportunities, but a growing number of people remain marginalized, mired in chronic, debilitating poverty. The consequences of these and other trends are increasingly felt across national boundaries and require collective action by the international community. More and more in this global age, people and nations are turning to the United Nations, the world’s premier global institution.”

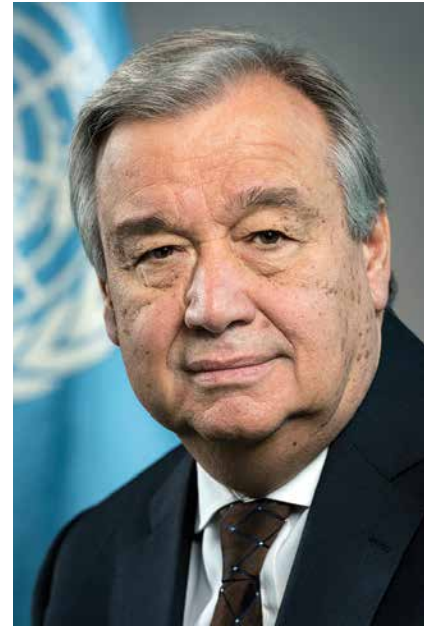


21 JULY 2011/UN PHOTO/MARK GARTEN

**BAN KI-MOON
(REPUBLIC OF KOREA)**

2007–2016

“From the beginning, the guiding vision of the United Nations has been as broad as it has been profound: maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. ... I called in 2009 for a spirit of renewed multilateralism recognizing the interconnections among the challenges confronting us; privileging the most vulnerable people; establishing multi-stakeholder coalitions; and strengthening the existing global multilateral architecture. These needs remain.”



1 JANUARY 2017/UN PHOTO/MARK GARTEN

**ANTÓNIO GUTERRES
(PORTUGAL)**

2017–present

“The United Nations remains an indispensable pillar of the international system, working around the world, around the clock, for peace, sustainable development and human rights. At a time when challenges are increasingly global, and our fates are inexorably intertwined, understanding the United Nations itself—its aims, workings and ideals—is more important than ever.”



PLANET FUTURE: GOALS TO LIVE BY

“Sustainable development is more than a goal. It is our responsibility to our planet and future generations.” | SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, 31 JULY 2018

A main purpose of the United Nations, as outlined in Article 1 of its Charter, is to achieve international cooperation in solving global problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian nature and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. In undertaking to spur and support actions towards these ends, the United Nations remains focused on development—that is, on improving the quality of life for people everywhere. Over time, the global understanding of development has evolved, but there is common agreement among Member States that sustainable development—progress that promotes economic opportunity, prosperity and greater social well-being while protecting the environment—offers the best path forward. That same agreement forms the basis of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—the plan of action to shift the world onto a more resilient and viable path forward.

Before the 2030 Agenda was conceived, however, the 2000 Millennium Summit marked a crucial turning point in the course of global human development. At the largest gathering of world leaders in history, 149 Heads of State and senior officials from another 40 countries convened at UN Headquarters in New York. Building upon a decade of major UN conferences and summits, they committed themselves to the Millennium Declaration. A new global

partnership to reduce extreme poverty (defined at that time as living at or below \$1.25 a day), the Declaration set out eight ambitious time-bound targets—to be met by 2015—known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The goals ranged from halving the incidence of extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal

primary education. The year 1990 represented the baseline.

The 15-year MDG effort, despite its shortfalls and unfinished work, produced the most successful anti-poverty movement in history. Between 1990 and 2015, the number of people living in extreme poverty declined from 1.9 billion to 836 million, and



Secretary-General António Guterres meets with a participant of the African Girls Can Code initiative, a joint effort by the International Telecommunication Union and UN-Women. More than 80 girls from 34 African countries convened in Addis Ababa for the first coding camp in August 2018 to learn about digital literacy, coding and personal development skills, including enterprise know-how to ensure their financial security. The initiative runs through 2022 and aims to reach more than 2,000 girls. It exemplifies UN efforts towards the realization of SDG 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and SDG 4 on inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. 9 FEBRUARY 2019/UN PHOTO/ANTONIO FIORENTE

Facing page: The Zero Emissions Race (global tour), co-sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), comes to a close as electric vehicles cross the finish line at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The zero emissions vehicles, powered by renewable energies like solar, wind, wave and geothermal, drove across the globe, through 17 countries, covering a total of 28,000 kilometres in 80 days. 24 FEBRUARY 2011/UN PHOTO/JEAN-MARC FERRÉ

DID YOU KNOW

... that renewable energy generated 12.9 per cent of global electricity in 2018, avoiding 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions? That made for a substantial difference given the global power sector's CO₂ emissions of 13.7 billion tons during the year.

women in paid employment outside the agriculture sector increased from 35 to 41 per cent. Many more girls were in school and the literacy rate among youth aged 15 to 24 increased from 83 to 91 per cent. The under-5 mortality rate dropped from 90 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births and the maternal mortality ratio declined by almost half. Over 90 per cent of the population was using an improved drinking water source, compared to 75 per cent in 1990. The use of ozone-depleting substances had been effectively put in check. The tuberculosis mortality and prevalence rates fell by 45 and 41 per cent, respectively, between 1990 and 2013. At the same time, progress on many of the goals was uneven across countries and regions. Advances in poverty eradication were slowest in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than 40 per cent of the population still lived in extreme poverty in 2015.

At the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Member States launched a process to define new goals that would build on the success of the MDGs but also converge with the post-2015 agenda. That effort culminated in a fundamental shift in the development paradigm with the adoption in 2015 of the momentous 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the core of which are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With 169 specific targets and 232 unique indicators, the SDGs lay out interlinked economic, social and environmental objectives as an integrated package. The SDGs reflect the understanding that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand in hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality and spur economic growth—all while tackling climate



Jaqueline Kabihogo, a farmer in the village of Basuma, Burera district, northern Rwanda, holds a large cabbage from her farm, on which she uses ecological sanitation (EcoSan). Jaqueline learned about EcoSan in 2008 from a community hygiene education and sanitation worker and decided to try it. An agricultural process that recovers nutrients from human waste for the preparation of organic fertilizer, EcoSan helps preserve soil fertility, minimize water pollution and recover bioenergy. It also assures food security for future generations. After her agriculture production tripled, Jaqueline trained other villagers to follow the same method. The newfound income made it possible for her to pay for her children's education, renovate her home and afford electricity. Jaqueline's story illustrates how one person's actions can have a lasting impact on others and the environment. 14 FEBRUARY 2011/UNICEF/SHEHZAD NOORANI

Women at an information fair in Shihore, Gujarat, India, organized as part of the 'Making Women's Voices and Votes Count—An ICT-based Intervention' project supported by UN-Women. The project enabled village women to use information and communications technology (ICT), including mobile technology, to document community concerns and map gaps such as lack of public utilities, including lighting, toilets, bus stops and roads, and to effect change by engaging with local authorities. 9 NOVEMBER 2014/UN-WOMEN/GAGANJIT SINGH



change and preserving our oceans, lands and forests. In contrast to the MDG framework, which was mainly geared towards countries that were economically disadvantaged or even in crisis, the 2030 Agenda foresees action by all countries—developed and developing—in global partnership.

According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019, extreme poverty (measured since 2015 as living at or below \$1.90 a day) has continued to decline, although at a slower pace, and the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 43 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015 to 39 in 2017. Immunizations continue to save millions of lives and the vast majority of the world's population has access to electricity. Countries are taking concrete actions to protect the planet, foremost among them being the ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change, but also by collaboratively addressing illegal fishing, designating marine protected areas and establishing policies and instruments for sustainable consumption and production. About 150 countries have developed national policies to respond to the challenges of rapid urbanization. A wide range of other actors—international organizations, businesses, local authorities, the scientific community and many other parts of civil society—are engaged in actions for sustainable development to help meet the 2030 targets.

Despite the gains, however, many needs still require urgent global attention. The report concluded that the world is not on track to end poverty by 2030. The number of people going hungry has increased—821 million people were undernourished in 2017, the same as in 2010. Women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world. Rising sea levels, accelerated ocean acidification and intensified global warming—with 2015–2019 charting as the warmest years on record—point to the natural environment deteriorating at an alarming rate. One million



A group of youths produce short videos for MYkomunitikreatif, a programme encouraging rural communities to produce short video tutorials, guidelines and tips for social media. Organized by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission under the initiative of Smart Community, the programme aims to bridge the digital divide and foster digital inclusion. Such programmes are indicators of progress towards SDG 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY PHOTO CONTEST 2018/TAHIR MD MUSA

Children taking part in a handwashing demonstration at Al Khader mixed primary school in Jordan, where the United Nations Children's Fund and its partner RHAS established an Environment Action Club to improve the water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure—basic essentials—for the school to meet national standards in 2020. SDG 6 aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. 10 MARCH 2020/UNICEF/JORDI MATAS



plant and animal species are at risk of extinction—many within decades—and land degradation has continued largely unchecked.

In the face of such challenges, world leaders gathered in New York in September 2019 to review progress on the SDGs. Concerned at the slow pace

of advancement, they resolved to gear up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development. In January 2020, the Secretary-General launched the 'Decade of Action' to accelerate progress on the SDGs.

As the Secretary-General observed shortly thereafter, however, the novel



Top left: Sustainable housing for the future: An exhibit at UN Headquarters in New York of an eco-housing structure created by UNEP and Yale University in collaboration with UN-Habitat. The structure, measuring about 22 square metres, was made from bio-based renewable materials and fully powered by renewable energy. It could accommodate up to four people. The exhibit illustrated how sustainable designs could provide decent, affordable housing while limiting the overuse of natural resources and mitigating climate change. 18 JULY 2018/JOHN HILL



Top right: Irakli Khvedaguridze (centre), a 76-year-old physician and the sole resident of the remote mountain village of Bochorna in Tusheti, Georgia, talks to his son on a video call made possible by solar-powered wireless broadband installed at his home by Zurab Babulaidze (right) and Murmani Tcharelidze (left). During the long winter, when the road to Tusheti is impassable, Dr. Khvedaguridze visits his patients on home-made skis. The solar-powered broadband project, which was a joint effort of several organizations, provides economic opportunities to Tushetians while preserving their way of life. ICT fosters sustainable development in many ways: as illustrated here, SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, and SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities. WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY PHOTO CONTEST 2018/NYANI QUARMYNE



Middle: ICT promotes access to vital research and technical advice for people in the Pacific region who rely on agriculture and fisheries for livelihood. With scarce resources and situated in relative isolation, Pacific region countries use technology-based solutions to access accurate information for field-level decisions, disseminate good practices and ensure efficient service delivery. SDG 9 involves building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation, including building efficient and affordable digital infrastructures. WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY PHOTO CONTEST 2018/ANJU MANGAL



Bottom: UNEP and the Secretariat of Energy of Panama donated a thermo-solar water heater with capacity to heat 1,200 litres a day to a hospital being built in Panama City to treat COVID-19 patients. The solar water heater, which will help avoid new carbon emissions and maintain better air quality, is part of the Panama Solar Thermal Project, funded by the Global Environment Facility, and intended to develop the market for solar water heaters in Panama and benefit, among others, the public health sector. SDG 7 concerns access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy. 18 APRIL 2020/PRESIDENCY OF PANAMA

coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic raised the bar even higher, creating a threefold imperative to stem the impact of the pandemic and suppress the transmission of the virus, to help safeguard development gains, and to ensure that all recovery efforts take place in line with the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

With just 10 years to go, a global effort is underway to keep the promise of the 2030 Agenda by mobilizing more governments, civil society and businesses, and by urging all people to make the SDGs their own. The goals represent our shared vision to end poverty, save the planet and build a peaceful world. Everyone can be part of the change by integrating the goals into daily life, making sustainable choices and sharing them with others.

DECADE OF ACTION

How do we achieve the #GlobalGoals by 2030?



- Mobilize everyone, everywhere**
- Demand urgency and ambition**
- Design new innovations and solutions**

TRANSFORM

Two pages from the booklet 170 Daily actions to transform our world, issued in 2016 as part of the ‘#YouNeedToKnow’ campaign to inspire individuals to take concrete actions in their daily lives that could contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Source: United Nations Office at Geneva. 170 Daily actions to transform our world

Make your voice heard and vote in your country's elections. 1	Participate in your country's decision-making processes in an informed manner. 2	
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	Stop violence against women. If you see it happening, report it. 3	Find value in different demographics, thoughts and beliefs for an inclusive society. 4
Demonstrate a peaceful environment at home. 5		Be passionate about your country's decisions, and remain peaceful when standing up for what you believe in. 6
	Read, write or make a video to stand up for peace. 7	Host or participate in local community events to get to know one another in safe environments. This can be at sports events, barbecues, festivals and so on. 10
Spend some time each week quietly reflecting on how you would like to relate to others. 8	Volunteer at local anti-violence organisations and outreach programmes. 9	

RESOURCES

- Sustainable Development Goals Report (annual)
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1)
- About the Sustainable Development Goals (website)
- United Nations Development Programme/Sustainable Development Goals (website)
- 2019 SDG Summit (website)



REDUCING THE RISK OF DISASTERS

“The quality of preparedness determines the quality of response. Action in anticipation of events can reduce risk and future losses.” | SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MAMI MIZUTORI, 5 FEBRUARY 2020

On the afternoon of 12 November 1970, the Great Bhola Cyclone struck East Pakistan—now Bangladesh—and caused devastating storm-surge flooding. The maximum surge, estimated at over 11 metres, swept over flat, low-lying regions and left massive destruction in its wake. Warnings had been issued by the country’s meteorological service, but relatively few people were able to reach shelter. The combination of the storm surge and insufficient evacuation resulted in an estimated 300,000 to 500,000 deaths, making Bhola the deadliest tropical cyclone on record. Since 1876, four cyclones have been separately responsible for 100,000 or more fatalities in the country, including Cyclone Gorky, which caused 138,000 deaths in 1991.

Disasters, whether natural or human-caused, often involve a complex array of hazards that can be biological (epidemics, insect infections); climatological (forest fires, drought, glacial lake outbursts); extraterrestrial (space weather, near-earth objects); geophysical (tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, subsidence); hydrological (floods, landslides); and meteorological (extreme temperatures, severe storms).

The United Nations has long been at the forefront of multilateral efforts to mitigate the risks and effects of disasters. In the 1960s and 1970s,

the General Assembly responded to numerous major disasters such as earthquakes in Iran (1962, 1968) and Yugoslavia (1963); the 1963 hurricane that impacted Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago; and droughts in Afghanistan (1971), Ethiopia and other African countries (1978, 1985). The responses initially entailed utilizing resources from

partner entities, including specialized agencies and Member States. In 1971, the Assembly established its own disaster response mechanism, the UN Disaster Relief Office, to aid Governments whenever they requested humanitarian assistance.

In 1989, the General Assembly proclaimed the International Decade (1990–2000) and the International



A woman works in front of her destroyed home in Dokhin Koralia, Bangladesh, after Cyclone Fani struck that country on 4 May 2019. Almost 1.3 million people had been evacuated to shelters. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) had pre-positioned emergency life-saving supplies and partner-provided contingency emergency services. 7 MAY 2019/UNICEF/K M ASAD/AFP SERVICES

Facing page: In 2009, UNICEF started a Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction programme in northern Bihar, India, where many districts are prone to flooding and earthquakes are common. The programme, implemented by seven non-governmental partners, empowers schools and communities in identifying risks and assists them in initiating disaster risk reduction measures. 28 AUGUST 2012/UNICEF INDIA/DHIRAJ SINGH

2018 Contributors to UN disaster risk reduction efforts (\$)

GOVERNMENTS	
Argentina ¹	25,000
Australia ¹	1,682,718
Cyprus ¹	11,377
Czech Republic	127,873
Finland	1,207,729
France	11,968
Germany ¹	5,211,300
Ireland	582,751
Japan ²	7,203,382
Kazakhstan ¹	100,000
Luxembourg	310,559
Norway	1,618,225
Republic of Korea ¹	2,399,980
Sweden	8,224,725
Switzerland ²	2,782,543
United States of America ¹	1,512,653
Sub-total	33,012,782
OTHER INSTITUTIONS	
ESCWA	16,667
European Commission ³	6,819,187
Human Security Trust Fund ¹	335,215
World Bank ⁴	471,000
Sub-total	7,642,068
PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOUNDATIONS	
Enel Foundation ¹	39,773
UPS Foundation ¹	60,000
Willis ¹	36,800
Sub-total	136,573
TOTAL	\$40,791,423

¹ Earmarked contributions.

² Combination of earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

³ Earmarked contributions from the European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

⁴ Two years of payments to cover costs associated with staff member seconded to the UNISDR Climate-Risk Early Warning Systems Initiative.

Source: UNDRR (website)

UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in figures



24.6M

People reached with life-saving assistance



36

Countries



3.1M Refugees



5.2M Internally displaced people



5M Displaced people hosted



53% of people reached were women and girls

Each year, CERF finances humanitarian assistance for millions of people in the most severe crises worldwide. The June 2019 CERF Results Report estimated that the \$418.2 million allocated by CERF in 2017 reached a total of 24.6 million people in 36 countries, and that needs were quickly met, including for 10.4 million people who received access to health care, 8.1 million people who benefited from water and sanitation interventions and 5.4 million people who received food assistance.

Source: UNOCERF (website)



A woman in Kititika village, Kitui county, Kenya, attempts to prevent a swarm of desert locusts from devouring crops and gardens. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has scaled up its emergency response with a massive, border-spanning campaign to combat locust upsurge and infestation in East Africa. 24 JANUARY 2020/FAO/SVEN TORFINN

An adult *Schistocerca gregaria*, or desert locust, in Aisha Ade, Salal region, Somaliland. The pest is a threat to the livelihoods of entire communities. FAO surveillance and spray operations have contributed to the protection of 85,000 acres of cropping land in northern Somalia. 3 NOVEMBER 2019/FAO/ISAK AMIN



Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October) in order to promote a global culture of disaster risk awareness and mitigation. The Decade witnessed the establishment of the Office for the Coordination of

Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in 1991 and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in 1999; the holding of the 1994 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction; the launch of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World; efforts to enhance natural disaster early-warning capacities; and the comprehensive study of the El Niño phenomenon. The 2000s brought further advances with the creation of the Central Emergency Response Fund financing mechanism and the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster

DID YOU KNOW

... that disasters displace more people worldwide than conflict and violence? In 2018, disasters displaced 17.2 million people from their homes, of whom 90 per cent were fleeing weather- and climate-related hazards.

In Port-au-Prince, members of the Jordanian battalion of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti carry children through flood waters after rescuing them from an orphanage destroyed by Hurricane Ike. 7 SEPTEMBER 2008/ UN PHOTO/MARCO DORMINO



Unloading Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supplies in Sindh Province, Pakistan. Massive floods that inundated parts of Pakistan in 2010 affected 17 million people, with an estimated 8 million people needing emergency relief. UNHCR provided camp management and emergency shelter services. 28 AUGUST 2010/UNHCR/JASON TANNER



Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), which promotes the use of space-based information in all phases of disaster management.

In view of the complexities associated with disasters, UNDRR facilitated, in 2015, negotiations involving Member States, experts and other organizations that led to the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030). In the Sendai Framework, States have agreed on targets and priorities for better understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing their disaster preparedness

for effective response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

All UN disaster response activities are coordinated by OCHA. At the request of the affected Government, OCHA may dispatch a UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team (UNDAC) to the country within 12 to 48 hours after the onset of a disaster to provide technical assistance, on-site coordination and information management. UNDAC teams facilitate links between country-level, regional and international response efforts. As at December 2018, UNDAC had conducted 287 emergency missions in over 100 countries. OCHA

has also instituted a structure of clusters that enables UN agencies to coordinate with each other as well as with non-UN entities in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. There are eleven clusters in all. Each cluster focuses on a specific set of functions, including health; logistics; nutrition; protection; shelter; water, sanitation and hygiene; camp coordination and management; early recovery; education; emergency telecommunications; and food security.

When disasters occur, the poor are usually hit the hardest. From 1998 to 2017, more than 90 per cent of disaster-related deaths occurred in



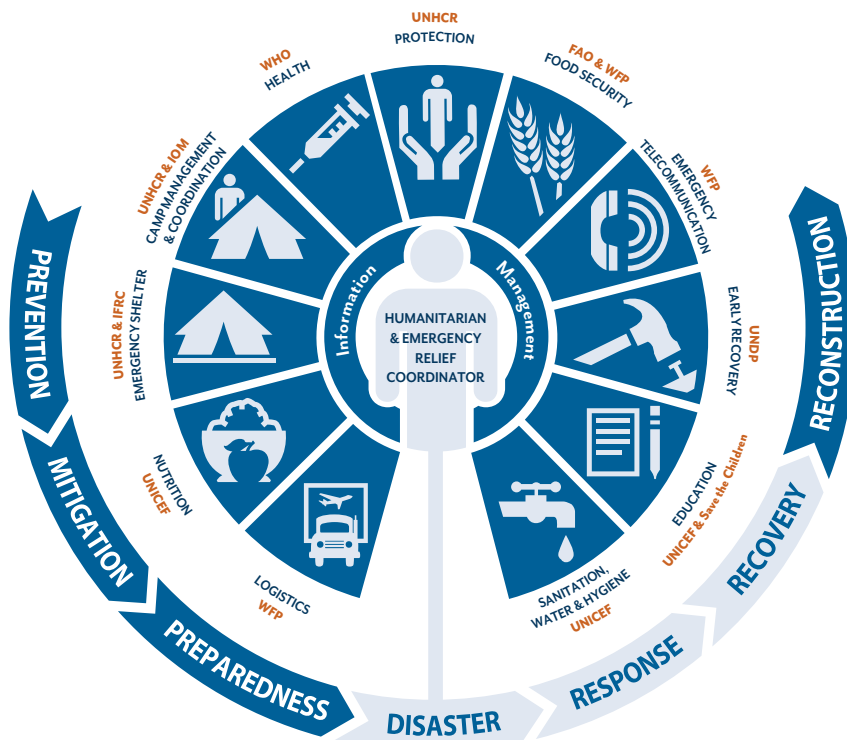
Secretary-General António Guterres walks through Codrington in Barbuda to see first-hand the devastation left behind by Hurricane Irma. The Secretary-General visited the islands of Antigua, Barbuda and Dominica to survey the hurricane damage and determine what more the United Nations could do to help people recover from the back-to-back category-5 hurricanes that struck the region in late 2017. 7 OCTOBER 2017/UN PHOTO/RICK BAJORNAS

low- and middle-income countries. Small island developing States are particularly vulnerable due to their size, location and often less-diversified economies. For all nations, however, preparedness is essential for effective response. As at March 2019, 67 countries had reported progress in developing and implementing national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework, and as at May 2019, 116 countries were reporting their activities through the Sendai Framework monitor, an online tool for self-reporting and comparative analysis of countries.

Cyclone-prone Bangladesh has recently succeeded in saving thousands of lives. In November 2019, Cyclone Bulbul made landfall on the Sundarbans coast, but ultimately claimed only 19 lives instead of the initially feared 19,000 fatalities. That was principally due to the Government's early warning system, the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP), which evacuated 2.1 million people before the cyclone made landfall. CPP, which has about 55,000 volunteers, has been lauded by world leaders as an example for other disaster-prone regions to emulate.

The Sendai Framework provides a clear policy pathway for Governments and citizens to follow in preventing and mitigating shocks caused by natural and human-caused hazards as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. As in March 2020, the global crisis caused by the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) deepened and its socioeconomic impact on the world's most vulnerable people worsened, the Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction brought this public health emergency onto the agendas of national disaster management agencies worldwide. The crisis showed that accounting for pandemic threats must also be made part of mitigating the risks and effects of disasters.

UN disaster management clusters



OCHA uses 11 function-specific clusters to provide disaster management services. Cluster leads are appointed to facilitate the work of the clusters, each of which includes a large number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies with relevant expertise and capacity.

Source: UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal (website)



NGO personnel on a motorcycle ambulance in the Narayanpur District of Chhattisgarh, India. UNICEF developed the three-wheeled motorbike as a low-cost mechanism for improving access to health services.

16 DECEMBER 2019/UNICEF/SRIKANTH KOLARI

Drought ravaged the Horn of Africa in 1984 and famine was a harsh reality for millions of people. In Bati, Ethiopia, children whose foreheads had been marked by a cross to denote that they were likely to survive wait with their mother for food and medical attention at a camp for drought victims. The General Assembly responded to the crisis in Ethiopia by setting up a humanitarian appeal designed to address the acute and immediate needs of the population. At the same time, it established a Productive Safety Net Programme to deal with longer-term food security needs. In Somalia, FAO, UNICEF and the World Food Programme provided food, health and nutrition, water and shelter assistance. 5 NOVEMBER 1984/UN PHOTO/JOHN ISAAC



TSUNAMI

WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

A series of ocean waves caused by an earthquake, landslide or volcanic eruption. Waves can be 10 metres or higher.

WHEN DOES IT OCCUR?

Anytime and anywhere, and if local, can attack in minutes. You cannot outrun a tsunami.

WHAT IS ITS IMPACT?

Floods coastal areas devastating homes, contaminating soil, killing coral, and flattening landscapes.

SIGNS OF A TSUNAMI

FEEL

Strong or long earthquakes; the ground shaking severely

SEE

Unusual receding of ocean water or oncoming wall of water

HEAR

A loud roar, similar to that of a train or airplane

RUN

Leave the coastal area, move to higher ground or inland

TSUNAMI EVACUATION DRILL

Tsunami awareness and evacuation drill poster. UNESCO-IOC leads a global effort to establish ocean-based tsunami warning systems as part of a multi-hazard disaster risk reduction strategy. UNESCO-IOC works with Governments and NGOs as well as other UN agencies to build sustainable tsunami early warning systems. Under the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Pilot Programme, annual drills that build a community's readiness to evacuate during a tsunami warning are requirements.

Source: UNDP and partners (2017)

RESOURCES

- Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030)
- United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Strategy 2018–2021
- Words into Action guidelines: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, 2020
- ReliefWeb alerts and disasters (website)
- Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (biennial)



DIGNITY FIRST: FIGHTING RACISM AND INTOLERANCE

“We must all work harder to repair the fissures and polarization that are so prevalent in our societies today. We must nurture mutual understanding and invest in making diversity a success. And we must counter and reject political figures who exploit differences for electoral gain.” | SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, 21 MARCH 2019

Racism permeates all societies, hindering economic and social progress for millions of people around the world. Racial discrimination and intolerance take many forms—from religious and ethnic discrimination to the denial of human rights to women, migrants and people with disabilities—that can undermine the fabric of societies and lead to violence and, at worst, even genocide. Since its inception, the United Nations has strived to counter all forms of racial discrimination and intolerance. The Charter of the United Nations is based on the dignity and equality

inherent in all human beings. The founding Member States—like those who came after them—pledged themselves to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, gender, language or religion.

Proponents of the modern movement towards a legally binding international treaty addressing racism drew

inspiration from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in 1948. The Declaration proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled, without distinction of any kind—including race, colour, gender or national origin—to all the rights and freedoms set out in the Declaration. It also asserts that all human beings are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection under the law against any discrimination.

Building on those fundamental tenets, the General Assembly, in 1960, outlined in its Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples the need for a speedy and unconditional end to colonialism and all practices of segregation and discrimination associated with colonialism.

At the level of binding international law, a milestone in the fight against racial discrimination was achieved in 1965 when the General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Article 1 of the Convention defines racial

In 2010, Human Rights Day (10 December) featured ‘Human rights defenders who act to end discrimination’—inspiring a new generation to speak up and take action to end discrimination in all of its forms, whenever and wherever it is manifested.

Facing page: A collage inspired by the campaign ‘Stand Up for Human Rights’, launched by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2018.

ALL PHOTOS UN PHOTO, UNICEF



Source: OHCHR Human Rights Day 2010 (website)



Tendayi Achiume, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, briefs journalists. Millions of human beings continue to be the victims of varied forms of racism, racial discrimination, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and related intolerance. These scourges not only persist, they are continually assuming new forms. The mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism was created to intensify international efforts to combat these violations of basic human rights. In this role, the Special Rapporteur transmits urgent appeals and communications to States regarding alleged violations of international human rights law; undertakes fact-finding country visits; and submits reports to the UN Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. 30 OCTOBER 2019/UN PHOTO/LOEY FELIPE

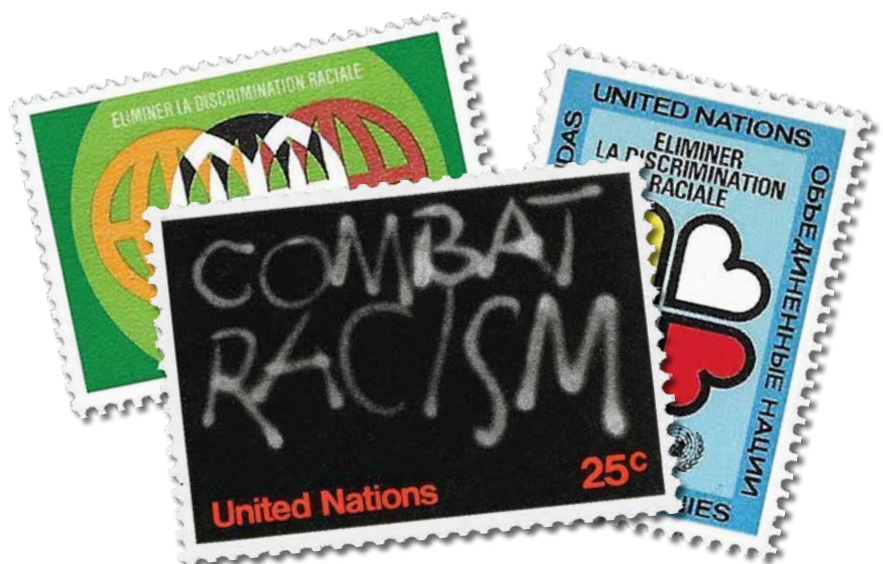
discrimination as any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin that has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Convention stands as a human rights landmark because it constitutes a legally binding agreement among sovereign nations. States parties to the Convention have chosen to be bound by the treaty and its corresponding obligations. The Convention obliges States to enact all necessary measures for the elimination of racial discrimination in all of its forms and manifestations, and to prevent and combat racist doctrines and practices in order to promote understanding between races. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, a body of independent experts established by the Convention, monitors its implementation. The Committee reviews mandatory reports

submitted by States on measures that they have taken to give effect to the provisions of the Convention.

The Convention rejects all doctrines of racial superiority as scientifically false,

morally condemnable and socially unjust and dangerous. It acknowledges that discrimination of human beings on grounds of race, colour or ethnic origin has hindered friendly and peaceful relations among nations and



In 1977, the United Nations Postal Administration issued stamps commemorating the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1973-1983).

DID YOU KNOW

... that the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March? On that day in 1960, police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid laws.

The elimination of the system of legalized racial discrimination known as apartheid was a concern of the United Nations from the beginning. In 1946, India requested that the discriminatory treatment of Indians in South Africa be included on the agenda of the first session of the General Assembly. The United Nations took the lead in the global anti-apartheid struggle, pointedly through the suspension of South Africa from the General Assembly in 1974 and the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council in 1977. Pictured here is a racially segregated beach near Cape Town, South Africa. Apartheid formally ended in 1994 with the formation of a democratic South African Government led by Nelson Mandela. 1 JANUARY 1982/UN PHOTO



can imperil international peace and security as well as harmony among persons living in the same State. In short, the Convention maintains that racial barriers are repugnant to the ideals of human society. Today, with 182 States having chosen to become parties, the Convention has gained near-global acceptance.

Since the adoption of the Convention, the United Nations has continued to support efforts to combat all forms of racial discrimination. Its long campaign against apartheid—a system of institutionalized racial segregation in South Africa—culminated in the formation of a democratic Government in that country in 1994, when Nelson Mandela—the anti-apartheid activist, lawyer and former political prisoner—was elected President, becoming the first non-white Head of State in South African history.

At the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Member States agreed on a comprehensive programme for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

#FIGHTracism

*It is not our **DIFFERENCES** that divide us. It is our inability to **RECOGNIZE, ACCEPT and CELEBRATE** those differences.*

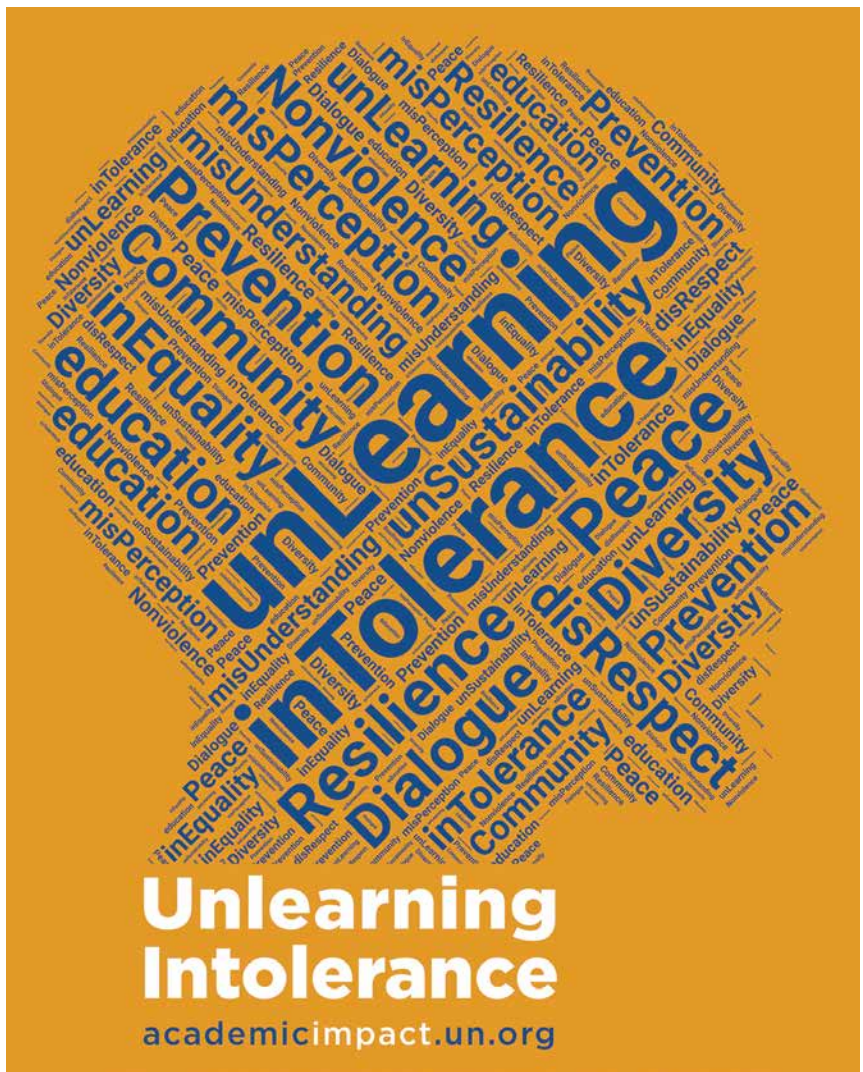
— Audre Lorde

Pictured here is Sal Birenbaum, a survivor of Auschwitz, who prior to the United Nations Holocaust Memorial Ceremony: 75 years after Auschwitz—Holocaust Education and Remembrance for Global Justice, on the occasion of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust (27 January), shows the identification number tattooed on his arm. The year 2020 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the ending of the Second World War as well as the liberation of Auschwitz and other Nazi death camps. The genocide that was the Holocaust represents a particularly malevolent form of racism and racial discrimination.

27 JANUARY 2020/UN PHOTO/MANUEL ELÍAS



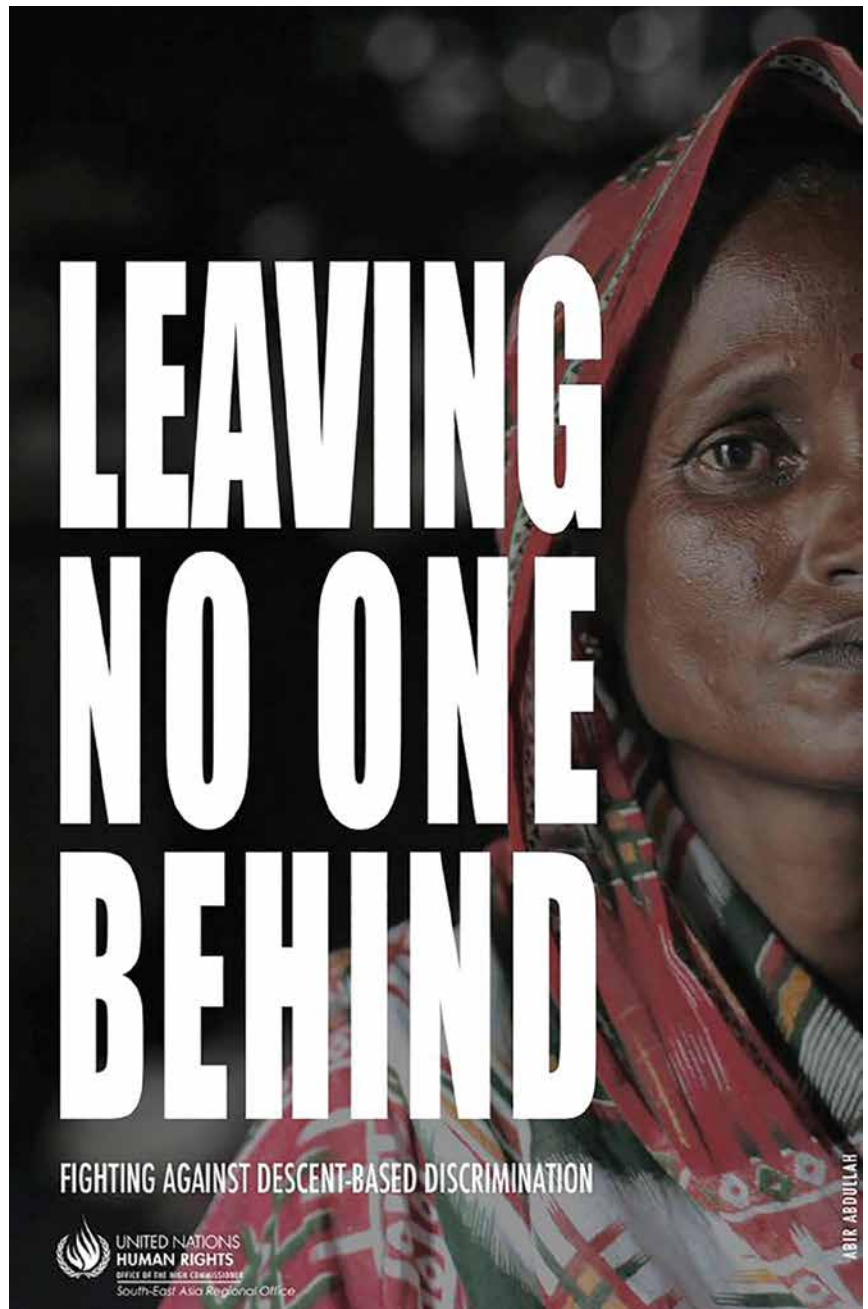
Racism and racial discrimination can be combated as forms of intolerance. Commitment to promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding and the unlearning of intolerance through education is one of the principles of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) initiative. UNAI aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in supporting and contributing to the realization of UN goals and mandates, including the promotion and protection of human rights, access to education, sustainability and conflict resolution.



and related intolerance: the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. In 2011, as the General Assembly met to commemorate the tenth anniversary of its adoption, world leaders underscored their determination to make the fight against racism, discrimination and intolerance, as well as the protection of their victims, a high priority for their countries. Such strengthened political commitment to fighting racism and racial discrimination stood together with the declaration of the International Year for People of African Descent (2011) and the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024), with its focus on ‘People of African descent: recognition, justice and development’.

The Decade reflects the recognition by the international community that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected, especially due to the legacy of the transatlantic slave trade, during which more than 18 million people were forcefully removed from Africa to the Americas (including the Caribbean) and Europe. Their descendants often constitute some of the poorest and most marginalized communities, with limited access to quality education, health services, housing and social security. Civil-society activists such as Sandra dos Santos in Brazil and Ervin Simmons in the United States are descendants of African slaves who must still fight for full recognition of their right to inherited land that their ancestors lived and worked on for generations.

Since the adoption of the Convention in 1965, the United Nations has continued to serve as a guiding beacon in the fight to abolish racial discrimination. That work involves not only supporting States to develop, monitor and implement international treaties. It also entails helping us gain a deeper understanding of what we can do to unlearn intolerance, foster shared values and act out of respect for diversity and inclusion.



RESOURCES

- Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (website)
- Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, 2001
- International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965
- United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (General Assembly resolution 66/3)



CONTROLLING INFECTIOUS DISEASES: THE EBOLA VIRUS

"I pay homage to the brave men and women on the front lines of the Ebola response, whose remarkable work I was able to witness first hand during my recent visit to Mangina in North Kivu [in the Democratic Republic of the Congo]. The United Nations remains fully committed to playing its part in bringing the Ebola outbreak to an end. Beyond Ebola, we must not forget that preventable diseases such as measles, cholera and malaria continue to claim lives and must be addressed with equal urgency." | SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, 27 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Ebola virus disease is a severe, often fatal illness marked by acute haemorrhagic fever. The virus is transmitted to humans through close contact with the blood, organs and other bodily fluids of wild animals such as fruit bats, chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelope or porcupines found ill or dead. The virus then spreads in humans through direct contact with a person who is sick or has died from Ebola, or when a person comes into contact with contaminated surfaces and materials. Outbreaks can lead to public health crises that—beyond the medical emergency of their immediate toll

taken on lives—threaten economic as well as social and political stability within and across borders. After the discovery of the virus in 1976, the United Nations supported successful efforts to help affected countries contain the disease, including in Zaire in 1995, Liberia in 1996 and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2007.

In 2014, the largest and most complex Ebola outbreak ever spread across West Africa with increasingly dire humanitarian implications. The outbreak was recognized by the World Health Organization

(WHO) in August as constituting a public health emergency of international concern. The exponential spread of the virus outpaced the medical, logistical and material capacities of responders. The Presidents of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone appealed to the United Nations to lead a coordinated international response to end the outbreak, provide guidance for restoring basic health services, coordinate support for the societies and economies of the affected countries, and organize an international public information campaign.

A German C-160 aircraft in Accra, Ghana, delivering UN humanitarian supplies to countries in western Africa affected by the Ebola virus. The aircraft was loaded with equipment that included material to construct warehouses used in the logistics supply chain for aid delivery in Sierra Leone along with five tons of high-energy biscuits for delivery to people affected by the crisis in Guinea. 15 OCTOBER 2014/UN PHOTO/UNMEER

Facing page: The childcare centre near the Butembo Ebola treatment centre in North Kivu in the DRC, for children whose parents are receiving treatment there, opened in March 2019. Children separated or orphaned by Ebola in the country have received care and support from the United Nations Children's Fund and its partners. 13 AUGUST 2019/UN PHOTO/MARTINE PERRET





Source: WHO Emergencies preparedness, response (website)

By September, about half of the nearly 5,000 people infected by the Ebola virus had died. Having already formed a Global Ebola Response Coalition that included the national Governments of affected and neighbouring countries, African regional bodies, development partners and UN system entities, the Secretary-General decided to establish a UN mission to stop the spread of the disease, treat the infected and ensure essential services as well as to preserve stability and prevent further spread to unaffected countries. At an emergency session on 18 September focusing on the threat to international peace and security posed by the outbreak, the Security Council called on UN Member States to respond urgently to the crisis. The General Assembly

followed suit the next day by signalling its approval for containing and combating the outbreak through establishing such a mission.

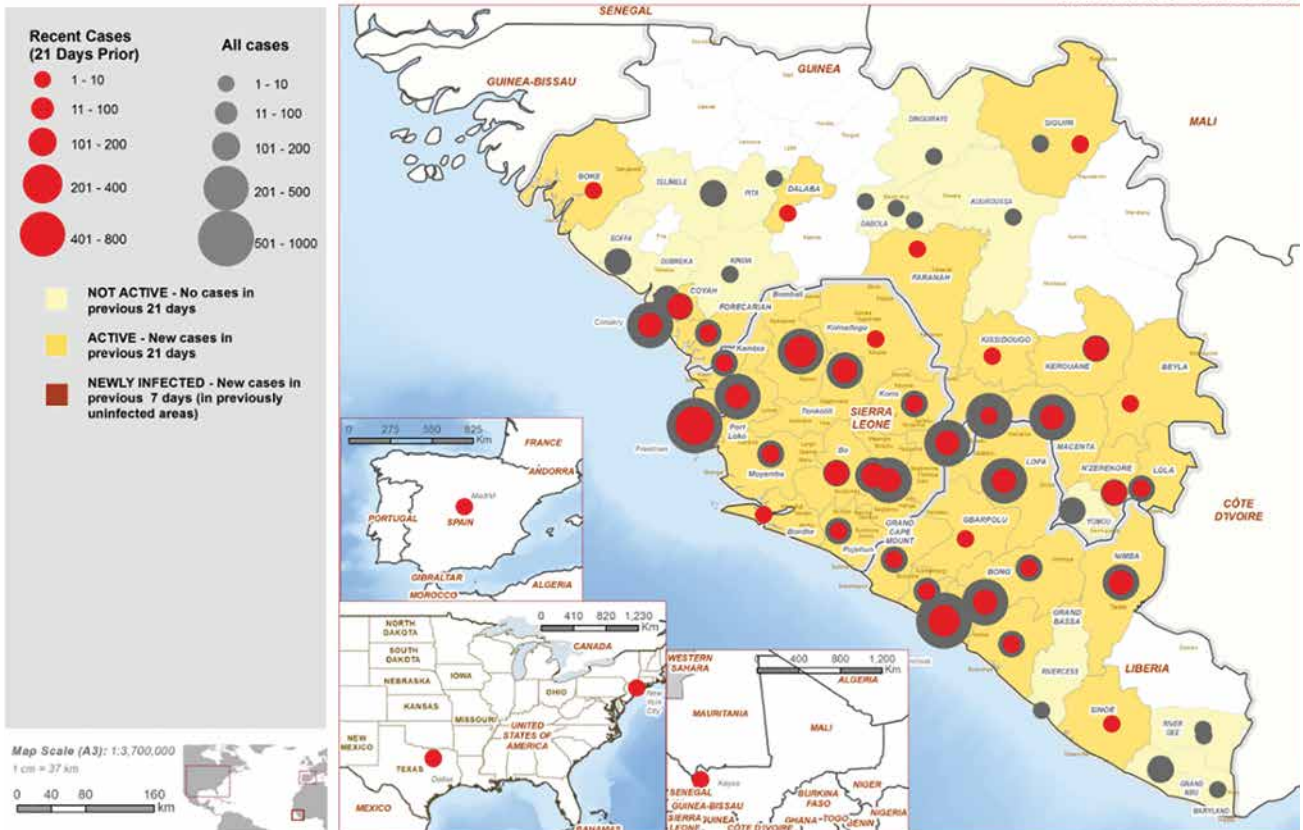
As the first-ever emergency health mission of the Organization, the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) combined WHO technical expertise with the operational capabilities of numerous other UN agencies, funds and programmes. Conceived as a single operational crisis management system, UNMEER took the lead in the international humanitarian efforts, including field-level work, supporting the national plans of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. By the end of 2014, significant progress had been made in slowing down the spread of the

outbreak. That was accomplished through the collective efforts of the national Governments, affected communities and the UN system and its partners especially in establishing treatment centres and burial teams, and training thousands of contact tracers and social mobilizers in affected countries to help change behaviour to prevent transmission. The initial emphasis on containing the spread of the disease by finding and isolating infected individuals then shifted to eliminating transmission wherever it appeared.

By 1 July 2015, there had been a total of 27,550 confirmed, probable and suspected cases of Ebola virus disease, and 11,235 deaths in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Importantly, however, the disease—with its dire humanitarian, social, economic and development costs for the people and countries affected—no longer posed the same grave public threat. That month witnessed the lowest case incidence since mid-2014—down from more than 950 cases per week in September 2014 to 5 cases or fewer—and the geographical spread of the disease had been greatly reduced. As the Mission had achieved its core objective of stemming the crisis and scaling up response on the ground, oversight of the UN system's Ebola emergency response was transferred to WHO. The operation was able to shift from a large-scale logistical effort to a targeted public health campaign. On 29 March 2016, WHO declared the end of the public health emergency of international concern regarding the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa.

Lessons learned from UNMEER in reinforcing government leadership, delivering rapid impact on the ground, collaborating with actors outside the United Nations, tailoring responses to particular needs in different countries and affected communities, reaffirming WHO leadership on health issues, and identifying benchmarks for transition post-emergency have informed the UN response to subsequent Ebola outbreaks such as that in the

EBOLA OUTBREAK RESPONSE: REGIONAL CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES



Source: WHO Emergencies preparedness, response (website)

eastern DRC, ongoing since 2018. As insecurity and communal distrust again adversely affected the public health response, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC has been engaging with national and local authorities to promote a more conducive environment for humanitarian actors and help contain the outbreak.

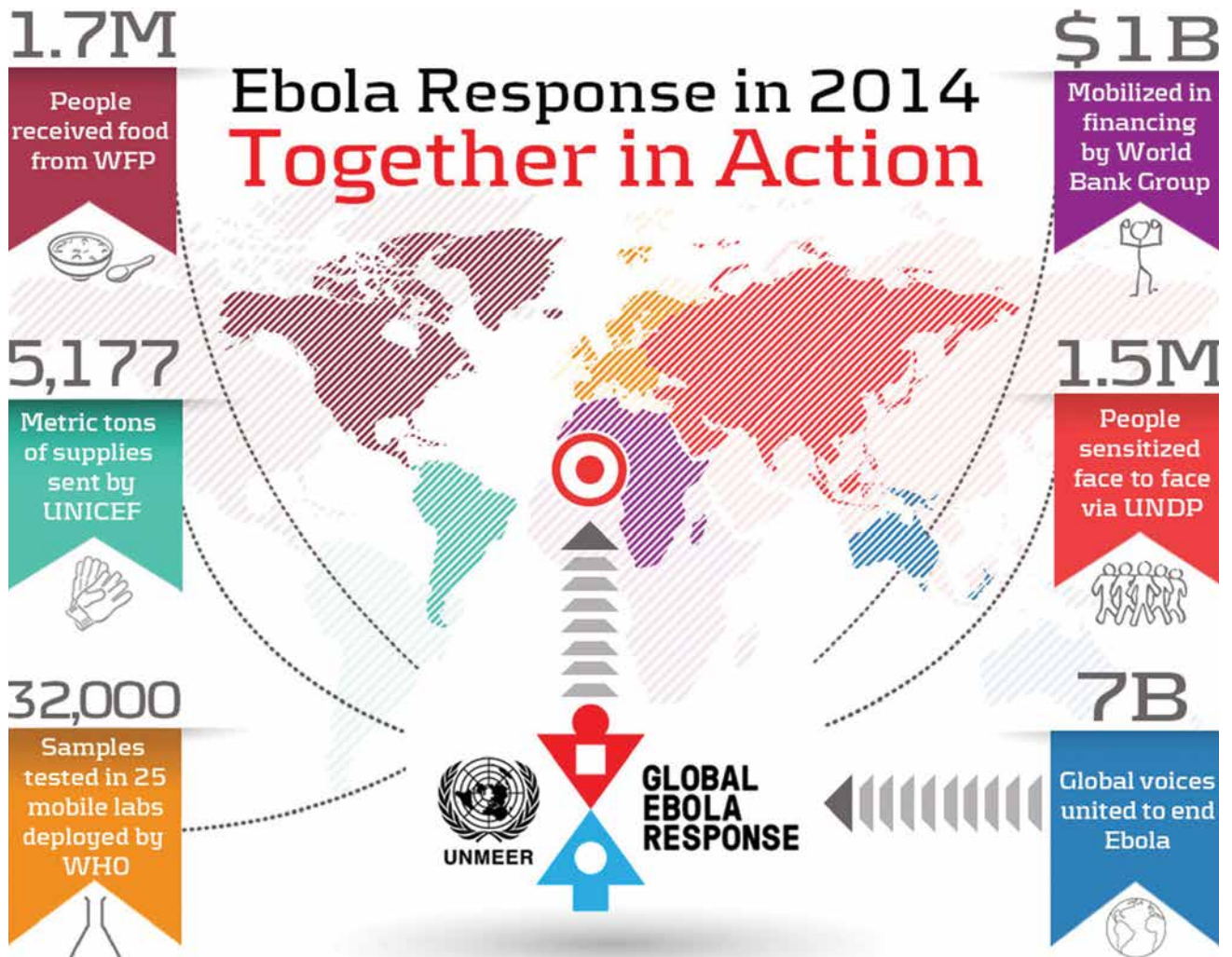
Good case management, infection prevention and control practices, surveillance and contact tracing, laboratory service, safe and dignified burials, and social mobilization (including community engagement) are all proven elements of successful outbreak control. In an historic step in November 2019 towards stopping the spread of Ebola virus disease, WHO prequalified an Ebola vaccine for the

The National Ebola Response Centre in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on the launch day of UNMEER Operation Western Area Surge. The Surge, which was implemented to help reverse a spike in the rate of transmission of Ebola virus disease in the Western Area of Sierra Leone, focused on crucial Ebola response activities such as identifying and isolating potential patients and increasing safe burials, ambulance dispatching, quarantine protocols and social mobilization. 17 DECEMBER 2014/UN PHOTO/MARTINE PERRET



DID YOU KNOW

... that the 2014–2016 Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa was the largest and most complex Ebola outbreak since the virus was discovered in 1976?



Find out more at ebolaresponse.un.org

Source: UNMEER Global Ebola Response (website)

first time—a critical development helping speed up the licensing, access and roll-out of the vaccine in countries most at risk of Ebola outbreaks.

The United Nations has helped successfully combat other infectious diseases. Beginning in 1966, WHO led a worldwide programme against smallpox—the first disease truly fought on a global scale—that resulted

in its officially being declared eradicated in 1980. In response to the 2003 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, WHO provided epidemiological, clinical and logistical support to health authorities in affected countries. Following the Zika virus outbreak of 2015, WHO supported national Governments as well as local communities in preventing and managing Zika and its

complications, and in mitigating the socioeconomic consequences.

WHO has led the global effort to support countries in preventing, detecting and managing the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), which it declared a pandemic in March 2020. WHO has been on the front lines supporting Member States and

Dr. Oumou Thiam, epidemiologist and contact tracing team leader for WHO in Butembo, and Dr. Cheick Konate, WHO Field Coordinator of the Butembo health zone, visit residents of the Katsya health area in Butembo, North Kivu, the DRC, after 12 cases of the Ebola virus were confirmed there. Contact tracing is a critical tool that enables health officials to actively monitor at-risk individuals, isolate cases before others can be infected, and project the potential scope and scale of the outbreak.

4 SEPTEMBER 2019/UN PHOTO/MARTINE PERRET



A view of a public spaces decontamination campaign in the Bamako district in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Mali. The campaign was a joint operation between the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and the Directorate General of Health and Civil Protection in the Grand Marché of Bamako and surroundings.

4 APRIL 2020/UN PHOTO/HARANDANE DICKO



their populations—especially the most vulnerable among them—with guidance and training as well as equipment and concrete life-saving services in the fight against COVID-19. In April, shipments of vitally needed medical supplies and equipment, including personal protective equipment, arrived in Addis Ababa for distribution to health-care workers treating the increasing number of patients across the African continent. WHO and its partners are also supporting national efforts to scale up health workforces and laboratory testing and to establish screening points at airports and border crossings.

RESOURCES

- Letter dated 15 September 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (containing a joint letter dated 29 August 2014 from Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone; Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia; and Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea)
- Letter dated 1 September 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly (on the response to the Ebola outbreak from 1 to 31 July 2015)
- Lessons learned exercise on the coordination activities of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response. Report of the Secretary-General, 4 March 2016
- United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Report of the Secretary-General, 27 September 2019
- WHO Ebola virus disease (website)



THE UNITED NATIONS IN ACTION



THE UNITED NATIONS

Combats pandemics: leads the global response to the unprecedented novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Provides food and assistance to 86.7 million people in 83 countries

Supplies vaccines to 50% of the world's children, helps save 3 million lives a year

Assists and protects 82.5 million people fleeing war, famine and persecution

Works with 196 nations to keep the global temperature rise well below 2°C/3.6°F

Keeps peace with 95,000 peacekeepers in 13 operations around the world

Tackles the global water crisis affecting over 2.2 billion people worldwide

Protects and promotes human rights globally and through 80 treaties/declarations

Coordinates \$28.8 billion appeal for the humanitarian needs of 108.8 million people

Uses diplomacy to prevent conflict; assists some 50 countries a year with their elections

Helps over 2 million women a month overcome pregnancy and childbirth complications

Facing page: The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. Here, Rishma Pokharel, national UN Volunteer Civil Engineer with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), speaks to a visually impaired man before assessing the damage to his house from the 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Nepal on 25 April 2015. She was one of 80 UNV civil engineers, and one of 13 women, helping communities recover through a UNDP debris management project. The earthquake caused 8,790 deaths and 22,300 injuries, and the damage or destruction of 755,549 houses. 8 JUNE 2015/UNDP/LESLEY WRIGHT



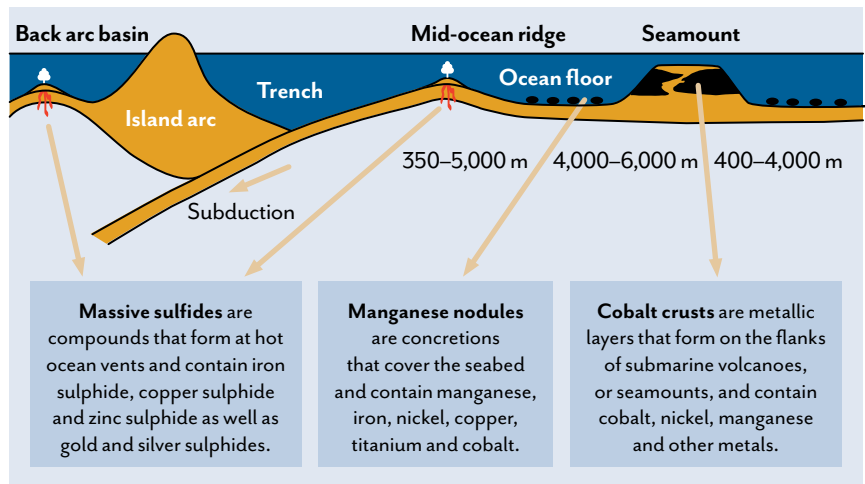
RULING THE OCEAN WAVES FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

“We have been following closely ... developments in the field of oceanography and deep-sea capability and have been impressed by the potential benefits both to our country and to mankind if technological progress takes place in a peaceful atmosphere and within a just legal framework and, on the other hand, by the truly incalculable dangers for mankind as a whole were the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond present national jurisdiction to be ... appropriated, exploited and used for military purposes by those who possess the required technology.” | AMBASSADOR OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ARVID PARDO, 1 NOVEMBER 1967

Oceans cover three quarters of the Earth’s surface and contain 97 per cent of the planet’s water. Their biodiversity is also vast. The oceans are home to nearly 200,000 identified species, with actual numbers estimated to lie in the millions. Humankind has long embarked upon the oceans—as conduits for trade and transportation, avenues for exploration and migration, and elements for securing food and livelihoods—based on a common understanding of the freedom of the seas. National rights and jurisdiction were largely restricted to coastline waters, with the remainder of the high seas—its routes and its bounty—considered free to all and belonging to none.

Deep-sea exploration in the twentieth century, however, uncovered vast new prospects for harvesting ocean floor resources. It also brought about extensions of claims to territorial waters. Along with the development of maritime drilling and mining, the growth of international fishing and shipping led to increased concerns over the toll taken on fish stocks by long-distance fishing fleets and pollution and wastes from container ships, tankers and offshore platforms. More and more maritime nations were also

Deep-sea minerals occurrence



Source: World Bank. Precautionary Management of Deep Sea Mining Potential in Pacific Island Countries (2006)

Three main kinds of deep-sea mineral deposit types have been identified within the territorial waters of several Pacific island countries: hydrothermal vents on the sea floor precipitate out concentrated minerals, including copper, iron, zinc, silver and gold; polymetallic manganese nodules can contain a mix of cobalt, copper, iron, lead, manganese, nickel and zinc; and cobalt manganese crusts can contain other minerals, including precious metals such as platinum and rare earth elements.

Facing page: Coral reef in Ko Lipe, Thailand. The marine environment is home to a stunning variety of beautiful creatures, ranging from single-celled organisms to the biggest animal ever to have lived on Earth: the blue whale. The seas are also home to coral reefs, one of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet. Coral reefs, which are found in over 100 countries (including in more than 80 developing countries), support a quarter of all marine life—an estimated 1 to 9 million species. They also provide half a billion people with food security and livelihoods—including in fisheries and tourism—and protect coastlines. The United Nations Environment Programme Coral Reef Unit partners with Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and other institutions on the joint development of tools and methods for ecosystem-based coral reef management, policy support and capacity-building and networking to exchange best practices. UNSPLASH/MILOS PRELEVIC

competing to assert their geostrategic presence both on the surface waters and under the sea. The oceans were becoming an even greater arena for international conflict and instability.

In 1967, the General Assembly took up the question of the seabed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and the use of their resources in the interests of humanity. Addressing the Assembly, Ambassador Arvid Pardo of Malta passionately articulated the need for an effective international legal regime for the oceans before irreversible ecological damage occurred. He acknowledged the geopolitical rivalries that were spreading to the oceans, the pollution that was poisoning the seas and the competing maritime legal claims with their detrimental implications for a stable global order, but also spoke of the rich potential that lay on the seabed and how it could be shared more equitably among all countries.

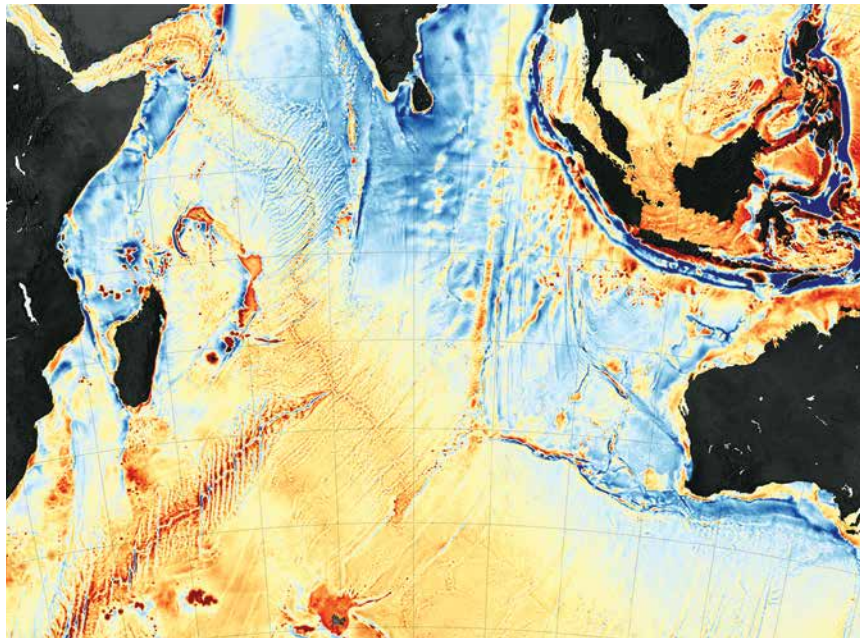
The General Assembly responded by establishing a committee to examine the legal status of the seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction; their reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes; the use of related resources for the benefit of humanity as a whole; the freedom of scientific research and exploration; the exercise of the freedom of the seas; the threat of pollution and other hazards; and obligations and liabilities of States involved in the exploration, use and exploitation of the seabed and ocean floor. The work of the committee informed a remarkable diplomatic effort to codify rules for the use of the seas and ocean resources that culminated in the adoption in 1982 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Convention set forth an innovative legal code for ocean navigation, resource exploitation, environmental protection and scientific research. It established freedom-of-navigation rights, set territorial sea boundaries at 12 miles offshore and exclusive State



Workers at an oil rig on Lake Maracaibo, an inlet of the Caribbean Sea, in Venezuela. The economies of many countries depend on the export of raw materials. One of the major technological inventions of the twentieth century was oil exploration under the sea. 1 JANUARY 1973/UN PHOTO/V BIBIC

A map of the ocean floor based on the Earth's gravity field. Such maps are helpful to prospectors scouting for oil, gas and mineral resources. This map shows sea-floor gravity anomalies in the western Indian Ocean. Shades of orange and red represent areas where sea-floor gravity is stronger than the global average, a phenomenon that mostly coincides with the location of underwater ridges, seamounts and the edges of Earth's tectonic plates. The darkest shades of blue represent areas with the lowest gravity, corresponding to the deepest troughs and trenches in the ocean. 2014/NASA EARTH OBSERVATORY MAPS/JOSHUA STEVENS



economic zones at up to 200 miles offshore, and laid out rules for extending continental shelf rights up to 350 miles offshore. The Convention also established the International Seabed Authority, which regulates the use of the seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, principally concerning seabed mining; the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,

which adjudicates disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the Convention; and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, which is engaged in determining the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles of a coastal State.

The Convention fostered the 1995 multilateral Agreement relating to

DID YOU KNOW

... that if current trends continue, the oceans could contain more plastic than fish by 2050? #BeatPlasticPollution by asking restaurants to stop using plastic straws, using your own coffee mug at school or work and encouraging local authorities to improve waste management.

Fishermen in Senegal returning home with their day's catch. Artisanal fisheries play a major role in supporting livelihoods in rural areas. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, assisted the Government in developing fisheries. The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, adopted in 1995, serves as a reference framework for national and international efforts to formulate policies and legal frameworks for sustainable fishing and the production of aquatic living resources in harmony with the environment.

1 JANUARY 1974/UN PHOTO/RAY WITLIN

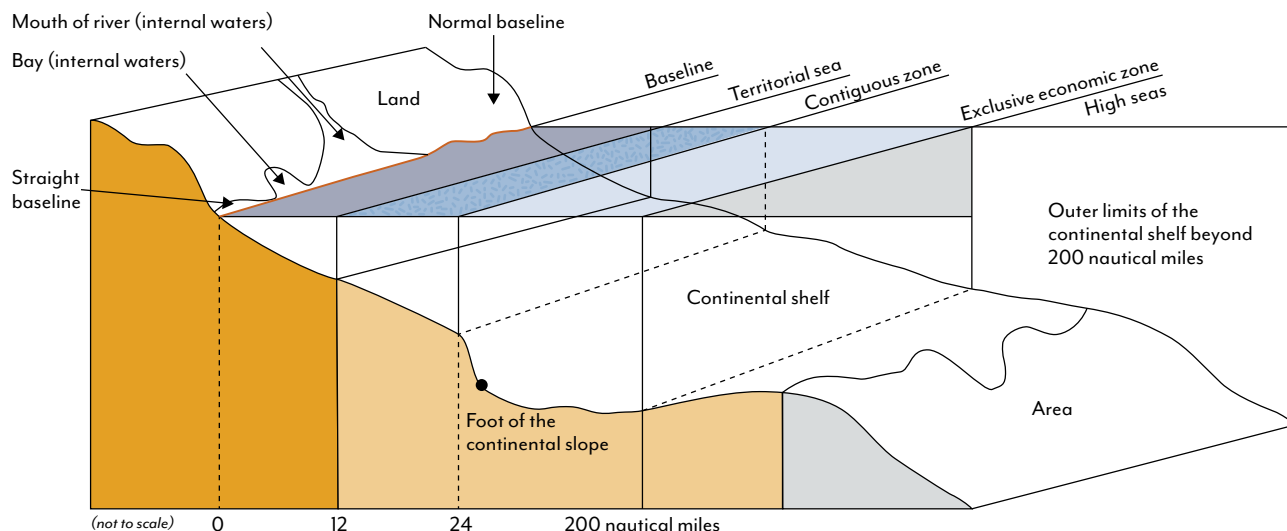


the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The Agreement expanded upon the Convention's fundamental principle that countries should cooperate to ensure conservation and optimum utilization of fisheries resources both within and beyond their exclusive economic zone.

With a deepening appreciation for the complexity of life below water, however, a new consensus began to emerge that, for the sake of humanity as well as the planet, more action was required to ensure the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources both living and non-living.

The need to achieve truly sustainable ocean-based economies is a cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Oceans, seas and marine resources underpin poverty eradication and food security, provide employment and livelihoods, and support the well-being of humans and the planet. Marine and coastal

Maritime zones under the Convention on the Law of the Sea



Source: The Law of the Sea: Training Manual for delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and for preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (2006)



ecosystems offer protection from natural disasters. Oceans provide critical ecosystem services such as generating the oxygen we breathe and regulating the global climate, acting as a giant sink for greenhouse gases. As seawater absorbs increasing amounts of carbon dioxide, however, the delicate balance of ocean chemistry and life is altered. The resultant acidification harms countless forms of marine life, which are also under assault from marine pollution and overfishing.

In 2017, the United Nations launched nine Communities of Ocean Action to facilitate collaboration among governments, civil society, the academic and scientific communities and the UN system in implementing some 1,400 pledges made at the Ocean Conference that year in support of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Under Water. They focus on coral reefs; mangroves; marine and coastal ecosystems management; marine pollution; ocean acidification; scientific knowledge, research capacity development and transfer of marine technology; sustainable blue economy; sustainable fisheries; and implementing international law as reflected in the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Both within and beyond the bounds of national jurisdiction, marine biodiversity is under increased pressure from human activities. That includes discharges and emissions of hazardous substances, urban development along shorelines, dumping of solid wastes, marine debris such as plastic microparticles, oil discharges from shipping and leakages from oil drilling and submarine pipelines.

Seen here is a Norwegian trawler plying off the country's coast. Sustainable fisheries management is important for countries such as Norway, which is party to the 1995 UN Agreement relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The Agreement promotes order in the oceans by setting international standards for the management and conservation of high-seas resources and ensuring compliance with and enforcement of such standards. It also recognizes the special requirements of developing countries with regard to fisheries. 1 JANUARY 1972/UN PHOTO/YUTAKA NAGATA



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Working for #ZeroHunger


MARINE LITTER AFFECTS



HABITATS



ECOSYSTEMS



BIODIVERSITY

MARINE LITTER COMES IN DIFFERENT SIZES

LARGE

Wrecked vessels
Lost fishing nets
Lost cargo containers


MEDIUM


Plastic bags
Soda bottles
Milk containers


SMALL


Beads
Cosmetic products
Cloth fibres


ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IMPACTED BY MARINE LITTER


SHIPPING


FISHING



AQUACULTURE


TOURISM



RECREATION

WHAT CAN WE DO?


Advocate for #CleanSeas




Enforce and strengthen legislation to stop marine litter




Invest in research to develop non-toxic materials




Show the true cost of plastic disposal on products




Recycle




Invest in waste management infrastructure




Clean up beaches and shorelines




Ban plastic bags



Ban smoking on beaches



Use reusable bags



Stop intentional littering

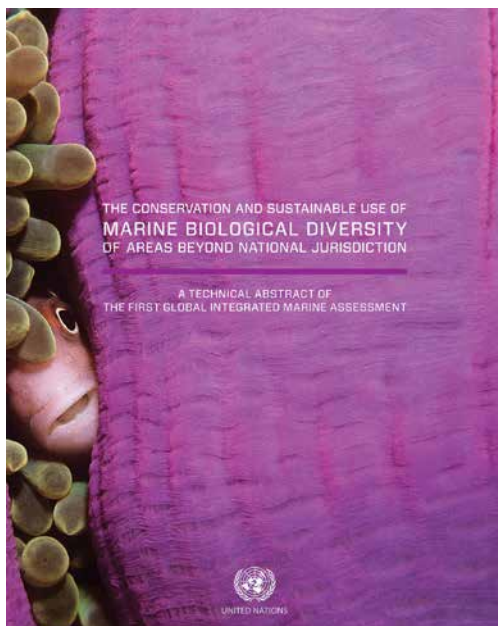
Source: United Nations Environment Programme. Clean seas turn the tide on plastic

Already in 1995, the United Nations Environment Programme proved instrumental in the creation of the only global intergovernmental mechanism directly addressing the link between terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems: the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. In 2018, however, Member States stepped up their efforts by convening an intergovernmental conference on

an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. The commencement of negotiations to that end—ongoing as at 2020—represents an historic moment in global efforts to protect the oceans. At issue are marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits; the capacity for measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas;

environmental impact assessments and capacity-building; and the transfer of marine technology.

As geopolitical tensions surge, and maritime disputes extend even to the Arctic and Antarctic regions, the Law of the Sea framework established by the United Nations stands to guide Member States in peacefully conserving and sustainably using the world’s oceans, seas and marine resources.



This technical abstract, based on the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment (World Ocean Assessment-I), provides a scientific and factual background for policymaking, particularly in implementing the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals. The World Ocean Assessment-I identified gaps in knowledge and capacity-building in, among others, the areas of climate change, over-exploitation of marine living resources, changing patterns of biodiversity, the threat from increased pollution and delays in implementing known solutions. These gaps prevent effective responses to the challenges of the vast marine environment.

RESOURCES

- United Nations General Assembly, First Committee, 1515th meeting, 1 November 1967 (UN official records)
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982
- UN Chronicle, Vol. LIV, Nos. 1 & 2 (2017) (Special edition: Our Ocean, Our World)
- Our ocean, our future: call for action (General Assembly resolution 71/312)
- Draft text of an agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, 2019



RENDERING JUSTICE FOR ALL

“In the absence of an international criminal court, the Security Council acted to establish two ad hoc international tribunals, for Yugoslavia and for Rwanda. These tribunals have made significant progress and are setting an important precedent. War criminals can and will be brought to justice. ... Peace and justice are indivisible. They are indivisible in the former Yugoslavia, in Rwanda—in all post-conflict situations where the dawn of peace must begin with the light of justice.” | SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN, 11 JUNE 1997

In July 2008, Radovan Karadžić—the former Bosnian Serb president and supreme commander of the armed forces of the so-called Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (later Republika Srpska)—was arrested in Belgrade. Karadžić was one of the most wanted fugitives for crimes committed during the conflict in the Balkans in the 1990s. His capture and subsequent transfer to a detention centre in The Hague, Netherlands, in the custody of the United Nations war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, was the result of an international legal process lasting

over a decade. In July 1995, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) indicted Karadžić on two counts of genocide, five counts of crimes against humanity and four counts of violations of the laws or customs of war committed during the Bosnian conflict. Although Karadžić had eluded capture for more than 13 years, his eventual arrest and surrender by Serbian authorities to ICTY represented a victory for the UN tribunal and for justice at large.

Major political changes took place throughout eastern Europe and the

former Soviet Union in the early 1990s with the end of the Cold War and the re-emergence of nationalism. In Yugoslavia, a series of economic, ethnic and political crises led ultimately to the violent break-up of the country. Atrocities committed against civilians first in Croatia and later in Bosnia and Herzegovina spurred the international community into action. Reports of mass displacement, massacres, rape and torture in detention camps compelled the United Nations to form in late 1992 a Commission of Experts to examine the situation on the ground.

Remains of victims of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda covering the floor of a school in Kibungoro-Mrambi in southern Rwanda, where more than 40,000 bodies were found.

15 JUNE 1996/UNICEF/GIACOMO PIROZZI

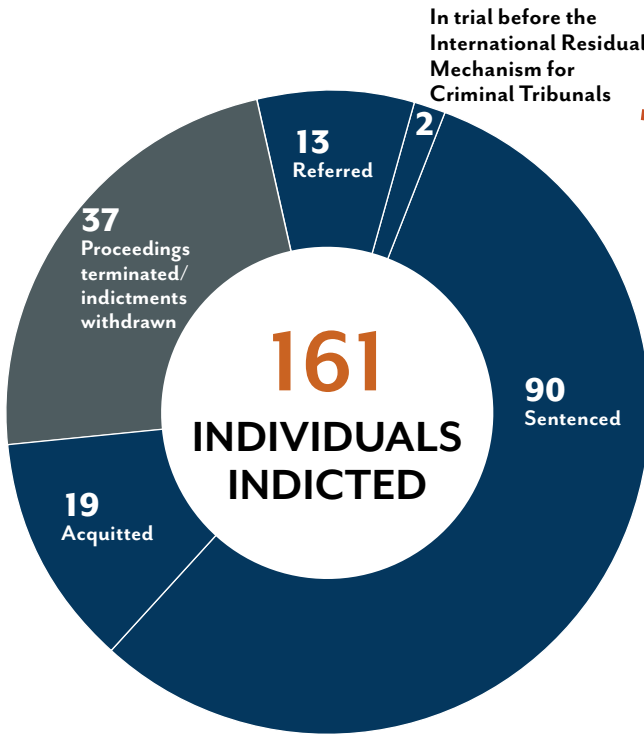
Facing page: A view of the Security Council at a meeting on the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

5 DECEMBER 2012/UN PHOTO/JC MCILWAINE





ICTY deals with war crimes that took place during the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. The Tribunal was the first court to undertake the prosecution and adjudication of the gravest international crimes since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials that followed the Second World War.

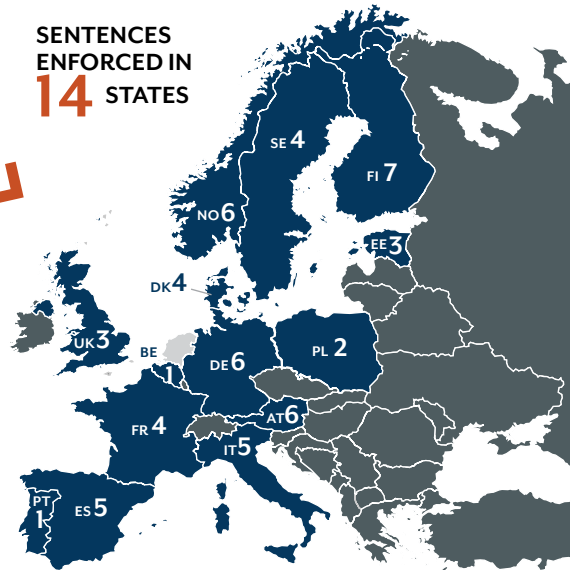


In trial before the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

13 INDIVIDUALS REFERRED TO COUNTRIES IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA FOR TRIAL



SENTENCES ENFORCED IN 14 STATES



(Excludes accused whose sentences amounted to time spent in detention during trial, and those whose transfers were pending.)



MORE THAN...



4,650 WITNESSES



10,800 TRIAL DAYS



2.5 MILLION PAGES OF TRANSCRIPTS

UPDATED: NOVEMBER 2017/ICTY

Source: ICTY (website)

4 TYPES OF CRIMES

Genocide

Crimes against Humanity

Violations of the Laws or Customs of War

Grave Breaches of the Geneva Conventions

DID YOU KNOW

... that on 9 December 1948, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide became the first human rights treaty adopted by the General Assembly?

The Commission documented grave violations of the Geneva Conventions—a series of treaties and additional protocols that set the standards of international law for the protection of those who do not take part or are no longer participating in active hostilities, such as the wounded and sick, medical personnel, prisoners of war and non-military civilians. In light of the Commission's findings, the Security Council decided to create an international tribunal to prosecute individuals responsible for criminal acts such as murder, torture, rape, enslavement, destruction of property and other crimes. In May 1993, ICTY became the first international war crimes court set up by the United Nations and the first since the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals were established at the end of the Second World War to prosecute German and Japanese leaders accused of war crimes, including the Holocaust.

Sadly, another dark chapter in history brought the need for a new tribunal to render justice for the victims of genocide. In November 1994, the Security Council created the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) to bring to trial persons responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Rwanda and neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, when more than one million people—overwhelmingly Tutsi, but also moderate Hutu, Twa and others who opposed the genocide—were systematically killed. The Tribunal was located in Arusha, Tanzania, with offices in Kigali, Rwanda, and its Appeals Chamber in The Hague. ICTR was the first international tribunal to deliver verdicts in relation to genocide, and the first



Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stands before a shed containing the remains of scores of victims killed during a massacre at Nyarubuye Church in south-eastern Rwanda in 1994. 14 JULY 1995/UN PHOTO/C DUFKA



Flanked by Rwandan officials, World Food Programme Executive Director James Morris, United Nations Children's Fund Executive Director Ann M. Veneman and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres lay flowers at the Gisozi Genocide Memorial in Kigali, Rwanda, paying tribute to the victims of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Over 250,000 of the estimated 1 million people who were killed during the genocide are buried there. The tribute was part of a mission by the three UN leaders to Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to promote closer collaboration and increased international aid for millions of refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees in Africa's Great Lakes region. 1 MARCH 2006/UNICEF/MATTHEW RAYMOND

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with Bakir Izetbegović (right), Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, giving a joint press conference at the conclusion of their visit to the memorial site for the victims of the 1995 massacre in Srebrenica. 26 JULY 2012/UN PHOTO/ESKINDER DEBEBE



to provide a legal interpretation of the definition of genocide set forth in the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In addition, it was the first international tribunal to define rape in international criminal law and to recognize rape as a means of perpetrating genocide.

The International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) was established by the Security Council in 2010 to finish the work begun by ICTR and ICTY, which formally closed in 2015 and 2017, respectively. The Mechanism consists of two branches corresponding to the two tribunals. The ICTR branch in Arusha began operations in July 2012, while the ICTY branch in The Hague commenced functions in July 2013. During the initial years of the Mechanism's existence, it operated in parallel with ICTR and ICTY. Following the closure of the two tribunals, IRMCT has continued to operate as a stand-alone institution, with the expectation of completing most of its judicial workload in 2020. Reliance on and assistance from Member States, however, remain crucial for the enforcement of sentences and the arrest of eight remaining ICTR fugitives.

The United Nations has played a key role in the development of international law, and it



Source: ICTR (website)

has done so since its inception through the International Court of Justice (ICJ). As the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, ICJ has settled legal disputes submitted by States, and has also provided advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized UN organs and specialized agencies. ICTY and ICTR have played a pioneering role in establishing a credible international criminal justice system and producing a substantial body of jurisprudence on genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, as well as on individual accountability and culpability for such crimes. As ad hoc tribunals, they also paved the way for the eventual creation of the permanent International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2002. Alongside ICC, the UN tribunals and those tribunals assisted by the United Nations—such as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and the Special Court and the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone—have collectively advanced accountability issues in a broad variety of legal areas and addressed a significant range of legacy issues. By issuing arrest warrants and bringing perpetrators to trial, UN tribunals are working to prevent similar crimes from happening again and render justice for thousands of victims and their families—a key element for lasting peace and reconciliation in war-torn countries.

On 24 March 2016, an ICTY Trial Chamber convicted Radovan Karadžić of genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war, and sentenced him to 40 years' imprisonment. The sentence was appealed by both the prosecution and the defendant. Following the conclusion of the appeal hearing, the IRMCT Appeals Chamber, on 20 March 2019, set aside the sentence of 40 years' imprisonment and imposed on Radovan Karadžić a sentence of life in prison.



Radovan Karadžić at the appeals judgment hearing in March 2019. The IRMCT Appeals Chamber in The Hague set aside the sentence of 40 years' imprisonment and imposed on Karadžić a sentence of life imprisonment. 20 MARCH 2019/UN-IRMCT/LESLIE HONDEBRINK-HERMER

In December 2014, the IRMCT Appeals Chamber in Arusha—composed of presiding Judge Theodor Meron, Judge Bakone Justice Moloto, Judge Christoph Flügge, Judge Burton Hall and Judge Liu Daqun—delivered its judgment on the appeal lodged by Augustin Ndirabatware, who had been convicted by ICTR of incitement to commit genocide, instigating and aiding and abetting genocide, and rape as a crime against humanity; and sentenced to 35 years' imprisonment in 2012. The Appeals Chamber reversed his conviction for rape but affirmed his remaining convictions, reducing his sentence to 30 years' imprisonment. 18 DECEMBER 2014/UN-IRMCT



RESOURCES

- International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (website)
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (website)
- International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (website)
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948
- The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols



ON THE VERGE OF GENDER EQUALITY

“We have come a long way in recent decades to ensure that women have the same access to life’s basic needs as men. We have reached parity in primary school enrolment and reduced maternal mortality by 45 per cent since the year 1990. But gender gaps are still too obvious in other areas, particularly those that challenge power relations and are most influential in actually achieving true equality. Today, the fight about gender equality is a story of bias and prejudices.”

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT OFFICE DIRECTOR PEDRO CONCEIÇÃO, 5 MARCH 2020

The women’s movement of the twenty-first century is committed to a visionary agenda for the human rights of women and girls everywhere. Injustice against women and girls, which has plagued humankind for millennia, has long been met by protest movements around the world, many of them predating the United Nations. At its founding, however, Member States set out to position the United Nations as a catalyst for bold initiatives to help bring about

gender equality. Already in 1946, the UN Commission on the Status of Women assumed its role as the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The primary landmark in the codification of the rights of women is the 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women,

a legally binding treaty ratified or acceded to by 189 States Parties as at May 2020. Four World Conferences on Women (Mexico City, 1975; Copenhagen, 1980; Nairobi, 1985; Beijing, 1995) have also served to help advance global policy on women’s issues.

At the 1995 World Conference, Member States agreed on a comprehensive and transformative agenda for gender equality and the

Eleanor Roosevelt (left), member of the United States delegation to the General Assembly and Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission (1946–1951), presents a gavel to Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit of India—the first woman elected as Assembly President.
24 OCTOBER 1953/UN PHOTO/MARVIN BOLOTSKY

*Facing page (clockwise from top left): A participant at the fourth commemoration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (11 February).
11 FEBRUARY 2019/UN PHOTO/MANUEL ELÍAS
Entrepreneur Moringa tree growers on the Tristao Islands in Guinea. 9 NOVEMBER 2015/UN-WOMEN/
JOE SAADE/GHINWA DAHER. Artists from San Juan Comalapa, Guatemala, stand in front of the Centre for the Historical Memory of Women, which memorializes victims of the country’s 36-year-long armed conflict that ended in 1996.
14 APRIL 2018/UN-WOMEN/RYAN BROWN. A wildlife club leader teaching about mangroves in Seychelles.
17 JANUARY 2017/UN-WOMEN/RYAN BROWN*





Top: United States Representative Patricia Hutar making a statement at the World Conference of the International Women's Year in 1975. The Conference defined a World Plan of Action that offered a comprehensive set of guidelines for the advancement of women through 1985. 19 JUNE 1975/UN PHOTO/B LANE

Middle: Participants at the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum in Huairou, China, as part of the Beijing Conference in 1995. The Conference adopted the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. 3 SEPTEMBER 1995/UN PHOTO/MILTON GRANT

Bottom: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with Margot Wallström—the first Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict—and her staff in New York demonstrating the symbol for the 'Stop Rape Now' campaign. Conflict-related sexual violence involves rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, pregnancy, abortion, marriage or any other form of sexual violence perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict. 13 JANUARY 2011/UN PHOTO/PAULO FILGUEIRAS



empowerment of women and girls. The Beijing Platform for Action highlighted 12 areas requiring urgent action: women and the environment; women in power and decision-making; the girl child; women and the economy; human rights of women; education and training of women; violence against women; women and poverty; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; women and health; women and the media; and women and armed conflict. It also laid out concrete ways for countries to bring about real change in policy and practice. Member States bore the primary responsibility for implementing the Platform for Action, with the United Nations playing a critical supporting role.

The vision of the Beijing Conference has led to a number of noteworthy successes. There are more girls enrolled in school than ever before—gender parity in education has been achieved on average, at the global level, although some gaps still persist within and across countries. The global maternal mortality ratio fell by 38 per cent from 342 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births to 211 per 100,000 between 2000 and 2017. Discriminatory laws continue to be revoked: between 2008 and 2017, 274 legal reforms regarding gender equality were carried out in 131 countries. The incidence of child marriage worldwide has gradually declined since 1995 from one in four underage girls to one in five as at January 2020. Women's political representation has doubled since 1995 from 11 per cent of parliamentary seats worldwide to 25 per cent as at December 2019.

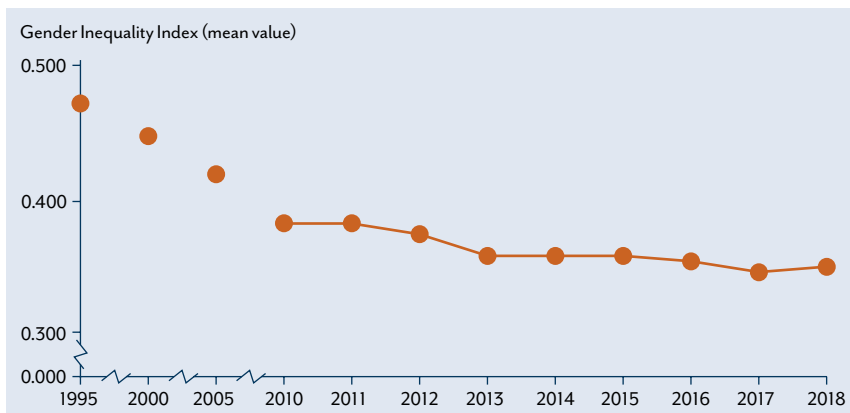
Nonetheless, the visionary Beijing Conference agenda has been only partially realized. The gender gap in labour force participation remained unchanged between 1998 and 2018, at 31 percentage points, and women are still concentrated in precarious forms of work. Improved education among women has done little to shift deeply entrenched occupational segregation

in developed and developing countries, and the global gender pay gap persists in holding at 20 per cent. In too many places and across all sectors, women remain significantly underrepresented in or even locked out of decision-making and leadership roles. Globally, as at December 2018, only 27 per cent of managerial positions in government, large enterprises and other institutions were held by women. Analysis of the 2020 Gender Social Norms Index released by the United Nations Development Programme with data from 75 countries, covering over 80 per cent of the world's population, reveals that gender bias remains deeply ingrained in society—close to 90 per cent of men and women worldwide hold some sort of bias against women.

In view of these challenges, Member States reaffirmed the vision of Beijing when, in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, they underscored that for development to be sustainable, its benefits must accrue equally to women and men.

Renewed efforts by Member States have included greater emphasis on women's rights in the peace and security agenda. Since 1995, ten Security Council resolutions have emphasized the key roles that women play in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In 2006, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recommended that Member States develop National Action Plans on women, peace and security. By 2019, 83 countries and territories

Progress towards gender equality is slowing



Source: UNDP 2020 Human Development Perspectives. Tackling Social Norms: A game changer for gender inequalities



Leymah Gbowee of Liberia, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Sustainable Development Goals Advocate, addresses the General Assembly High-level Thematic Debate on the United Nations, Peace and Security. Her non-violent peace movement brought Christian and Muslim women together to play a vital role in helping bring to an end the 14-year civil war in Liberia, paving the way for presidential elections that resulted in Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf becoming Africa's first female Head of State in 2006. Those developments followed the passing of Security Council resolution 1325(2000), the first Council resolution focusing on women, peace and security, which called for the broad participation of women in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. 10 MAY 2016/UN PHOTO/RICK BAJORNAS

'Generation Equality' is a campaign launched by UN-Women in 2019 to tackle the unfinished business of empowering women.



Source: UN-Women (website)

DID YOU KNOW

... that according to the 2020 Gender Social Norms Index, half of the world's men and women feel that men make better political leaders, and that over 40 per cent feel that men make better business executives and have more right to a job when jobs are scarce?



had such plans in place, although only 22 per cent of them included a budget at adoption.

As an institution, the United Nations has worked to lead by example in promoting gender equality within its own ranks. In 1953, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit of India served as President of the General Assembly—the first of three women to hold that position. The previous year, Ana Figueroa Gajardo of Chile had become the first woman to serve on the Security Council. More recently, in September 2017, Secretary-General António Guterres launched a UN system-wide

Top: A young visitor to the Palais des Nations in Geneva adds her name to a symbolic signature panel in support of the '50 for Freedom' campaign to end modern slavery. The campaign, launched on the World Day Against Child Labour (12 June), promoted ratification and implementation of the International Labour Organization Protocol on Forced Labour. 9 JUNE 2015/UN PHOTO/JEAN-MARC FERRÉ

*Middle: Nadia Murad, UN Office on Drugs and Crime Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking, at UN Headquarters in New York signing copies of her memoir *The Last Girl: My Story of Captivity, and My Fight Against the Islamic State*. Human traffickers mainly target women and girls—72 per cent of victims are female and sexual exploitation is the most-detected form of trafficking. In 2018, Murad, the first-ever human trafficking survivor to serve as a UN Goodwill Ambassador, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. 10 NOVEMBER 2017/UN PHOTO/EVAN SCHNEIDER*

Bottom: Secretary-General António Guterres presents the 2019 United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA) Global Citizen of the Year award to actress Ashley Judd, Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Population Fund, during the annual UNCA awards dinner for her contributions to public awareness about sexual harassment. In 2017, Judd spoke publicly about her encounter with sexual harassment, one of the most prevalent, yet unreported, harmful practices against women and girls. Her bravery and tenacity emboldened women and men worldwide from all races, income classes and occupations to break their silence. 6 DECEMBER 2019/UN PHOTO/MARK GARTEN



strategy on gender parity, with the goal of parity in senior leadership by 2021 and across the United Nations at all levels by 2028. Prior to the launch of the strategy, women's representation in the UN system had already increased from 38 per cent in 2007 to 44.2 per cent in 2017. In January 2020, for the first time, the United Nations achieved gender parity in its senior leadership. Secretary-General Guterres has also strengthened measures to prevent and respond to sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse in the Organization.

In 2019, UN-Women—the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women—launched its campaign 'Generation Equality: Realizing women's rights for an equal future', which has brought together a new generation of women's rights activists with the advocates who created the Beijing Platform for Action over two decades ago. As part of the campaign, UN-Women has initiated six Action Coalitions bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector and the United Nations to focus on supporting feminist movements and leadership; ending gender-based violence; ensuring bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health rights; harnessing technology and innovation for gender equality; feminist action on climate justice; and economic justice and rights for women.

Today, both women and men—and both girls and boys—are raising their voices to speak for themselves and for those who have been silenced, stigmatized and shamed. They are seizing the moment to reimagine economies, societies and political systems that uphold human rights and achieve gender equality. As the global community, with the support of the United Nations, stands on the verge of gender equality, the visionaries who advocate for change inspire us all to overcome bias and prejudice and proudly say: 'I am Generation Equality'.



SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

TARGETS

9

GENDER-SPECIFIC INDICATORS

14

Significant challenges lie ahead in achieving the 2030 Agenda for women and girls:

5.1 Countries lack laws protecting women from domestic violence.

5.2 19% of women and girls aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months.

5.3 650 million women and girls aged 20 to 24 were married before the age of 18.

5.4 Women do 3 times as much unpaid care and domestic work as men.

5.5 Women hold just 23% of parliamentary seats, way below parity.

5.6 Only 53% of women married or in a union freely make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care.

5.a Globally, women are just 13% of agricultural landholders.

5.b Women are less likely than men to own a mobile phone; their Internet usage is 6 percentage points lower than that of men.

5.c More than 100 countries have taken action to track budget allocations for gender equality.

WHY IT MATTERS

Gender equality is central to all the SDGs. If it is not achieved, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be jeopardized.



SPOTLIGHT ON

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Intimate partner violence against women and girls is widespread across the globe. In the most extreme cases, it can lead to death. Social norms and widespread impunity for perpetrators are key challenges fuelling this type of violence.

1 IN 5 WOMEN AND GIRLS aged 15 to 49 reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.*

WOMEN 47% **MEN 6%** Homicide victims worldwide intentionally killed by an intimate partner or family member.**

49 COUNTRIES have no laws specifically protecting women from domestic violence.

37 COUNTRIES exempt rape perpetrators from prosecution if they are married to or subsequently marry the victim.

*Data are latest available (2005–2016) for women and girls aged 15 to 49 across 87 countries. **Based on 2012 or latest year estimates from 52 countries. Sources: Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2017/66). Data on laws are based on a review of 189 countries and territories from the Women, Business and the Law Database, 2016.

Top: The 2018 UN-Women report on *Turning Promises into Action* explains the importance of gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and calls for stepping up efforts to end discrimination against women and girls.

Bottom: In 1993, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and established an International Day (25 November) to raise awareness of the problem. Target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals addresses intimate partner violence. One in three women and girls experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, most frequently by an intimate partner.

Source: UN-Women (website)

RESOURCES

- UN-Women (website)
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995
- Gender equality: Women's rights in review 25 years after Beijing, 2020
- Tackling Social Norms: A game changer for gender inequalities (UNDP 2020 Human Development Perspectives report)
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (website)



THE UNITED NATIONS KEEPING THE PEACE

“The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces is unfortunately a reminder to us that peace is not a matter of course here in our world. Peace has to be actively protected—and this protection has its price.”

NORWEGIAN NOBEL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EGIL AARVIK, 29 SEPTEMBER 1988

Peacekeeping is one of the most important tools available to the United Nations for promoting and maintaining international peace and security. UN peacekeepers are deployed to territories where fighting has been halted to aid in the difficult transition from conflict to peace, including the implementation of peace agreements. The United Nations has no standing army or police force of its own; instead, Member States are asked to contribute military and police personnel required for each mission. Since the first operation was deployed in 1948, more than 1 million women and men from 125 countries have served in 71 missions as military, police or civilian personnel. More than 3,900 peacekeepers have lost their lives in the line of duty. As at 31 March 2020, over 95,000 peacekeepers were deployed in 13 missions around the world, carrying out an array of functions.

UN peacekeeping is guided by three basic principles: the consent of the parties to the conflict, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and in defence of the mission mandate. These principles are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Because the mandate of each peacekeeping operation and the capabilities needed to support it are specified

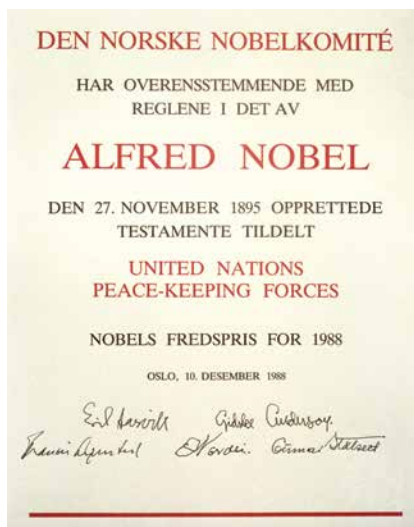


Major-General Bengt Liljestrand (right) of Sweden, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) Chief of Staff, being briefed by UNTSO Observer Commandant Marc Coffens (Belgium), during the former's visit to Khiam, Lebanon in 1974. UNTSO was the inaugural UN peacekeeping operation, deployed in May 1948 to assist in supervising the truce that followed the first Arab-Israeli conflict. Its activities, still ongoing as at May 2020, have evolved along with various geopolitical changes in the Middle East, and have involved the territory of five States: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Protracted crises necessitated the deployment of six additional peacekeeping operations to the region, including two still active as at May 2020: the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights, established in May 1974, and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), established in March 1978. 21 OCTOBER 1974/UN PHOTO/YUTAKA NAGATA

Facing page: Yugoslav contingent members of the first United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I) on patrol duty in the neighbourhood of El Arish in the Sinai Peninsula. UNEF I was the first armed UN peacekeeping operation. It was established in the aftermath of the 1956 Suez crisis by the first emergency special session of the General Assembly, held in November of that year. The mandate of UNEF I was to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities, including the withdrawal of the armed forces of France, Israel and the United Kingdom from Egyptian territory and, after the withdrawal, to serve as a buffer between Egyptian and Israeli forces and provide impartial supervision of the ceasefire. UNEF I was withdrawn in 1967 at Egypt's request. 1 FEBRUARY 1957/UN PHOTO

DID YOU KNOW

... that the United Nations deployed 71 peacekeeping operations worldwide between 1948 and 2020? As at 31 March 2020, there were 13 active operations spread across four continents involving 81,203 uniformed personnel from 121 troop contributing countries as well as 4,386 international civilian personnel, 8,221 local civilian personnel and 1,300 UN Volunteers.



UN efforts in maintaining international peace and security were recognized by the award of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize to UN peacekeeping forces. 1 NOVEMBER 1994/UN PHOTO

UNIFIL is complemented by a six-vessel Maritime Task Force (MTF) that uses helicopters to support its operations off the coast of Lebanon. Pictured is an Indonesian helicopter pilot on patrol flying over an MTF frigate. The MTF is the first naval task force to take part in a UN peacekeeping operation. 26 OCTOBER 2011/UN PHOTO/PASQUAL GORRIZ



in Security Council resolutions, UN peacekeeping reflects the will of the international community.

The inaugural UN peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), was established by the Security Council in May 1948 to oversee the ceasefire in Palestine between Arab and Israeli military forces following the first Arab-Israeli war. In 1949, the Security Council authorized the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). UNTSO and UNMOGIP exemplify the traditional UN peacekeeping model of deploying unarmed military observers into inter-State conflict arenas. While the observers have no direct role in the political

aspects of conflict resolution, their presence helps prevent hostilities from resuming and so contributes to maintaining stability.

The United Nations deployed its first armed peacekeeping operation in 1956 to address the Suez crisis, and the next in 1960 in the newly independent Republic of the Congo. The United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) was the Organization's first large-scale operation, with nearly 20,000 military personnel at its peak. ONUC demonstrated the risks involved in trying to bring stability to war-torn regions: some 250 UN personnel died while serving on that mission.

During the Cold War, UN peacekeeping was widely perceived as a successful endeavour and significant accomplishment of the international community. In 1988, United Nations peacekeepers were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for voluntarily taking on such demanding and hazardous service in the cause of peace.

The end of the Cold War and the 1990s, however, brought new challenges, particularly due to a significant rise in the number of civil wars around the globe. Many of those conflicts occurred in the world's poorest countries, where State capacity was weak and belligerents at times were motivated by economic gain as much as by ideology or historical grievances. The character of such conflicts called for a paradigmatic shift in how the United Nations deployed its peacekeeping operations. UN operations began to adopt a

multidimensional approach that incorporated a wide variety of complex tasks, such as conflict mediation, human rights monitoring, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, and strengthening the ability of States to provide security and social services. Although the military remained the backbone of most peacekeeping operations, many new faces joined in UN peacekeeping, including administrators, economists, police officers, legal officers, deminers, electoral observers, human rights monitors and humanitarian workers. Between 1989 and 1994, the Security Council authorized a total of 20 new operations, raising the number of peacekeepers worldwide from 11,000 to 75,000. Peacekeeping operations were established in countries such as Cambodia, El Salvador, Mozambique and Namibia.

The success of many of those missions tended to raise expectations for UN peacekeeping beyond its actual capacity to deliver. That became clear when some notable setbacks occurred in the mid-1990s, as peacekeeping operations in Rwanda, Somalia and the former Yugoslavia came under sharp criticism for being overwhelmed by hostilities or inaction in the face of genocide. As civilian casualties rose and fighting continued, the reputation of UN peacekeeping suffered. Other setbacks in later years included allegations of sexual misconduct by peacekeepers as well as their complicity in a cholera crisis in Haiti.

Those setbacks led the United Nations to begin a process of self-reflection to prevent future failures. Based on independent inquiries that identified weaknesses in the strategic guidance and decision-making of the Security Council as well as in the Secretariat's management of operations, the United Nations undertook major peacekeeping reforms.



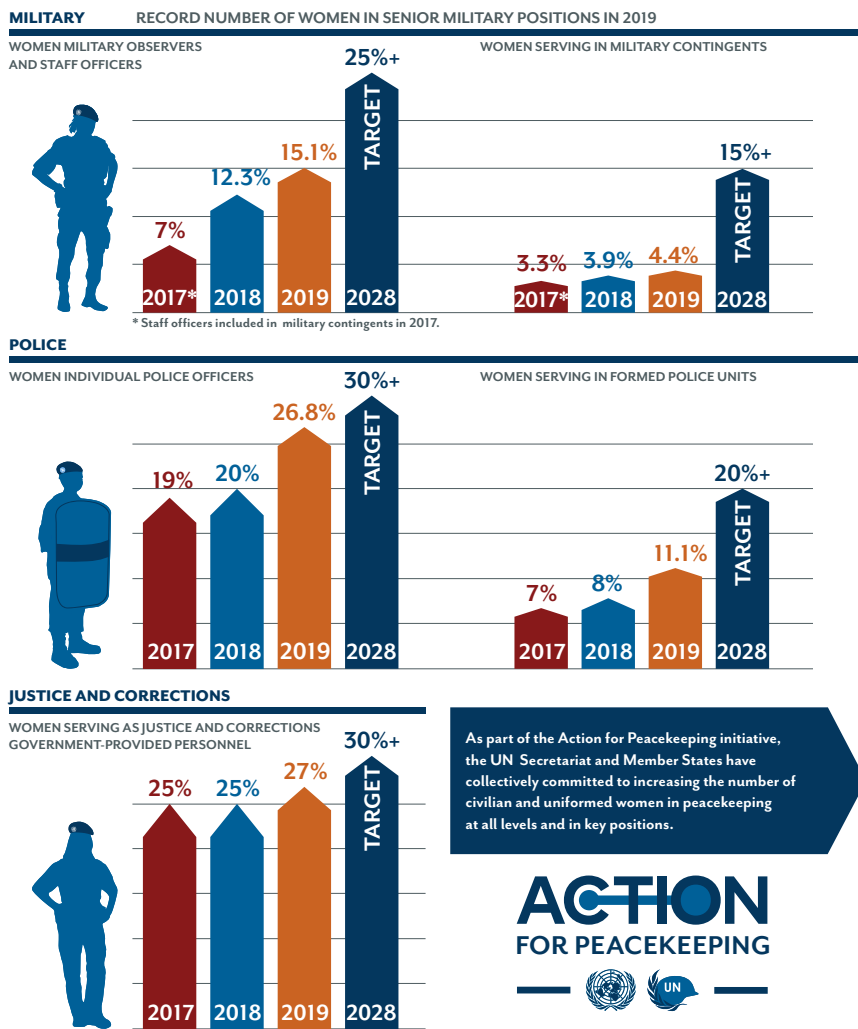
Peacekeepers from the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) are pictured here going over their plans for the day in observing the Line of Control that separates the two countries. The first group of United Nations military observers arrived in the mission area on 24 January 1949 to supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Following renewed hostilities in 1971, UNMOGIP has remained in the area to observe developments pertaining to the strict observance of the ceasefire of 17 December 1971 and report thereon to the Secretary-General. 20 OCTOBER 2005/UN PHOTO/EVAN SCHNEIDER

Bangladeshi peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) show a Cambodian army soldier how to deactivate landmines. At its peak, UNTAC numbered over 21,000 military and civilian personnel from more than 100 countries. Its mandate ended in September 1993 with the promulgation of the Constitution for the Kingdom of Cambodia and the formation of a new Government. 1 JANUARY 1992/UN PHOTO/J BLEIBTREU



UNIFORMED WOMEN IN PEACE OPERATIONS

The Security Council has called for doubling the number of women in uniformed components of peace operations by 2028. Currently, only around 5 per cent of all uniformed military, police, and justice and corrections personnel in the field are women. More efforts are needed to reach the targets for 2028 and beyond.



Data source: UN Peacekeeping. Women in Peacekeeping (website)

Recommendations addressed the need for UN peacekeeping operations to be adequately resourced and equipped, and to operate under clear, credible and achievable mandates, as well as for UN peacekeepers to take a proactive and robust posture for protecting civilians and for adhering to the highest standards of conduct.

With a greater understanding of the limits—and realistic potential—of UN peacekeeping, the United Nations has been able to take on

and successfully perform even more complex tasks. In 1999, the United Nations served as the interim administrator in Kosovo and in East Timor (today Timor-Leste), as the latter was gaining its independence from Indonesia. The 2000s saw a new surge in peacekeeping operations. The Security Council established large and complex missions in a number of African countries: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea/Ethiopia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan and South Sudan. By 2020, many of those operations had completed their mandates, including in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea/Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and, recently, Liberia.

UN peacekeeping remains one of the most important and complex operational responsibilities of the United Nations and a preferred tool of the international community to help countries navigate the difficult passage from conflict to peace. In the face of shifting conflicts and challenges, the United Nations continues to adapt, evolve and improve its peacekeeping performance in partnership with Member States and regional organizations.

In 2018, Secretary-General António Guterres launched the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative. This multi-year agenda for better peacekeeping has spurred strong collective action by all stakeholders, including Member States; the Security Council; the General Assembly; financial, troop and police contributing countries; host countries; intergovernmental and regional organizations; and the Secretariat. The A4P Declaration, endorsed by more than 150 Member States and four intergovernmental organizations, has delivered 45 commitments on eight priority areas: politics; women, peace and security; protection; safety and security; performance and accountability; peacebuilding and sustaining peace; partnerships; and the conduct of peacekeepers and peacekeeping operations. Those commitments testify to how UN peacekeeping has continually evolved over the years in proving itself to be an effective and reliable tool that Member States can employ, where necessary, to foster international peace and security.

An aerial view of United Nations Mission in South Sudan Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites in Bentiu, South Sudan. In 2013, two years after it had gained independence from Sudan, South Sudan plunged into a civil war that killed tens of thousands of people and displaced millions. When masses of displaced persons showed up at UN bases seeking shelter, the United Nations prioritized the protection of civilians and established the PoC sites. 11 JUNE 2016/UN PHOTO/ISAAC BILLY



The United Nations Mission in Liberia was the first UN peacekeeping operation to have an all-female contingent, due to India's deployment of a formed police unit comprised of women. Members of the Indian unit served as role models for Liberia's women and girls, triggering a fourfold increase in the number of Liberian women applying to become police officers. Here, the officers demonstrate martial arts at a ceremony in the capital, Monrovia, at which they were awarded the United Nations medal. 12 NOVEMBER 2008/UN PHOTO/CHRISTOPHER HERWIG



RESOURCES

- United Nations Department of Peace Operations (website)
- Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative (website)
- Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people, 2015
- Yearbook of the United Nations, Part One: Political and security questions
- Security Council resolutions 1325(2000) (on women, peace and security); 1612(2005) (on children and armed conflict); and 1674(2006) (on the protection of civilians in armed conflict)

GROWTH IN UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING

■ 1948	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)	May 1948–present
■ 1949	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)	January 1949–present
■ 1956	First United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I)	November 1956–June 1967
■ 1958	United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL)	June 1958–December 1958
■ 1960	United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC)	July 1960–June 1964
■ 1962	United Nations Security Force in West New Guinea (UNSF)	October 1962–April 1963
■ 1963	United Nations Yemen Observation Mission (UNYOM)	July 1963–September 1964
■ 1964	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	March 1964–present
■ 1965	Mission of the Representative of the Secretary-General in the Dominican Republic (DOMREP)	May 1965–October 1966
	United Nations India-Pakistan Observation Mission (UNIPOM)	September 1965–March 1966
■ 1973	Second United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF II)	October 1973–July 1979
■ 1974	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)	May 1974–present
■ 1978	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)	March 1978–present
■ 1988	United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP)	May 1988–March 1990
	United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG)	August 1988–February 1991
■ 1989	United Nations Angola Verification Mission I (UNAVEM I)	January 1989–May 1991
	United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG)	April 1989–March 1990
	United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA)	November 1989–January 1992
■ 1991	United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM)	April 1991–October 2003
	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)	April 1991–present
	United Nations Angola Verification Mission II (UNAVEM II)	May 1991–February 1995
	United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL)	July 1991–April 1995
	United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC)	October 1991–March 1992
■ 1992	United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	February 1992–March 1995
	United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)	February 1992–September 1993
	United Nations Operation in Somalia I (UNOSOM I)	April 1992–March 1993
	United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ)	December 1992–December 1994
■ 1993	United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II)	March 1993–March 1995
	United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR)	June 1993–September 1994
	United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)	August 1993–June 2009
	United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL)	September 1993–September 1997
	United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH)	September 1993–June 1996
	United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)	October 1993–March 1996
■ 1994	United Nations Aouzou Strip Observer Group (UNASOG)	May 1994–June 1994
	United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT)	December 1994–May 2000
■ 1995	United Nations Angola Verification Mission III (UNAVEM III)	February 1995–June 1997

1995	United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH)	March 1995–January 1996 March 1995–February 1999 December 1995–December 2002
1996	United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH)	January 1996–January 1998 February 1996–December 2002 July 1996–July 1997
1997	United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti (UNTMIH) United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH)	January 1997–May 1997 June 1997–February 1999 August 1997–November 1997 December 1997–March 2000
1998	United Nations Civilian Police Support Group (UNCPSG) United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL)	January 1998–October 1998 April 1998–February 2000 July 1998–October 1999
1999	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)	June 1999–present October 1999–December 2005 October 1999–May 2002 November 1999–June 2010
2000	United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)	July 2000–July 2008
2002	United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET)	May 2002–May 2005
2003	United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)	May 2003–April 2004 September 2003–March 2018
2004	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB)	April 2004–June 2017 June 2004–October 2017 June 2004–December 2006
2005	United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS)	March 2005–July 2011
2006	United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)	August 2006–December 2012
2007	African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)	July 2007–present September 2007–December 2010
2010	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)	July 2010–present
2011	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)	June 2011–present July 2011–present
2012	United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS)	April 2012–August 2012
2013	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)	April 2013–present
2014	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)	April 2014–present
2017	United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH)	October 2017–October 2019

Art 35-42
P. 10

Tout être humain a droit à la
Soin de sa santé, à la
obstacles

d'une condamnation pénale,
Art. 16
à l'individu a le droit de
est circule

la transmission de la
universelle.

Quatrième III
Droits civils
e. 4

P. Cottin Page 5

Art 41 Sécurité

Art 39-40

Art 30
Tout homme a le droit
d'accomplir un travail librement
choisi et à l'épanouissement de
son activité

Tout individu a droit à la sécurité sociale.
La collectivité doit prendre les dispositions nécessaires
pour empêcher le chômage et organiser l'assurance
sociale, l'invalidité, la maladie, la vieillesse et pour
garantir à tous les individus un droit de participation
équitable et universelle au travail et des moyens
d'existence.

Art 31
Dr. Soc.

Le travail librement
choisi
Il peut être
interdit

Art 37
L'enfance
a un droit à des
sécurité

L'accomplis
dans des
conditions
satisfaisantes.
Il doit

Il ne peut ni aliéner
ni transmettre

GOVERNEMENT PROVISOIRE
DE LA
REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

16

droit de
de bet
L'Etat

Constitution

Preamble

Art 38-39
Dr. Soc. 40

Si il ne peut
garantir de
liberté de
liberté de l'homme
respectés et
qui, corollaire
ment, a des
droits
souverainement
respectés, peut
par la guerre et
les menaces de
guerre se rendre
pas abolis

Préambule
Nous, Peuples des Nations Unies
Constatant que l'ignorance et le manque de
toutes les souffrances qui affligent l'humanité et des massacres
en particulier, des massacres qui ont souillé la terre au
cours de deux guerres mondiales,
qui ont entraîné la mort de millions de personnes, l'établissement
d'un régime de terreur et de la peur, de la souffrance et de la misère, a
l'effet d'être à l'abri de la violence et de la nuisance, a
proclamé comme l'un des principes de la Charte
la plus sainte lutte;
que dans la Charte du 26 juin 1945, nous avons
l'homme, dans la dignité et la valeur de la personne
humaine et dans l'absence de toute distinction de race,
de couleur, de langue ou de religion;

qu'un des buts des Nations Unies est de réaliser
la coopération internationale en développant et en encourageant
le respect des droits de l'homme et des libertés
fondamentales pour tous, sans distinction de race, de
langue ou de religion;

qu'il importe que ces droits soient
protégés par la loi
garantis tout

et

KEEPING THE FLAME OF HUMAN RIGHTS

“Human rights are the birthright of every person and in the interests of every country. ... [They] are part of the very identity of the United Nations. Human rights are our ultimate tool to help societies grow in freedom ... [and] to prevent conflict, reduce human suffering and build a just and equitable world.” | SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, 24 FEBRUARY 2020

Amina’s harrowing ordeal began in 2015 when she lost her husband and her brother to a bomb that destroyed their home in Mogadishu during the ongoing civil war in Somalia. Her sons—aged 13 and 14 at the time—were forced to flee along with one of their cousins, for they were in danger of being recruited by the Al-Shabaab armed group. Amina herself left Somalia soon afterwards, going from war-ravaged Yemen on to Sudan, where she finally met up with her sons. There they negotiated with traffickers to take them to Libya, but once the group reached the city of Bani Walid in that country, the traffickers demanded \$10,000 for each of the four family members. Amina did not have the means to pay. The traffickers tortured her for seven months, and then began torturing her sons as well. After Amina and her sons had spent 15 months in captivity, the traffickers, seeing no further profit to be made, released them. Together with a fifth family member, they were brought to the coast and placed on an inflatable boat ostensibly bound for Europe. A few hours after embarking, however, the boat began to sink. The Libyan Coast Guard came to the rescue and brought them back to the harbour. There, representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were waiting,

and arranged for medical care. Eventually, UNHCR was able to evacuate the entire family to safety in the Niger.

The promotion and protection of human rights for everyone, including people like Amina and her family, has been part of the blueprint of the United Nations since its

inception. Indeed, the term ‘human rights’ appears seven times in the Charter of the United Nations. One of the latest expressions of the Organization’s abiding commitment to human rights is the Call to Action for Human Rights, launched in February 2020 by Secretary-General António Guterres. The Call outlines renewed multilateral



Amina with her sons in Niamey, the Niger. Amina and her sons fled Somalia after she lost her husband and brother to a bomb that destroyed their house in Mogadishu during the ongoing civil war in that country. Their transfer to safety from Libya to the Niger was arranged by the Emergency Evacuation Transit Mechanism of UNHCR, established in November 2017. 2 APRIL 2018/UNHCR/LOUISE DONOVAN

Facing page: Early draft version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights written by Prof. René Cassin (France), a member of the UN Commission on Human Rights who was awarded the 1968 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on the Declaration and in the area of human rights. 28 OCTOBER 1998/UN PHOTO/GREG KINCH

**I am born free
and equal and
all human beings
should be treated
in the same way.
Change starts with us.**

Read more & share at
@UnitedNationsHumanRights

#StandUp4HumanRights
#WorldIsInOurHands



Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty."

**I can claim my
rights regardless
of sex, race,
language and
religion.
Change starts with us.**

Read more & share at
@UnitedNationsHumanRights

#StandUp4HumanRights
#WorldIsInOurHands



efforts in seven areas of human rights considered either at risk of being undermined or as representing particular opportunities for tangible progress. It also reaffirms the UN role at the global level in promoting and protecting human rights.

Recognizing the vital link between peace and human rights, the General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The Declaration affirmed, for the first time in human history that all individuals, without any distinction or discrimination, were entitled to basic human rights. It continues to serve as a model for national constitutions around the world, and equally as an inspiration in the conduct of human affairs.

The Declaration laid the foundation for a comprehensive body of human rights law. That body was expanded in 1966 when the General Assembly adopted two multilateral treaties: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with its two Optional Protocols. These two Covenants set out rights and freedoms to which all human beings are entitled, including the right to life, the right to equality between men and women, and the right to education, as well as freedom from hunger, torture and slavery. To date, an overwhelming majority of Member States have adopted both Covenants. Together, the Universal Declaration and the two Covenants form what is commonly known as the 'International Bill of Human Rights'.

Today, a number of UN mechanisms serve to promote and protect human rights. There are ten UN human rights treaty bodies, each comprising a committee of independent experts tasked with monitoring the implementation of the core international human rights treaties adopted by the Organization. The experts address matters such as the rights of children, migrant workers and persons with disabilities, as well as economic, social and cultural rights, discrimination against women and racial groups, torture, and enforced disappearances. The UN Human Rights Council was established in 2006, replacing the 60-year-old Commission on Human Rights as the key intergovernmental body responsible for human rights. The Council conducts the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a comprehensive review of the human rights practices of all Member States. This State-driven process provides each country with an opportunity to declare what actions it has taken to improve its own human rights situation and to fulfil its human rights obligations. The Council also regularly appoints special rapporteurs and independent experts to address a specific human rights issue or country situation. They do so by conducting

A view of the Human Rights Council at its nineteenth regular session in Geneva. During the session, the Council considered reports submitted by States as part of its process to periodically review the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States. The 1,500-square-metre dome ceiling consists of many layers of paint of different colours, composed of pigments from across the globe and sprayed onto the ceiling to create stalactites whose colours vary according to different perspectives. "All of it is a sea upside down, but it is also a cave," said Spanish artist Miquel Barceló, who created the ceiling. "The complete union of opposites, the ocean surface of the Earth and its most concealed cavities." 15 MARCH 2012/ UN PHOTO/JEAN-MARC FERRÉ



A Muslim father grieving over his son's grave in Vitez, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Only two cases have been recognized as genocide by international courts: Rwanda (1994) and Srebrenica (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1995). The UN 'Human Rights Up Front' initiative was launched in 2013 to strengthen the preventive work of the United Nations in recognizing the early warning signals of potential crises. 1 MAY 1994/UN PHOTO/ JOHN ISAAC

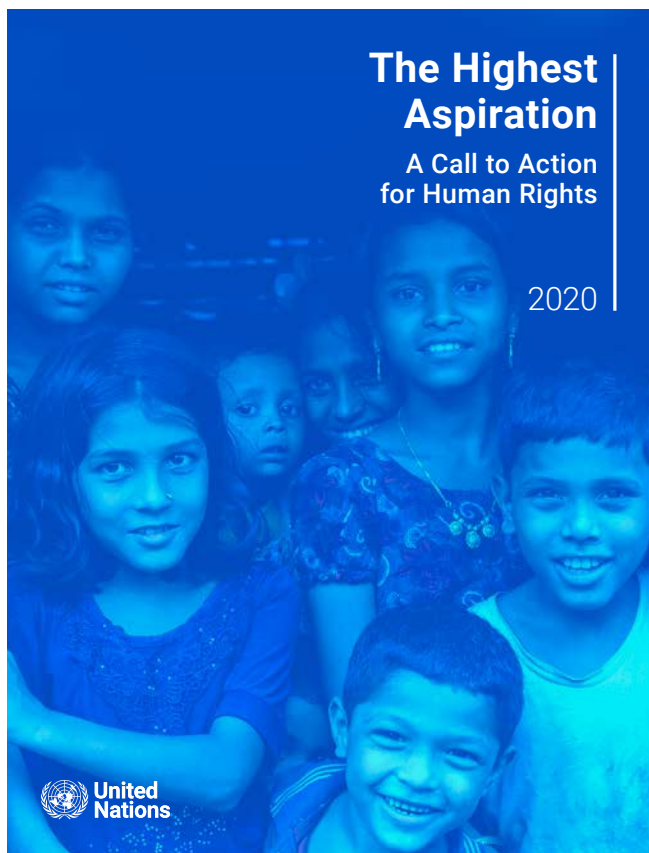


After finding refuge for years at the UN Mission in South Sudan protection of civilians site in Juba, four internally displaced families voluntarily returned home to Malakal by Mission aircraft in February 2020. Many UN missions have the promotion and protection of human rights as part of their mandates. 25 FEBRUARY 2020/ UN PHOTO /ISAAC BILLY



DID YOU KNOW

... that Human Rights Day is celebrated on 10 December every year? The date was chosen by the General Assembly to celebrate its adoption and proclamation on that same day in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



The Secretary-General acts as a defender and guarantor of human rights. He has appointed special representatives on major human rights violations such as sexual violence in conflict and violence against children, as well as for children and armed conflict. In January 2018, Secretary-General António Guterres established the International Commission of Inquiry envisioned by the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. The Commission's mandate—to investigate serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed in Mali since January 2012—was extended until June 2020.

Despite efforts and achievements at the global level in human rights since the establishment of the United Nations, many Governments continue to deny their citizens basic human rights. At times, some Governments have even instigated and supported ethnic cleansing and, in two cases recognized by international courts, committed crimes of genocide.

The Secretary-General appointed his first Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide in 2004, on the tenth anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. In 2007, that Office was strengthened to include the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect. The two Advisers work together to advance efforts to protect populations from atrocity crimes as well as from their incitement.

In 2013, the United Nations launched the 'Human Rights Up Front' initiative to ensure that the UN system takes early and effective action to prevent or respond to serious and large-scale violations of human rights or international humanitarian law. The initiative foresees effecting change at three levels: cultural, operational and political. These changes have transformed the way the United Nations understands its responsibilities and implements them.

From the rights of women and children to those of persons with disabilities, minorities and indigenous peoples, the creation of a body of international human rights law remains one of the major accomplishments of the United Nations. Its efforts have helped forge a greater culture of and respect for human rights around the world. Protecting and promoting the fundamental rights of every human being—keeping the flame of human rights—is integral to achieving what the Universal Declaration aptly describes as the highest aspiration of humankind.

A Call to Action initiated by Secretary-General António Guterres in 2020 has seven focus areas: rights at the core of sustainable development; rights in times of crisis; gender equality and equal rights of women; public participation and civic space; rights of future generations, especially climate justice; rights at the heart of collective action; and new frontiers of human rights.

studies, visiting countries, interviewing victims, issuing appeals and making recommendations as appropriate. As at August 2017, there were 56 special procedures, with 44 thematic and 12 country mandates.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) plays a principal role in the UN system for promoting and protecting human rights. It supports the human rights components of peacekeeping missions and has many country and regional offices and centres. The High Commissioner regularly comments on human rights situations in the world and has the authority to investigate situations and issue reports on them.

Below: OHCHR, Human Rights Education Associates and Soka Gakkai International jointly produced the film *Path to Dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education* to raise awareness about the positive role that human rights education can play in fulfilling human rights. The film depicts three stories of the impact of human rights education on school children (India), law enforcement agencies (Australia) and female victims of violence (Turkey). A key message is that ‘one person can make a difference’ in solving problems in society. Human rights education can change people’s lives, empowering individuals on a path to dignity and bringing about positive change in their respective communities and societies. In this sense, human rights education plays a fundamental role in ensuring equality and equal opportunities, combating discrimination and preventing human rights violations. The film also shows the fundamental role of UN instruments and frameworks—such as the World Programme for Human Rights Education—in advancing implementation of human rights education.



Pupils at Butkhak High School in Kabul, Afghanistan, cheer in unison on the last day of ‘Global Action Week’, an international campaign advocating free, quality education for all. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights devotes two articles—13 and 14—to the right to education. Article 13, the longest provision in the Covenant, is the most comprehensive article on the right to education in international human rights law. 26 APRIL 2009/UN PHOTO/FARDIN WAEZI



TREATY BODIES

There are ten human rights treaty bodies that monitor implementation of the core international human rights treaties:

- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Human Rights Committee
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
- Committee against Torture
- Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Committee on Migrant Workers
- Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture
- Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Committee on Enforced Disappearances

Source: OHCHR (website)



In February 2016, the United Nations Postal Administration launched a set of six commemorative stamps promoting the ‘UN Free & Equal’ campaign. Led by OHCHR, the ongoing global public education campaign raises awareness of violence and discrimination against members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community.

RESOURCES

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and its two Optional Protocols
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (website)
- Yearbook of the United Nations, Part Two: Human rights



RACE TO SPACE: PEACEFUL ACCESS FOR ALL

“A bird cannot fly with one wing only. Human space flight cannot develop any further without the active participation of women.”

COSMONAUT VALENTINA TERESHKOVA, 13 JUNE 2013

Harbouring some 200 to 400 billion stars, our galaxy—the Milky Way—is itself only one of hundreds of billions of galaxies in the vastness of the universe. Outer space represents a seemingly limitless frontier for humanity to explore. On 4 October 1957, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics launched the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth, Sputnik 1. Less than four years later, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin made the first human space flight on 12 April 1961. At the end of that decade, on 20 July 1969, United States astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin ‘Buzz’ Aldrin landed Apollo 11 and walked as the first humans on the moon. Those milestones marked the beginning of the space age, which, at the same time, had become a space race. In the midst of the Cold War, there was growing concern that space might become an arena for dangerous rivalries carried out by the superpowers or for selfish exploitation by those few countries with the necessary resources.

Humanity’s journey to the stars has been pursued in international forums along two separate lines: the peaceful applications of space technology and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. In 1959, the General Assembly established the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to help guide the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity. The Committee was tasked with

reviewing international cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space, studying space-related activities by the United Nations, encouraging

space research programmes and discussing legal problems arising from the exploration of outer space. The Committee played a key role



The Hubble Space Telescope—a collaboration between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)—looks deep into space with cameras that can see across the entire optical spectrum from infrared to ultraviolet. Pictured here is the majestic spiral galaxy M51 (NGC 5194), also known as the ‘Whirlpool Galaxy’, whose graceful, winding arms appear “like a grand spiral staircase sweeping through space. They are actually long lanes of stars and gas laced with dust”. At the outermost tip of one of the Whirlpool’s arms is NGC 5195, the small, yellowish galaxy that has been gliding past the Whirlpool for hundreds of millions of years.
25 APRIL 2005/NASA/ESA/S. BECKWITH (STSCI)/THE HUBBLE HERITAGE TEAM (STSCI/AURA)

Facing page: Four women serving together on the International Space Station (clockwise from lower left: NASA astronaut Tracy Caldwell Dyson, Expedition 23 flight engineer; NASA astronaut Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger; Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Naoko Yamazaki; and NASA astronaut Stephanie Wilson) represented the highest number of women ever simultaneously in space. Space4Women, a UN Office for Outer Space Affairs project, encourages women and girls to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and raises awareness about career opportunities in the space sector. 7 APRIL 2010/NASA

DID YOU KNOW

... that precision agriculture integrating global navigation satellite system and Earth observation data can achieve yield increases of over 10 per cent and reduce the use of other fuels, fertilizers and pesticides by up to 20 per cent? That helps reduce poverty by ensuring adequate and continued access to food and natural resources, while reducing adverse environmental impacts.

Soviet Union cosmonauts Yuri Gagarin and Valentina Tereshkova—the first man and first woman to fly in outer space, in April 1961 (Vostok 1 spacecraft) and June 1963 (Vostok 6 spacecraft), respectively—at a press conference during their visit to UN Headquarters in New York. The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Human Space Flight annually on 12 April to reaffirm the important contribution of space science and technology to achieving sustainable development and increasing the well-being of States and peoples, as well as to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

16 OCTOBER 1963/UN PHOTO/YN



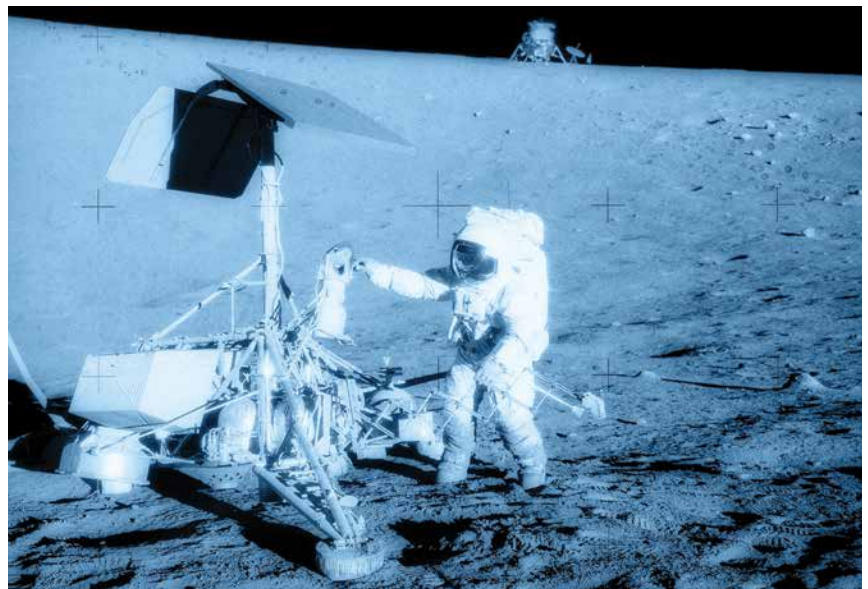
in the creation of five international space law treaties that address access to and the exploration of outer space. The 'Outer Space Treaty' provides a basic framework on international space law and principles governing activities of States in outer space;

the 'Rescue Agreement' supports the rescue and return of astronauts and of objects launched into space; the 'Liability Convention' pertains to damage caused by space objects; the 'Registration Convention' involves the documentation of objects launched

into space; and the 'Moon Agreement' governs activities on the moon and other celestial bodies. The Committee meets annually to discuss cooperation in space exploration and the use of space technology applications to meet global development goals.

Seen here are two United States spacecraft on the surface of the moon: the Apollo 12 Lunar Module in the background and the unmanned Surveyor 3 spacecraft in the foreground. The Apollo 12 Lunar Module, with astronauts Charles Conrad Jr. and Alan L. Bean aboard, landed some 200 metres from Surveyor 3 in the Ocean of Storms.

20 NOVEMBER 1969/NASA



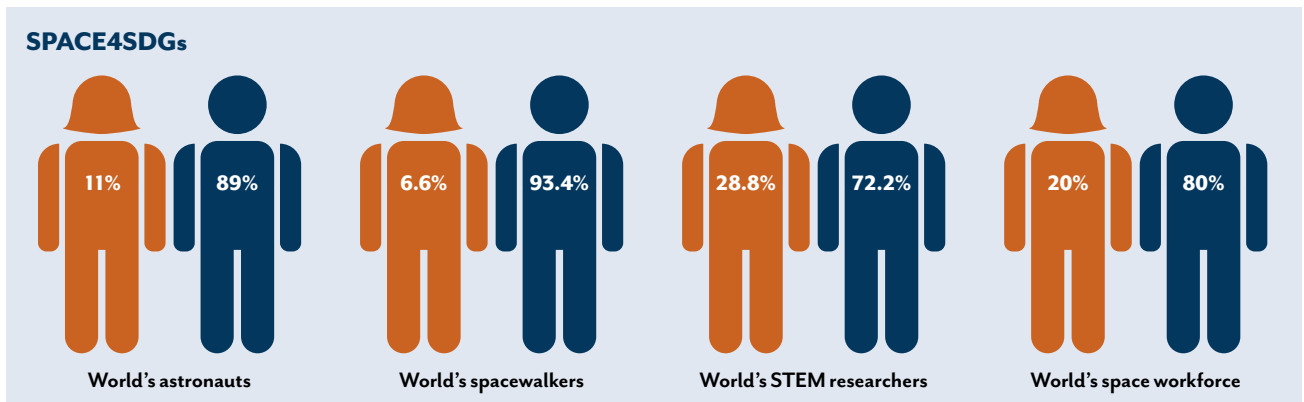
Objects launched into outer space

(as at 20 March 2020)

Year	No.	Year	No.	Year	No.	Year	No.	Year	No.	Year	No.	Year	No.
1957	2	1965	163	1973	138	1981	158	1989	139	1997	152	2005	72
1958	8	1966	145	1974	128	1982	145	1990	168	1998	157	2006	96
1959	14	1967	159	1975	156	1983	154	1991	135	1999	129	2007	111
1960	20	1968	140	1976	158	1984	163	1992	130	2000	121	2008	109
1961	38	1969	138	1977	137	1985	165	1993	108	2001	87	2009	125
1962	77	1970	130	1978	165	1986	134	1994	123	2002	97	2010	120
1963	72	1971	156	1979	124	1987	135	1995	105	2003	88	2011	129
1964	107	1972	133	1980	129	1988	145	1996	100	2004	74	2012	134
												2013	210
												2014	241
												2015	222
												2016	221
												2017	456
												2018	453
												2019	583
												2020	257

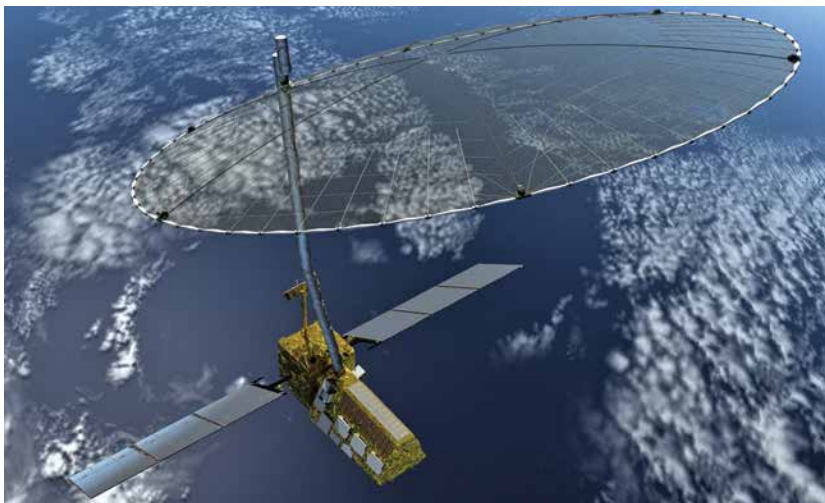
The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) online index, which provides information on objects launched into outer space since 1957, contains data on some 9,289 satellites. Space debris and other non-functional objects are not included. The three most prominent spacefaring countries have launched 3,573 (United States), 3,571 (Russian Federation) and 558 (China) objects into outer space.

Source: UNOOSA (website)



Space technology and its applications play an important role in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Achieving equal and universal access to a quality higher education in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is essential, as the gap between boys and girls increases with the level of education. That gap has direct implications for employment opportunities and also results in disparities between the salaries of men and women. STEM education plays a major factor in diminishing the disparities, as STEM jobs tend to be higher paying. Outer space represents a fast-growing industry. Its current value of over \$380 billion is estimated to triple in the next 30 years.

Source: UNOOSA (website)



The planned NASA-Indian Space Research Organisation Synthetic Aperture Radar mission is scheduled to launch in 2022 to measure Earth's changing ecosystems, dynamic surfaces and ice masses. By providing information on biomass, natural hazards and sea level rise and groundwater, the mission will improve our understanding of key impacts of climate change. International cooperation in space establishes pathways for peaceful exploration for humanity's benefit. In 2014, India became the first country to succeed in a maiden mission to Mars by placing its Mangalyaan, or Mars Orbiter Mission, into orbit around that planet after a 298-day transit. The Mission employs five instruments to study the Martian topography, morphology, mineralogy and atmosphere as well as observe the Martian moon Phobos. NASA



Satellite image of ridges of wind-blown sand that make up Erg Iguidi, an area of ever-shifting sand dunes extending from Algeria into Mauritania in north-western Africa. Satellite imagery can be used to monitor and predict dust storms and other environmental changes. 8 APRIL 1985/UN PHOTO/USGS/NASA

UN-SPIDER uses remote sensing for Earth observation, satellite-based telecommunication and global navigation satellite systems to contribute to disaster risk management and emergency response. The Svalbard Satellite Station near Longyearbyen, Norway, is recognized as the best-located ground station in the world for satellite observation. Another use of satellite data is for climate change adaptation. 8 JULY 2015/UN PHOTO/RICK BAJORNAS



The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) serves as the secretariat of the Committee. It disseminates space-related information to States, maintains the UN register on objects launched into outer space and works to improve the use of space science and technology for the benefit of all nations, in particular

developing countries, through its Programme on Space Applications.

To facilitate collaboration among States and other international organizations in the spirit of global cooperation, the United Nations organized three Conferences on the Exploration

and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE I, II, III) in 1968, 1982 and 1999. The Conferences provided a platform for dialogue on the scientific as well as socioeconomic benefits of space exploration. Conference outcomes included actions to create the UN Programme on Space Applications; prevent an arms race in outer space; set up regional centres for space science and technology education; protect the environment and manage natural resources; increase the use of space applications for human security, development and welfare; protect the space environment; and increase access of developing countries to space science and its benefits. The UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), established in 2006, helps developing countries use space-based information for disaster prevention, preparedness, early warning, response and reconstruction as well as risk reduction management.

UN efforts also focus on how space exploration can support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Earth observation and geolocation provided by global navigation satellite systems represent only two of the many applications to which space-based services and technologies can contribute in helping us understand climate change and monitor and assess disaster management cycles. Another emergency response mechanism: the International Asteroid Warning Network, addresses risks posed by meteorites by defining and monitoring the population of potentially hazardous near-Earth objects. Preparation of a Space2030 agenda as a driver of sustainable development and its implementation were to be considered by the General Assembly in 2020.

More than six decades after the beginning of the space age and the ensuing race to the Moon, some 2,666 functional satellites are orbiting the Earth, with 91 countries and organizations operating their own satellites as at April 2020. More and

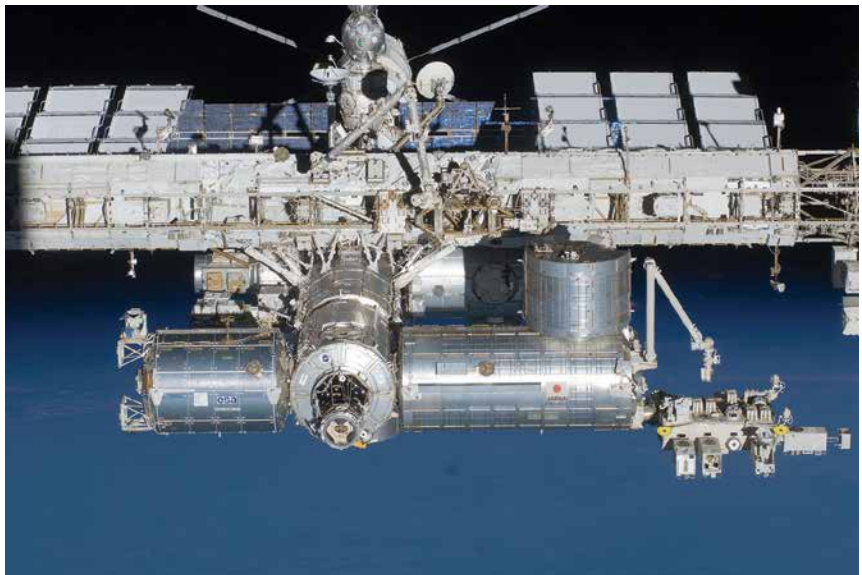
more countries are establishing space agencies and hundreds of private start-ups are entering the space market. Nonetheless, millions of people still lack access to even the most basic benefits of space technologies. The UNOOSA Access to Space for All initiative helps non-spacefaring and emerging spacefaring nations use and benefit from space technologies and applications with the support of spacefaring nations.

In one instance of such cooperation, in September 2015, the University of Nairobi partnered with the University of Rome, Sapienza, and started the University of Nairobi Nano Satellite building programme to design and launch a student-built CubeSat in three years. A response to a UNOOSA announcement of a launch opportunity from the International Space Station, the Kenyan nanosat design won a competitive global selection process, and building of the satellite soon began. In May 2018, Kenya successfully launched its first satellite, 1KUNS-PF, deployed from the Japanese Experiment Module Kibo by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. The Kenyan satellite, owned by the University of Nairobi, takes low-resolution pictures of the Earth. The event made history as the first satellite launched with the support and under the auspices of the United Nations. It was made possible through collaboration among Governments, space agencies, academia and UNOOSA in its role as facilitator. Such projects inspire the next generation of space scientists and engineers around the globe to continue to reach for the stars. They demonstrate that the race to space can truly be won when the peaceful uses of space and their benefits become accessible for all.



A child washes himself in Kallyanpur, a slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Clean water, basic toilets and good hygiene are essential for children's survival and development. More and more countries are gaining access to space and space technology as well as becoming spacefaring nations. Bangladesh started to operate its first satellite, Bangabandhu-1, in 2018. Space technologies facilitate water quality monitoring, meteorological forecasting and access to infrastructural support and technical know-how. 12 JUNE 2010/UN PHOTO/KIBAE PARK

On 11 May 2018, the Japanese Experiment Module Kibo, a human-rated space facility for the International Space Station (ISS), deployed the first Kenyan satellite, 1KUNS-PF, a 1U CubeSat built by students at the University of Nairobi. The ISS programme is a joint project between five space agencies: Canada (CSA), Europe (ESA), Japan (JAXA), Russia (Roscosmos) and the United States (NASA). 29 MAY 2011/NASA



RESOURCES

- [Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space \(website\)](#)
- [UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal \(website\)](#)
- [United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs \(website\)](#)
- [Programme on Space Applications: Human Space Technology Initiative, 2015](#)



OUR SKY, OURSELVES: RESTORING THE OZONE LAYER

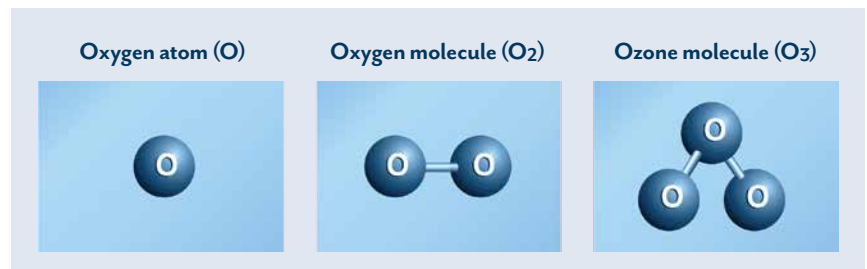
“Extraordinary challenges require extraordinary responses. A generation ago, the world’s nations agreed to act definitively to protect the ozone layer, initiating an intergovernmental process that blazed new trails. ... [T]he remarkable success story of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer provides a beacon of hope. It provides protection for the ozone layer, significantly contributes to climate mitigation and reminds us that, faced with existential threats, the nations of the world are capable of cooperation for the common good.” | SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON, 16 SEPTEMBER 2013

High above us in the sky, a region of the stratosphere extending over our entire planet forms a vital screen protecting humans, animals and plants from the damaging effects of ultraviolet radiation from the sun. This region is the ozone layer. Ozone is a highly reactive molecule composed of three oxygen atoms that occurs naturally in small amounts. The ozone layer—the stratospheric region with the highest ozone concentration, found at some 16 to 35 km altitude—absorbs incoming biologically harmful ultraviolet solar radiation, shielding life on Earth from such effects as skin cancer, cataracts and immune system suppression and helping prevent damage to plants, single-cell organisms and aquatic ecosystems.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)—first synthesized in 1928—are chemicals containing atoms of carbon, chlorine and fluorine that have been used as refrigerants and also as solvents in the manufacture of aerosol sprays, blowing agents for foams and packing materials. Building on the work of Paul J. Crutzen (Netherlands), who demonstrated the connection between microorganisms in the soil and the thickness of the ozone layer, Mario J. Molina (Mexico) and F. Sherwood

Rowland (United States), also working on atmospheric chemistry, discovered in 1974 that CFCs could destroy stratospheric ozone. They found out that once migrated into the stratosphere and broken down by ultraviolet rays, CFCs could create free radicals (highly reactive molecules) that generate complex chemical reactions destructive of the ozone layer. The next year, further research determined that bromine—an element used in fire-retarding halons and agricultural fumigants—was another potent ozone-depleting substance.

In 1985, the discovery of a large winter depletion in the ozone layer situated above Antarctica galvanized the attention of people around the world. The discovery of the Antarctic ozone hole, spanning some 18.9 million square kilometres, delivered the first tangible evidence of stratospheric ozone depletion. Additional studies that same year showed that ozone depletion had adverse environmental and human health effects, exposing the surface of the Earth to greater amounts of harmful ultraviolet radiation.



Oxygen molecules (O₂) constitute about 21% of the gases in the Earth’s atmosphere.

Source: WMO/UNEP Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2018 Update

Facing page: The sun shining brightly over Knoxville, Tennessee, United States. The ozone layer protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun. The phase-out of ozone-depleting substances and related reductions have not only helped protect the ozone layer for this and future generations to the benefit of human health as well as terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, but have also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change. 1 JANUARY 1978/UN PHOTO/R KOLLAR

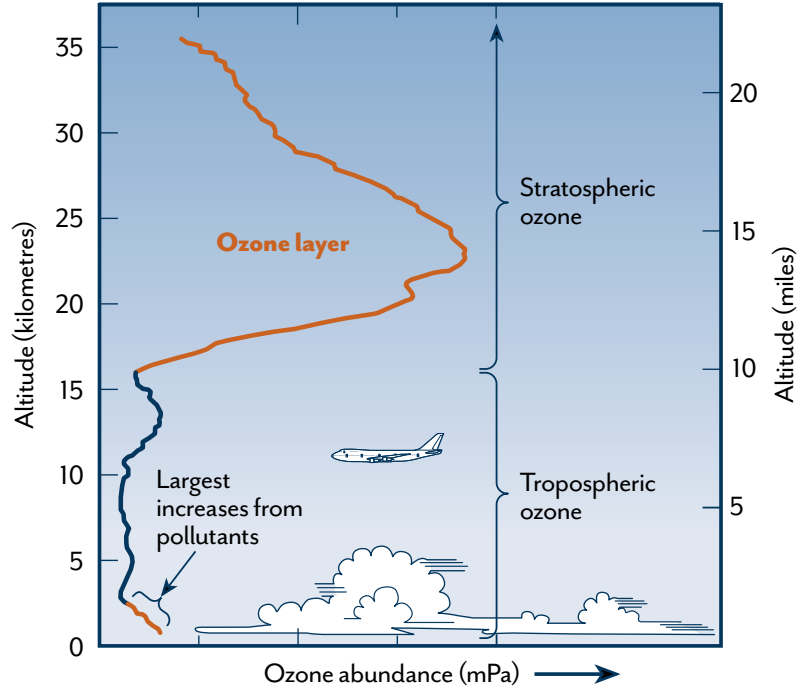
DID YOU KNOW

... that because it plays a vital role in protecting life on our planet from harmful ultraviolet radiation, stratospheric ozone is considered 'good', while ozone in excess of natural amounts at the surface of the Earth that is formed from pollutants—a main component of urban smog—is considered 'bad' because it is harmful for humans and animals to breathe and also damages plants?

Scientific confirmation of the depletion of the ozone layer due to human activity, and the ramifications of that depletion for the well-being of life on our planet, spurred the international community to establish through the United Nations the necessary mechanisms for taking corrective measures.

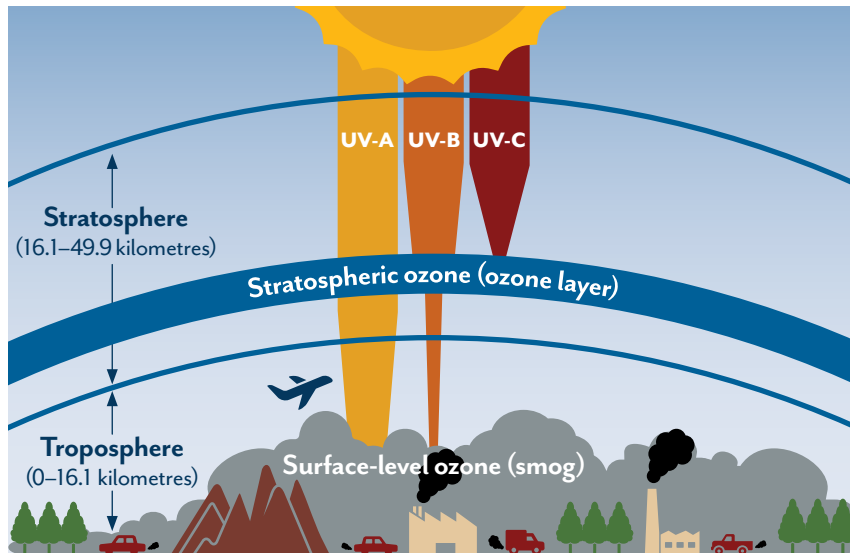
The first major step in that direction was taken already in 1985 with the adoption of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. An international treaty born of the willingness of countries around the world to work together to solve a global problem, the Vienna Convention promoted the exchange of information on the effects of human activities on the ozone layer for the sake of better policymaking to help counteract

Ozone in the atmosphere



Source: WMO/UNEP Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2018 Update

Ultraviolet protection by the ozone layer



The three types of ultraviolet (UV) radiation are classified according to their wavelength. Short-wavelength UV-C is the most damaging type of UV radiation, but it is absorbed by the ozone layer and does not reach the Earth's surface. Medium-wavelength UV-B is biologically active but cannot penetrate beyond the superficial skin layers. It is responsible for delayed tanning and burning; it also contributes to skin ageing and promotes the development of skin cancer. Most solar UV-B is filtered by the atmosphere. Relatively long-wavelength UV-A is responsible for the immediate tanning effect and contributes to skin ageing and wrinkling, and may also enhance the development of skin cancers.

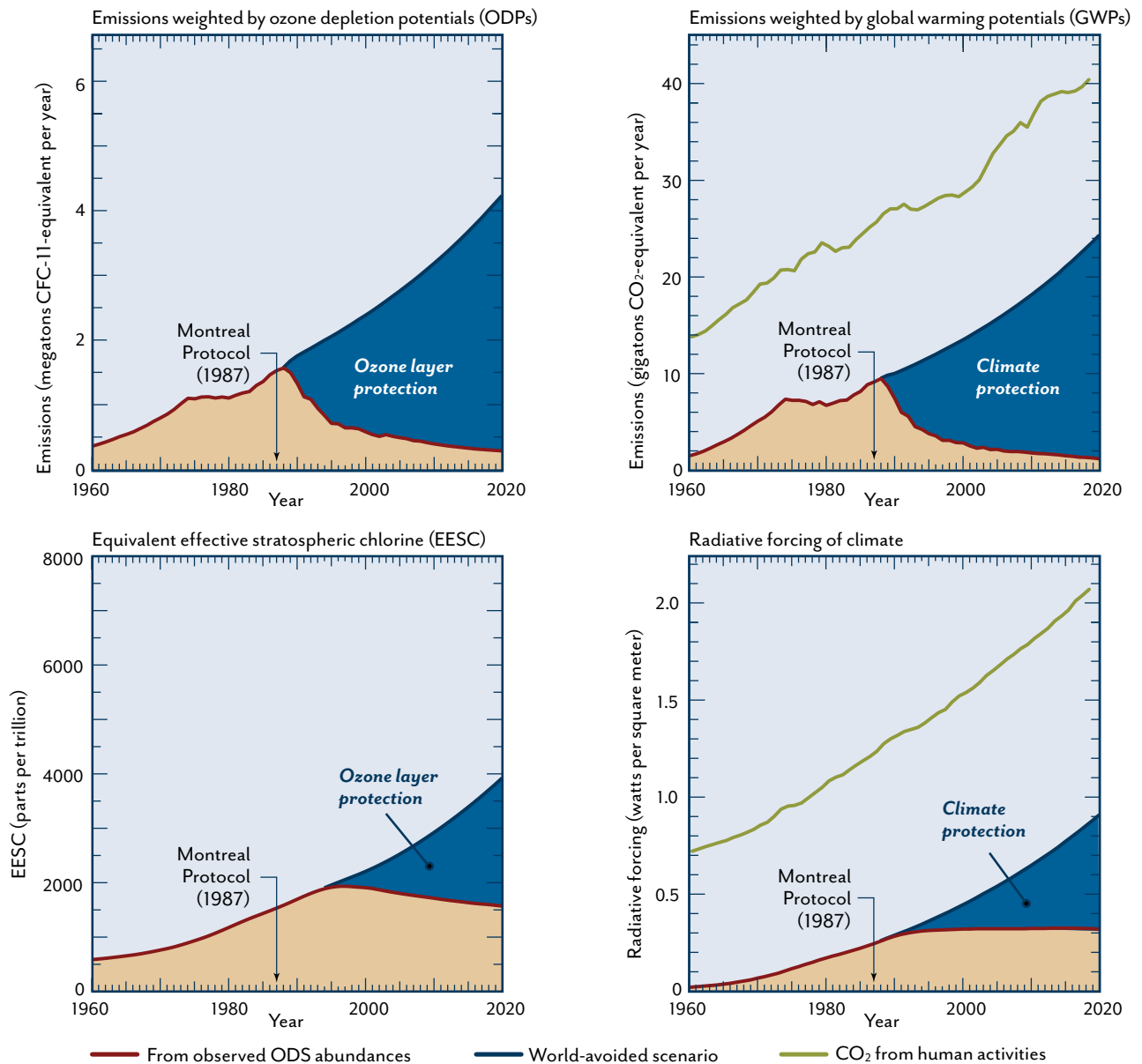
those effects. Just two years later, via the landmark Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the international community took further decisive action to protect and help restore the ozone layer by regulating the global production and consumption of ozone-depleting compounds.

The Montreal Protocol requires the control of nearly 100 chemicals in several categories, with an initial focus on chemicals with higher ozone-depletion potential, such as CFCs and halons. For each group of substances, the Protocol sets out a timetable for phasing out their production and consumption, with

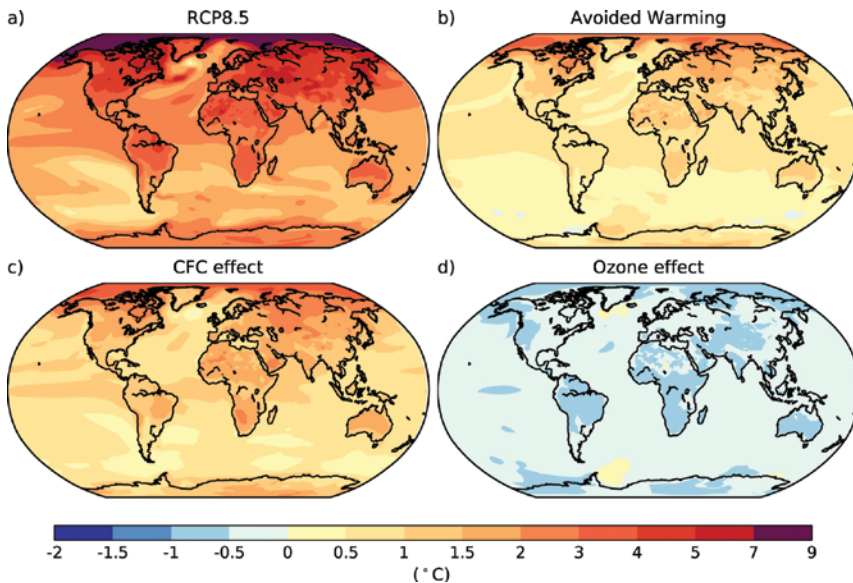
the aim of eventually eliminating those substances. Some exceptions are made for essential uses where no acceptable substitutes have been found, for example, in metered dose inhalers used to treat asthma and other respiratory problems or in halon fire-suppression systems used in submarines and aircraft.

The Montreal Protocol Protection of Ozone and Climate

from global emissions of all ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and carbon dioxide (CO₂)



Source: WMO/UNEP Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2018 Update



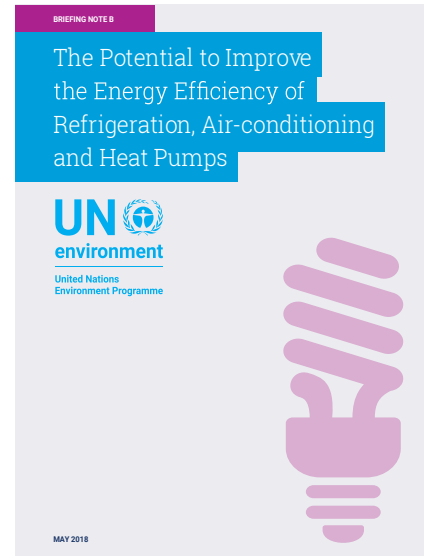
“Change in surface air temperature under different forcing scenarios averaged for years 2041–2060. (a) Mid-century temperature change in the business-as-usual RCP8.5 scenario [i.e. a high-emissions scenario assuming society does not make concerted efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions] compared to a 1951–1980 baseline, (b) Difference between the No Protocol scenario and the RCP8.5 scenario, showing the estimated total mid-century warming avoided under the Montreal Protocol. (c) Estimated effects of CFCs only and (d) ozone only in the No Protocol simulations. The estimates in (c) and (d) are derived from differences between the respective No Protocol scenarios with and without commensurate ozone changes ... All data are shown nominally for year 2050, taken as the average temperature changes across the 5 ensemble members for years 2041–2060.”

Source: R. Goyal, M. H. England, A. S. Gupta, M. Jucker: Reduction in surface climate change achieved by the 1987 Montreal Protocol (Environmental Research Letters 14:12, 2019)

With the Montreal Protocol, concerted multilateral efforts on combating ozone layer depletion—informed by emerging scientific consensus and driven by mounting public concern—succeeded in overcoming initial industry opposition to regulation. The Protocol introduced effective regulation and reduction of ozone-depleting substances and drove the identification of viable commercial alternatives. Indeed, the Protocol has led to the phase-out of 99 per cent of ozone-depleting chemicals in refrigerators, air conditioners and many other products. Atmospheric levels of human-made ozone-depleting substances continued, however, to increase until the year 2000, after which they began to slowly decline, although they remain high enough to still cause some ozone loss.

Introduced in 1992 with different timelines for developed and developing countries, the phase-out schedule for hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)—accepted as transitional substitutes for CFCs—was initially relatively relaxed due to their lower ozone-depletion potential. In 2007, however, States parties to the Montreal Protocol accelerated the HCFC phase-out schedule for both developed and developing countries.

Methyl bromide, used as a fumigant in agriculture, for pest control in structures and stored commodities, and for quarantine treatments, is another ozone-depleting substance that is controlled under the Montreal Protocol. Supported by the UN system through the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the Global



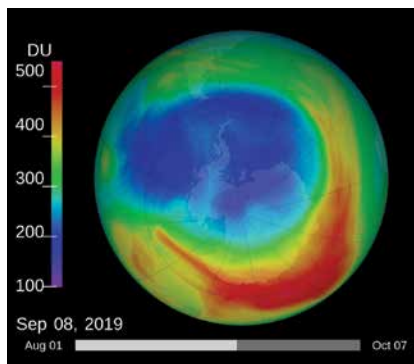
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) houses the Ozone Secretariat for the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol. The Secretariat prepared a briefing note for a 2018 Vienna workshop for States parties on energy efficiency opportunities in the context of phasing-down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), providing an overview of the technical potential to improve the efficiency of refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump equipment.

Environment Facility, developing countries and countries with economies in transition are reducing and ultimately phasing out their consumption of that chemical.

In 2009, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol became the first treaties under the auspices of the United Nations to achieve universal ratification. Due to the unprecedented international agreement and action that those treaties represent, the ozone layer has been recovering. A partial indication to that effect was seen in the latter half of 2019, when scientists found that the Antarctic ozone hole was the smallest on record, although abnormal weather patterns in the upper atmosphere were determined to have played a significant role in that reduction.

The 2018 World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/UNEP Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion shows that parts of the ozone layer have recovered at a rate of 1 to 3 per cent per decade since 2000. At projected rates, northern hemisphere mid-latitude ozone is expected to recover in the 2030s, with southern hemisphere mid-latitude ozone following around 2050. The Antarctic ozone hole should gradually close, with ozone layer recovery in the 2060s as ozone-depleting substances still in the upper atmosphere gradually decline.

The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)—which was adopted in 2016 and entered into force in 2019, and to which 93 nations are party—has helped take global cooperation on restoring



The Antarctic ozone hole begins forming around late August every year and persists until November. Unusual weather patterns helped make ozone depletion over the Antarctic in 2019 the weakest since records began in 1982, resulting in the smallest hole to date. In September 2019, NASA measured the hole at 16.4 million square kilometres, and it shrank further down to 10 million square kilometres for the remainder of September and October. Under the 1987 Montreal Protocol, nations have phased out 99 per cent of ozone-depleting chemicals, but since many of those chemicals only degrade over decades, they are still contributing to the ozone hole. The ozone layer is, however, slowly healing, with complete recovery expected by around 2060. Amounts of ozone are regularly reported in thickness of the total column ozone, commonly known as Dobson Units (DU). The world average is about 300 DU, but varies geographically from about 230 to 500 DU.

21 OCTOBER 2019/NASA GODDARD/KATY MERSMANN

the ozone layer to yet another level. By phasing down HFCs, which are potent greenhouse gases, the world can avoid up to 0.4°C of global temperature rise by the end of the century, while continuing to safeguard the ozone layer. Protecting the ozone layer also contributes to the fight against climate change by averting substantial

amounts of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions. All told, the cooperation of nations towards restoring the ozone layer exemplifies the ability of the international community to work together to meet a global challenge, likewise demonstrating that successfully tackling the climate crisis is also an achievable goal.

What you can do

Protect yourself from ozone layer depletion. Avoid excessive sun exposure.



Take extra precautions because unprotected skin and eyes will be damaged and can burn quickly. Wear sunglasses on bright days.



When outdoors in the sun, use sunscreen, wear a wide-brimmed hat and protective clothing.



Pay attention to the ultraviolet (UV) index, which is an international standard measurement of the strength of sunburn-causing UV radiation at a particular place and time.



An easy way to tell how much UV exposure you are getting is to look for your shadow. If your shadow is taller than you are (in the early morning and late afternoon), your UV exposure is likely to be lower. If your shadow is shorter than you are (around midday), you are being exposed to higher levels of UV radiation. Seek shade and protect your skin and eyes.

Take care of your appliances to minimize ozone layer impact. Use refrigerators, air conditioners and other equipment responsibly to assist in protecting the ozone layer and climate.



Have your car and home air conditioner and refrigerator checked for leaks. When possible, leaky units should be repaired before being refilled.



When your equipment needs to be serviced, ask for trained, qualified and certified experts to ensure the equipment is properly repaired and carrier gases are recycled.



Insulate your walls, doors and windows properly for improved energy efficiency and prolonged life of your equipment.



Mount your refrigerator so that air can easily circulate at the back and do not put the refrigerator freezer next to an oven or dishwasher.



Set the thermostat of your refrigerator and freezer at the right temperature (avoid too low temperatures) and switch equipment off when not in use, as even a standby mode consumes energy.



Switch your car air conditioner on after you have been driving for a few minutes with windows open and park your car in the shade.



Put only necessary things in your freezer, remove items that have been there for months, take frozen food out of the freezer early and let it thaw in the refrigerator.



Mount the air-conditioner condenser in the shade outside, use blinds if there is too much sun influx that needs to be cooled away and clean your condenser and evaporator regularly.



Clean the refrigerator regularly at the back where the condenser is located and de-ice the freezer regularly.



Keep rooms cool at night with ventilation, without air conditioning if possible, and also remember that a higher setting of your air conditioner's thermostat saves a lot of energy.



Dispose of appliances and equipment with refrigerants responsibly. When you buy a new appliance such as a refrigerator, dispose of the old appliance by taking your old refrigerator to a qualified and certified expert, as refrigerators and freezers contain refrigerants that must be removed and recovered before other parts are recycled.

Source: UNEP Ozone Secretariat

RESOURCES

- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, 1985
- UNEP Ozone Secretariat (website)
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 1987
- WMO/UNEP Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion reports (quadrennial)



ATOMS FOR DEVELOPMENT

“The environmental advantages of [sterile insect technique (SIT)] are accepted worldwide. In fact, in the Los Angeles basin Medfly SIT campaign, environmentalists demonstrated in favour of expanding SIT releases to other areas that were still treated with insecticides. This has been one of the rare occasions where environmentalists have demonstrated in favour of a nuclear technique!” | INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY DIRECTOR GENERAL HANS BLIX, 1 MAY 1996

For over sixty years, the United Nations has been at the forefront of promoting and facilitating the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. Through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which was established in 1957 with a dual mandate emphasizing the non-proliferation of

nuclear weapons as well as peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the United Nations has carried out projects around the world that have encompassed the full spectrum of nuclear issues. IAEA assistance programmes are enabling Member States to access nuclear know-how, training and

equipment in order to treat cancer, generate electricity, manage their water supplies, protect the oceans and monitor climate change.

One of the most successful instances of the peaceful use of nuclear energy has been in the food and agriculture



Unguja Island (Zanzibar) of the Zanzibar archipelago, Tanzania



In 1996, the tsetse fly (*Glossina austeni*) was eradicated on Unguja Island in the Zanzibar archipelago, Tanzania, through the use of the sterile insect technique (SIT). Tsetse flies were devastating livestock herds by transmitting a parasitic disease. 13 JUNE 2015/IAEA/ANA RODRIGUEZ

Source: FAO (website)

Facing page: A Maasai cattle herder tending to a herd of cattle in Tanzania. Sustainable livestock management is essential for global food security. Nuclear technologies can help improve livestock production and animal nutrition, and diagnose and control the spread of disease, while conserving natural resources. MAY 2014/FAO/GIUSEPPE BIZZARRI



A scientist at an IAEA training course learns how to use the nuclear-driven sterile insect technique to detect the Zika virus and control mosquito populations, thereby helping to curb the spread of Zika and other deadly diseases that are transmitted by mosquitoes.

7 APRIL 2016/IAEA/DEAN CALMA

sector. For over half a century, IAEA has helped facilitate the use of the sterile insect technique (SIT), an environmentally friendly insect pest-control method. SIT involves the mass-rearing and sterilization, using radiation, of a target pest, followed by the release of the sterile males by air over defined areas, where they mate with wild females, resulting in no offspring and a declining pest population. This process helps significantly reduce losses in crop and livestock production.

The eradication of the tsetse fly in many parts of Africa shows how SIT

can help substantially improve lives and livelihoods around the world. The tsetse fly (*Glossina austeni*) is a blood-sucking insect that transmits a deadly parasite, trypanosome, which attacks the blood and nervous system of its hosts. It causes trypanosomiasis, which is known as nagana in livestock and sleeping sickness in humans. Sleeping sickness threatens some 65 million people in 36 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Humans affected by sleeping sickness develop various and often-fatal neurological symptoms, including deep sensory disturbances, seizures and sleep disorders. In livestock, nagana

triggers a debilitating chronic condition that reduces fertility, weight gain and meat and milk production and renders livestock too weak to be used for ploughing or transport, which in turn adversely affects crop production. No vaccine against trypanosomiasis exists for livestock or humans because the parasite is able to evade mammalian immune systems.

On Unguja Island in the Zanzibar archipelago in Tanzania, the livelihoods of farmers who raised cattle and grew crops for a living had been devastated by the tsetse fly. From 1994 to 1997, however,



IAEA supports the many peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Pictured here is the use of a nuclear technique called isotope hydrology to study the quality of the local water supply in Mendoza, Argentina. In Argentina, as in many parts of the world, water is at risk of over-exploitation and contamination. To protect it, scientists are using nuclear technology to determine the quantity and quality of water supplies. They use naturally occurring isotopes as tracers and study water's isotopic composition to find out where groundwater comes from, how it travels, if it is recent or old, its recharge rate and whether it is polluted. IAEA supports countries through training, equipment and technical expertise in isotope hydrology.

11 OCTOBER 2017/IAEA/LAURA GIL MARTÍNEZ

the island community and the Tanzanian Government worked with IAEA and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on an SIT programme that would eventually enable the island to become the first territory in Africa to rid itself of the pest.

Prior to IAEA involvement in Zanzibar, FAO and the United Nations Development Programme had been assisting the farmers in using conventional methods to control the tsetse fly population, such as treating cattle with an insecticidal pour-on application and the use of cloth targets soaked with insecticide that attracted

and killed tsetse flies on contact. The intensive use of insecticide helped reduce, but did not eliminate the tsetse fly population, and significant problems remained for the farmers.

Then in 1994, tsetse fly mass-breeding technology and procedures developed at the FAO/IAEA Agriculture and Biotechnology Laboratory in Seibersdorf, Austria, were transferred to the Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Research Institute (TTRI) in Tanga on mainland Tanzania, the largest tsetse-breeding facility in the world. TTRI sterilized an average of 70,000 male tsetse flies every week using low doses of gamma radiation and then

released them by air over infested areas in Zanzibar. Almost 8 million sterile male flies were released during a four-year eradication campaign.

At the end of 1997, an independent expert group confirmed that since September 1996, not a single wild tsetse fly had been captured in the once heavily infested areas of Zanzibar. The impact on farm productivity was remarkable. Within three years of the tsetse fly eradication, the proportion of small farmers rearing indigenous cattle increased from 31 to 94 per cent; sales of milk from indigenous cattle increased from 11 to 62 per cent;

THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

- Supports countries in using nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes.
- 171 member States (as at February 2020).
- 3 international laboratories (Vienna and Seibersdorf, Austria; Monaco).

Industry

- Identify and assess the properties of different materials, such as concrete, as well as the stability of buildings, bridges and pipes.
- Measure pollution levels.
- Sterilize medical devices.

Health

- Prevent, diagnose and treat health conditions such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases.
- Detect, control and prevent infectious diseases such as COVID-19, Ebola, malaria and Zika.
- Monitor and address malnutrition and obesity.

Water

- Assess water quality.
- Determine the source, age, movement and interactions of water above and below ground.

Energy

- Produce energy in some 30 countries.

Environment

- Evaluate the potential effects of pollution and climate change on the environment and on human health.
- Monitor emissions and environmental changes to the ocean and ecosystems and predict their impacts.

Food and agriculture

- Ensure the safety and quality of food.
- Control insect pests, for example through application of the sterile insect technique.
- Produce plant varieties that have higher yields, greater resilience to climate change and tolerance to environmental stresses.
- Develop sustainable land and water management practices.

How is nuclear technology being used?

Source: IAEA Annual Report 2018

DID YOU KNOW

... that despite the increased use of pesticides, insects account for most of the world's pre- and post-harvest food losses—which can run as high as 40 per cent—and significantly impact agricultural production and food security?

and the percentage of farmers with improved cattle breeds increased from 2 to 24 per cent.

Inspired by the success of Zanzibar, the Organisation of African Unity launched a campaign to control the tsetse fly on the African continent in 2002. Since then, SIT has been successfully deployed against the tsetse fly in the Niayes area of Senegal. On 8 December 2018, the Niayes area was declared tsetse-free by the Government after a four-year eradication campaign. In Ethiopia, the tsetse fly population was reduced by 90 per cent in parts of the Southern Rift Valley by December 2019.

In other parts of the world, examples of successful implementation of SIT as part of area-wide integrated pest management (AW-IPM) programmes have included the eradication of the Mediterranean fruit fly from Mexico's Chiapas state in 1982, four years after the first sterile fly releases in 1978. In 2015, IAEA and FAO provided assistance to the Dominican Republic in using SIT to contain an outbreak of the Mediterranean fruit fly. The country was able to eradicate the fruit fly within two years, and regain access to export markets worth over \$50 million a year.

In spite of such advances, insect pests still account for most of the world's pre- and post-harvest food losses—which can run as high as 40 per cent—and significantly impact agricultural production and food security. Because insect pests transmit diseases that affect humans, livestock and crops, they continue to considerably disrupt international trade in agricultural products.



Cancer specialists at the University Medical Centre 'Mother Teresa' Hospital in Tirana, Albania, observing a patient's set-up ahead of radiotherapy treatment. As in many parts of the world, cancer continues to be a major public health problem in Albania. IAEA played a key role in the development and operation of the hospital. As recently as 2018, 'Mother Teresa' was the only public hospital providing radiation therapy treatment in Albania—treating up to 90 per cent of all cancers in the country. 17 JULY 2018/IAEA/ALEJANDRA SILVA

Radiation oncologists from developing countries receiving hands-on training at IAEA Headquarters in 3D radiotherapy tools to provide more accurate cancer diagnosis and treatment. This type of training is often out of reach for doctors in low- and middle-income countries. IAEA gives high priority to making nuclear science and technology available to its member States—especially developing countries—in a safe, secure and peaceful manner, helping them achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. 25 JUNE 2015/IAEA/DEAN CALMA



The Joint FAO/IAEA Programme of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture assists countries in implementing environmentally friendly and sustainable methods to control insect pests of agricultural as well as veterinary and human significance. As at April 2020, the Insect Pest Control Subprogramme of the Joint FAO/IAEA Programme of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture was supporting 21 technical cooperation projects worldwide to assist countries in conducting national, regional (transboundary) and interregional AW-IPM programmes against major insect pests such as fruit flies, moths, tsetse flies, screwworm flies and mosquitoes.

The use of nuclear techniques as supported by IAEA contributes directly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Nuclear and isotopic techniques help fight hunger (SDG 2) by improving child nutrition and saving the livelihoods of farmers and farm workers, while nuclear science increases food production by helping farmers make better use of water, soil and crop resources (SDGs 6, 14 and 15, respectively). Radiation cancer therapies promote good health and well-being worldwide (SDG 3), while many countries find that nuclear power contributes to achieving affordable and clean energy for all (SDG 7) and mitigating climate change (SDG 13). IAEA also facilitates technological research and innovation (SDG 9) while working with key partners (SDG 17) to help make nuclear science and technology and their benefits more widely available to everyone.



Heritage conservation specialists at the Institute of Brazilian Studies in São Paulo, Brazil, preparing a book damaged by mould for the process of irradiation. In one of the most poignant examples of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, radiation techniques are being increasingly used throughout the world to preserve artefacts without causing any damage. 11 MAY 2015/IAEA/LOUISE POTTERTON

Close-up of Binadahn 7, a new rice variety in Bangladesh. Many farmers in Bangladesh are growing new plant varieties developed by scientists at the Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture. The institute has worked closely with IAEA to develop new varieties of crops using nuclear and other conventional plant-breeding techniques. The new plant varieties are selected for their improved traits, such as shorter growing times, better tolerance to salty soils and higher yields. These plants enable farmers to grow more food to feed their families and to sell at the market. 5 OCTOBER 2016/IAEA/NICOLE JAWERTH



RESOURCES

- [Joint FAO/IAEA Nuclear Techniques Programme in Food and Agriculture \(website\)](#)
- [IAEA Conducts Successful Test of Drones in Fight Against Disease-Transmitting Mosquitos, 19 April 2018](#)
- [IAEA Sustainable Development Goals \(website\)](#)
- [IAEA Controlling Insect Pests with the Sterile Insect Technique, 2018](#)

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



In 2015, United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, committing themselves to a strong, universal, ambitious, inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda. By way of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets, the Agenda aims, by 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; combat inequalities within and among countries; build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. The Agenda also foresees creating conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all. The central role in reviewing progress on the Agenda belongs to the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, while a Technology Facilitation Mechanism supports the use of technology in implementing the SDGs.

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Poverty has many dimensions, but its causes include unemployment, social exclusion, and high vulnerability of certain populations to disasters, diseases and other phenomena which prevent them from being productive. Growing inequality is detrimental to economic growth. Ensuring social protection for all children and other vulnerable groups is critical to reduce poverty.

Efforts to reduce poverty include the creation of enabling environments to generate productive employment for the poor and marginalized. That can be achieved through strategies and fiscal policies that stimulate pro-poor growth, and by focusing the promotion of economic opportunities on segments of the economy where most of the poor are active, namely on micro- and small enterprises and those operating in the informal sector.

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Hunger affects people worldwide, but the vast majority are in developing countries. Climate-induced shocks, civil insecurity, economic downturns and declining food production have all contributed to food scarcity and high food prices. A profound change of the global food and agriculture system is needed. It is time to rethink how we grow, share and consume our food.

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries can provide nutritious food for all and generate decent incomes, but small-scale food producers and family farmers require more support, and investment in infrastructure and technology for sustainable agriculture is urgently needed. Greater investment in the agriculture sector is critical for reducing the perils of hunger and poverty, improving food security, creating employment and building resilience to disasters and shocks.



ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development. At least half the world’s population is still without access to essential health services. Ensuring healthy lives for all requires a strong commitment, but the benefits outweigh the cost. Healthy people are the foundation for healthy economies. The cost of inaction is greater: millions of children will continue to die from preventable diseases, women will die in pregnancy and childbirth, and health care costs will continue to plunge millions of people into poverty.

More efforts are needed to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many different persistent and emerging health issues. By focusing on providing more efficient funding of health systems, improved sanitation and hygiene, and increased access to physicians, significant progress can be made in helping save the lives of millions.



ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to creating sustainable development. In addition to improving quality of life, access to inclusive education can help equip people with the tools required to develop innovative solutions to the world’s greatest problems.

In order to reach children of impoverished families, investment is needed in educational scholarships, teacher training workshops, school-building and better water and electricity access for schools.



ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large. Implementing new legal frameworks regarding female equality in the workplace and the eradication of harmful practices targeted at women is crucial to ending the gender-based discrimination still prevalent in many countries around the world.



ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Clean, accessible water for all is an essential part of the world we want to live in, and there is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve this. To improve sanitation and access to drinking water, increased investment in the management of freshwater ecosystems and sanitation facilities on a local level is required, especially in developing countries.

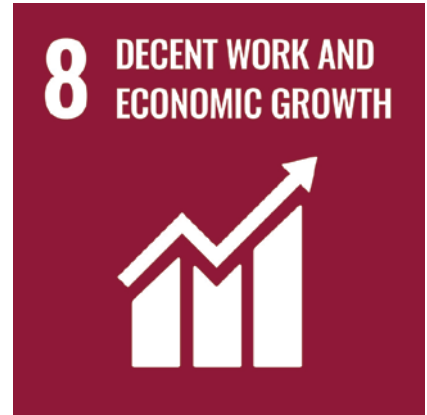
Proper water and sanitation is a key foundation for good health and gender equality. By managing our water sustainably, we are also able to better manage our production of food and energy and contribute to decent work and economic growth. Moreover, we can preserve our water ecosystems and their biodiversity, and take action on climate change.



ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today. Be it for jobs, security, climate change, food production or increasing incomes, access to energy for all is essential. Focusing on universal access to energy, increased energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable energy through new economic and job opportunities is crucial to creating sustainable and inclusive communities and resilience to environmental issues such as climate change.

Public and private investments in energy need to be increased and focus more on regulatory frameworks and innovative business models to transform the world's energy systems.



PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

A lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient investments and underconsumption lead to an erosion of the basic social contract underlying democratic societies: that everyone must share in progress.

Sustainable economic growth requires societies to create the conditions allowing people to have quality jobs that stimulate the economy while not harming the environment. Job opportunities and decent working conditions are also required for the whole working-age population. There needs to be increased access to financial services to manage incomes, accumulate assets and make productive investments. Strengthened commitments to trade, banking and agriculture infrastructure will also help increase productivity and reduce unemployment levels in the world's most impoverished regions.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

Investments in infrastructure—transport, irrigation, energy and information and communications technology—are crucial to achieving sustainable development and empowering communities in many countries. It has long been recognized that growth in productivity and incomes and improvements in health and education outcomes require investment in infrastructure.

Technological progress is the foundation of efforts to achieve environmental objectives such as increased resource and energy efficiency. Without technology and innovation, industrialization will not happen, and without industrialization, development will not happen. There is a need for greater investment in high-tech products that increase efficiency and in mobile cellular services that improve connections between people.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

The international community has made significant strides towards lifting people out of poverty. The most vulnerable nations—the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing states—continue to make inroads in poverty reduction. Inequality persists, however, and large disparities remain regarding access to health and education services and other assets.

To reduce inequality, policies should be universal in principle, paying attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized populations. Actions to that effect would include an increase in duty-free treatment and a continuation of favouring exports from developing countries, in addition to increasing the voting share of developing countries in the International Monetary Fund. Finally, innovations in technology can help reduce the cost of transferring money for migrant workers.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Cities are hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity, social development and much more. At their best, cities have enabled people to advance socially and economically. With the number of people living in cities projected to rise to 5 billion by 2030, it is important that efficient urban planning and management practices are in place to deal with the challenges brought by urbanization.

Rapid urbanization challenges such as the safe removal and management of solid waste can be overcome in ways that allow cities to continue to thrive and grow, while improving resource use and reducing pollution and poverty. Making cities and communities sustainable means creating a future in which cities and communities provide opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and more.



ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Sustainable consumption and production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency and sustainable infrastructure; and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. Its implementation helps achieve overall development plans; reduce future economic, environmental and social costs; strengthen economic competitiveness; and reduce poverty.

Since sustainable consumption and production aims at doing more and better with less, net welfare gains from economic activities can increase by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution along the whole life cycle, while increasing quality of life. There also needs to be significant focus on supply chain operations involving everyone from producer to final consumer. That includes educating consumers on sustainable consumption and lifestyles, providing them with adequate information through standards and labels, and engaging in sustainable public procurement.



TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

Climate change affects every country and every continent. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives, costing people, communities and countries dearly today and even more tomorrow. Weather patterns are changing, sea levels are rising, weather events are becoming more extreme and greenhouse gas emissions are at their highest levels in history. Without action, the world's average surface temperature is likely to rise by more than 3°C this century. The poorest and most vulnerable people are being affected the most.

Affordable, scalable solutions are now available to enable countries to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies. The pace of change is quickening as more people are turning to renewable energy and a range of other measures that will reduce emissions and increase adaptation efforts. Climate change, however, is a global challenge that does not respect national borders. It is an issue that requires solutions that need to be coordinated at the international level to help developing countries move towards a low-carbon economy.



CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The world's oceans—their temperature, chemistry, currents and life—drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. Our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, coastlines, much of our food and even the oxygen in the air we breathe are all ultimately provided and regulated by the sea. Throughout history, oceans and seas have been vital conduits for trade and transportation.

Careful management of this essential global resource is a key feature of a sustainable future. Deterioration of coastal waters owing to pollution and ocean acidification is having an adverse effect on the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity. This is also negatively impacting small scale fisheries. Marine protected areas need to be effectively managed and well-resourced. Regulations need to be put in place to reduce overfishing, marine pollution and ocean acidification.

15 LIFE ON LAND



PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Forests cover almost one third of the Earth's surface. In addition to providing food security and shelter, they are key to combating climate change and protecting biodiversity and the homes of indigenous populations. By protecting forests, we will also be able to strengthen natural resource management and increase land productivity.

Deforestation and desertification—caused by human activities and climate change—pose major challenges to sustainable development and have affected the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in the fight against poverty. International agreements promoting the equitable use of resources and financial investments in support of biodiversity are important for managing forests and combating desertification.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

Crimes that threaten the foundation of peaceful societies, including homicides, trafficking and other organized crimes, as well as discriminatory laws or practices, affect all countries. Violence, in all its forms, has a pervasive impact on societies. Violence affects children's health, development and well-being, and their ability to thrive. It causes trauma and weakens social inclusion. Lack of access to justice means that conflicts remain unresolved and people cannot obtain protection and redress. Institutions that do not function according to legitimate laws are prone to arbitrariness and abuse of power, and less capable of delivering public services to everyone.

To achieve peace, justice and inclusion, it is important that governments, civil society and communities work together to implement lasting solutions to reduce violence, deliver justice, combat corruption and ensure inclusive participation at all times. Freedom to express views, in private and in public, must be guaranteed. People must be able to contribute to decisions that affect their lives. Laws and policies must be applied without any form of discrimination.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. Inclusive partnerships that are built upon common principles and values, a shared vision and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre are needed at the global, regional, national and local levels.

Urgent action is needed to mobilize, redirect and unlock the transformative power of trillions of dollars of private resources to deliver on sustainable development objectives. Long-term investments, including foreign direct investment, are needed in critical sectors, especially in developing countries. These include sustainable energy, infrastructure and transport, as well as information and communications technology. Frameworks, regulations and incentive structures that enable such investments must be retooled to attract investments and reinforce sustainable development. National oversight mechanisms such as supreme audit institutions and oversight functions by legislatures should be strengthened.

Achieving our common humanity: Celebrating global cooperation through the United Nations portrays landmark accomplishments of the United Nations in supporting peace and security, promoting and protecting human rights, fostering economic and social development, and shaping international law. Amply illustrated with photographs, charts, maps and infographics, and featuring a wealth of information on how the United Nations serves the peoples of the world, this book depicts a wide range of challenges that the Organization has met and successful initiatives that it has conceived and spearheaded as a matter of common purpose among nations in favour of collective human progress. Its rich tapestry of stories explores the diverse ways in which the United Nations fights poverty, combats climate change and protects the environment, undertakes to transform conflicts into peace, helps refugees thrive, supports sharing the benefits of technology, works to stop the spread of infectious diseases and reduce the risk of disasters, and helps render justice for all and ensure the rights of women and children. While recounting decisive innovations at the level of global policy and international agreement, *Achieving our common humanity* also provides a view of how such changes have significantly improved the lives of affected individuals around the world. These remarkable stories show how the United Nations, with its ambitious and evolving vision for the shared prosperity of people and planet, is helping create a better world for everyone.



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