

POLICY BRIEF 11: UN 2.0

Forward-thinking culture and cutting-edge skills for better United Nations system impact

PURPOSE

A UN system with 21st century expertise and organizational culture to deliver stronger results, better Member State support, and faster SDG progress.

BACKGROUND

Halfway to 2030, the world is not on track to achieve the SDGs. To accelerate progress, everyone needs to rethink, refocus, and recharge. “UN 2.0” is a vision of a modernized UN system: cutting-edge skills and forward-thinking culture that enable UN entities to better contribute to the quest for the SDGs. These ongoing internal transformations are designed around a “**Quintet of Change**”:

- **Innovation:** Learning to scale new solutions, e.g., to help expand access to healthcare services.
- **Data:** Building impactful data ecosystems, e.g., to help raise yields with data-driven agriculture.
- **Digital:** Becoming fluent in digital impact, e.g., to help with inclusive online education platforms.
- **Foresight:** Learning to navigate uncertainty, e.g., to assist in adapting to climate change trends.
- **Behavioral science:** Enabling better choices, e.g., to help enhance access to social services.

ACCELERATING THE SDGS

Shifts in UN system expertise unlock novel approaches for SDG progress. The www.un-two-zero.network features over 500 initiatives globally, demonstrating how the Quintet of Change is reshaping our programmes to support the SDGs in climate, education, agriculture, gender equality, and beyond.

“UN 2.0 is about strengthening our expertise and culture – to build a UN system that can better support Member States in the 21st century.”

WHAT TO EXPECT

The policy brief outlines how UN system expertise and culture are shifting, what the goals are, and how these transformations benefit Member States.

Forward -Thinking Culture

We are fostering a culture where modern skillsets can flourish across the UN system, with an emphasis on creativity, agility, learning, curiosity, geographical diversity, gender equality, inclusion, youth, resilience, well-being, sustainability, and integrity.

Cutting-Edge Skills for the 21st Century

By enhancing UN system expertise in data, innovation, digital technology, foresight, and behavioral science, we boost on-the-ground impact and improve support to Member States. We will pursue these shifts with use case-driven approaches, leadership engagement, knowledge networks, and partnerships.

Shifting Capacities, Not Adding Structures

We are carefully recalibrating, retraining and realigning our expertise to introduce new skills rather than adding structures. This includes support to continuous learning for staff and adapting job roles to cover new areas of expertise that will strengthen SDG impact.

Faster Internal Change, Greater External Impact

UN 2.0 is firmly focused on internal changes in UN system organizations. The increase in capabilities will result in better programmatic and operational support to Member States and faster collective progress across the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

Joint Direction, Unique Entity Journeys

The UN 2.0 transformation will engage all UN system entities, leaders, and colleagues. Starting in 2024, a lean UN 2.0 Accelerator Programme will support each UN entity as they chart their own path towards UN 2.0 over the next three years.

READ FULL BRIEF

<https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs>