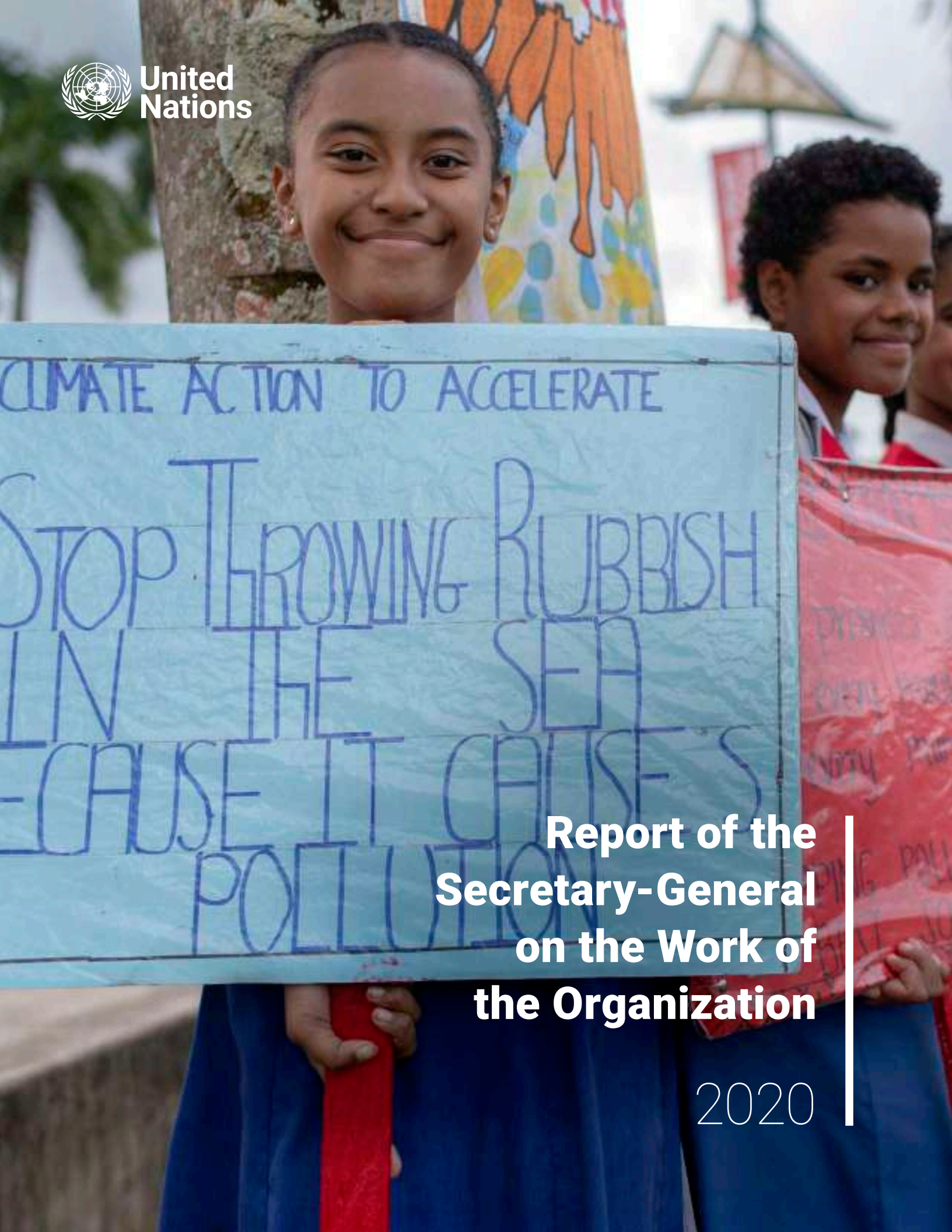
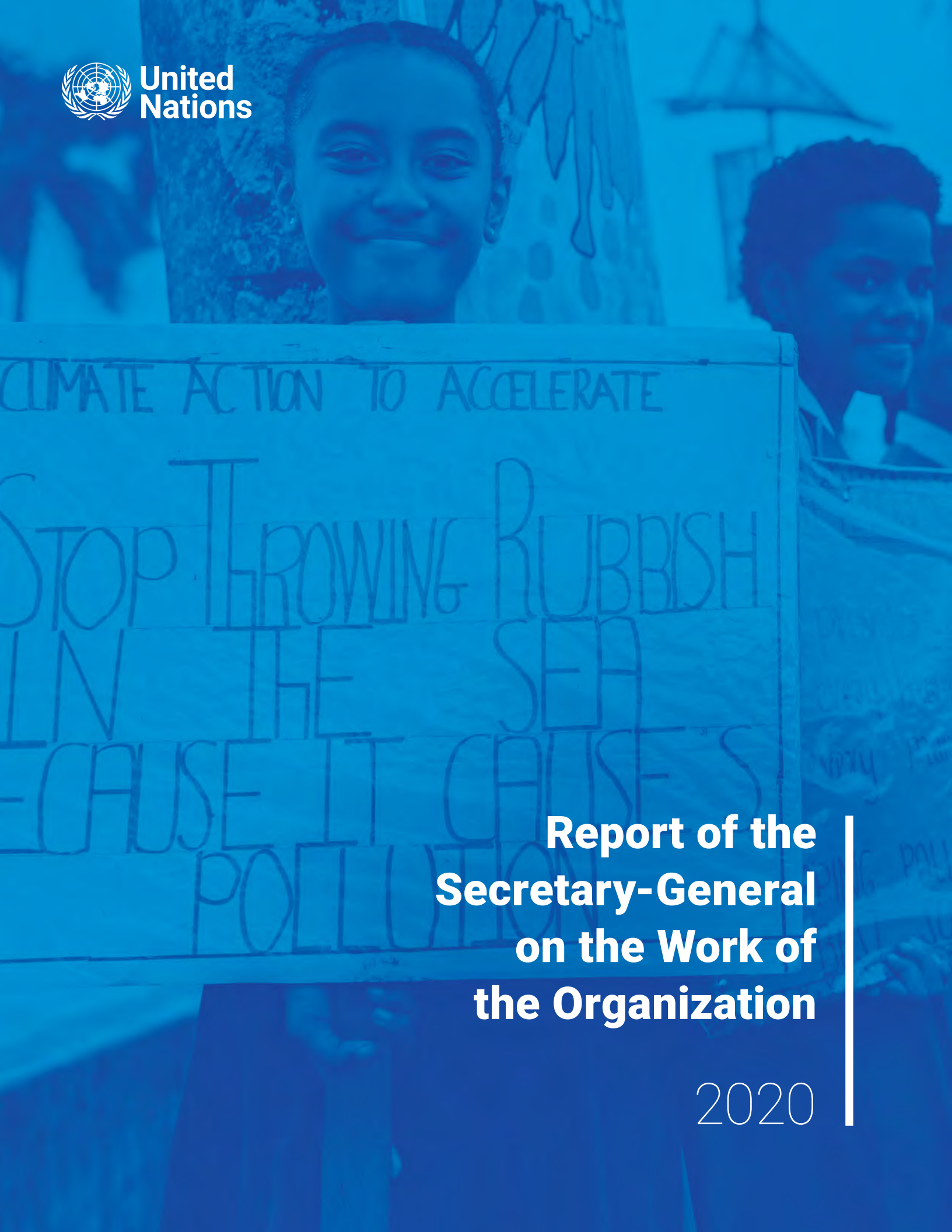


United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization

2020

United Nations



Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization

2020

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Cover:
A student with her climate action sign in Albert Park, Suva, during a visit by Secretary-General António Guterres to Fiji as part of a trip to spotlight the issue of climate change ahead of the Climate Action Summit. The Secretary-General met with government leaders, civil society representatives and youth groups to hear from people impacted by climate change and those who are successfully engaging in meaningful climate action (16 May 2019)

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EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE ORGANIZATION 132

Behind the scenes during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly (New York, 22 September 2019)

Introduction

KEY PRIORITIES

- Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development
- Maintenance of international peace and security
- Development in Africa
- Promotion and protection of human rights
- Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance
- Promotion of international justice and law
- Disarmament
- Drug control, crime prevention and combating terrorism

View of the General Assembly Hall as Secretary-General António Guterres addresses the United Nations Holocaust Memorial Ceremony, "75 years after Auschwitz – Holocaust Education and Remembrance for Global Justice" (New York, 27 January 2020)

In 1945, world leaders gathered in San Francisco to sign the Charter of the United Nations, which gave birth to an organization that represented new hope for a world emerging from the horrors of the Second World War. Our founders were in no doubt about the kind of world that they wished to banish to the past.

In 2020, as the United Nations celebrates 75 years since the Charter's signing, we have an opportunity to reflect on our shared progress, as well as our common future. Our vision and values – based on equality, mutual respect and international cooperation – helped us to avoid a Third World War, which would have had catastrophic consequences for life on our planet. For 75 years, we have forged productive cooperative relationships for global problem-solving and the common good. We have put in place vital norms and agreements that codify and protect human rights, set ambitious goals for sustainable development and charted a path towards a more balanced relationship with the climate and the natural world. Billions of people have emerged from the yoke of colonialism. Millions have been lifted out of poverty.

Today, day in and day out, around the clock, around the world, the United Nations is helping to save millions of lives every year. Women and men of the United Nations are assisting 80 million refugees and displaced people and enabling more than 2 million women and girls to overcome complications from pregnancy and childbirth. Over 40 political missions and peacekeeping operations comprising 95,000 troops, police and civilian personnel strive to bring and keep the peace and to protect civilians. Our electoral assistance now extends to 60 countries each year, and our help for victims of torture reaches 40,000 people. Some 7,500 monitoring missions every year seek to protect human rights, make violations known and hold perpetrators accountable.

"We must commit to building a more inclusive and sustainable world."

António Guterres, Secretary-General

Yet these efforts have not been enough to hold back the tides of fear, hatred, inequality, poverty and injustice. Moreover, early in 2020, we were brought to our knees by a microscopic virus: the virus responsible for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has taken a horrific toll on individuals, communities and societies, with the most vulnerable disproportionately affected.

The pandemic has demonstrated the fragility of our world. It has laid bare risks ignored for decades: inadequate health systems; gaps in social protection; structural inequalities; environmental degradation; the climate crisis.

The United Nations family mobilized quickly and comprehensively, leading on the global health response, continuing and expanding the provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance, establishing instruments for rapid responses to the socioeconomic impact and laying out a broad policy agenda in support of the most vulnerable communities and regions.[1] But the setback to the fundamental Charter goals of peace, justice, human rights and development has been deep and may be long-lasting.

[1] In June 2020, the Secretary-General launched the United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better.

BUILDING A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by the target date of 2030. Now, we face the deepest global recession since the Second World War and the broadest collapse in incomes since 1870. Approximately 100 million more people could be pushed into extreme poverty. Already in its fifth year of implementation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains humanity's blueprint for a better future. In January 2020, the United Nations launched a decade of action to accelerate implementation; the COVID-19 pandemic has made the decade of action both more challenging and more urgent.

With the onset of the pandemic, the United Nations called for massive global support for the most vulnerable people and countries – a rescue package amounting to at least 10 per cent of the global economy. Developed countries have stepped up support for their own people, but we are promoting mechanisms of solidarity to ensure that the developing world will also benefit, including through a debt standstill, debt restructuring and greater support through the international financial institutions. This rescue package has yet to fully materialize.

This failure of solidarity compounds a much-longer-standing struggle to secure the financing necessary for the success of the 2030 Agenda, complicated by slow growth and high debt. We must act now to maintain progress made on sustainable development. We share a common fate. Only with true solidarity and unity will we achieve our shared goals and uphold our values.

COVID-19 also brought home the drastic need to rebalance the human relationship with the natural world. We were already approaching the point of no return on climate change. Recovery from COVID-19 must go hand in hand with climate action. With global emissions reaching record levels, I hosted the Climate Action Summit and the Youth Climate Summit in 2019. Seventy countries committed themselves to more ambitious national climate plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050. Beyond climate change, and after more than 15 years of intense efforts, the 2020 intergovernmental conference on marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction must now be the starting point for greater harmony with nature as a whole.

The Sustainable Development Goal blocks on the northern lawn of United Nations Headquarters during the General Assembly (New York, 23 September 2019)

Secretary-General António Guterres speaks to students at Lahore University of Management Sciences on the role of youth in the United Nations of the twenty-first century (Lahore, Pakistan, 18 February 2020)

"The COVID-19 pandemic has made the promise of the 2030 Agenda more relevant and vital than ever. To recover better, we must recover together – there is no other way."

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General

"In these challenging times, we must not lose sight of our shared goals and commitment to sustainable peace."

Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet

Over
36,000
United Nations Secretariat staff and about 95,000+ uniformed personnel working...

...across
8 priorities
in 35+ programmes...

...in
140+
countries...

...with the support of
$14.2B
in resources, including $3B regular assessed, $7.2B peacekeeping and other assessed, and $4B voluntary...

... to achieve results in 2019, for example:

Sustainable Development

Through the repositioned United Nations development system, resident coordinators worked with Governments and partners in **162 countries** and territories for the 2030 Agenda

Peace and Security

Deployed **40+** peacekeeping, special political missions and offices to prevent conflict and support peacebuilding efforts

Humanitarian Assistance

Helped mobilize and coordinate international assistance worth **$18 billion** for **117 million** people in need

Human Rights

The Secretary-General launched his **Call to Action for Human Rights** to advance enjoyment of human rights by all

Disarmament

Advanced implementation of the **Agenda for Disarmament**, which focuses on weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons and new battlefield technologies

Development in Africa

Supported the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, one of the largest trading blocs covering about **1.2 billion** people and GDP of over **$2.5 trillion**

Drugs, Crime, Terrorism

Engaged more than **170 Member States** in preventing and countering violent extremism through outreach and capacity-building activities

International Justice and Law

Supported the Singapore Convention on Mediation with a record **46 State signatories** at the opening of a United Nations trade-related treaty

Serviced Member States in over
36,900
intergovernmental meetings and conferences to **help foster global consensus** on the issues facing the world

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S KEY AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2019–2020

2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE DECADE OF ACTION

Supported Governments and key stakeholders at all levels to kick-start the decade of action to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030

CLIMATE ACTION

Ambitious action to combat climate change and its impacts, including through the 2019 Climate Action Summit initiatives, is vital to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of the Paris Agreement, and to recovering better, together, from the COVID-19 pandemic

GENDER EQUALITY

Placed the spotlight on dismantling gender inequality and ensuring that equal participation and women's leadership are at the heart of United Nations efforts to respond to global challenges

UNITED TO REFORM

Implementation of the Secretary-General's reform agenda across development, management, and peace and security is improving the ability of the United Nations to effectively and accountably deliver on its mandates.

Below are key accomplishments achieved to date and major ongoing changes that are part of the United to Reform agenda

DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Repositioning the development system to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda

- A new generation of United Nations country teams for more tailored support to countries
- A new resident coordinator system for strengthened leadership
- A Funding Compact with Member States with mutual-accountability targets
- Revised United Nations cooperation frameworks for more holistic responses to national priorities
- Unprecedented effort launched to strengthen the impact of United Nations regional assets and multi-country offices
- More transparency, accountability and oversight for results
- Ambitious measures to increase efficiency in country team operations
- Enhanced country team capacity to help countries scale up financing and partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

Enabling a whole-of-pillar approach to confronting threats to international peace and security

- A restructured peace and security architecture at Headquarters with joint regional teams
- Prioritized support for prevention and sustaining peace
- Stronger focus on regional approaches and strategies
- Integrated approach to United Nations mission transitions and better alignment with United Nations country teams

MANAGEMENT REFORM

Shifting the management paradigm to enable nimble, effective and efficient operations

- Decentralized operations through more delegation to managers, accompanied by extensive training
- New accountability framework for decision-making authorities
- Strengthened data analytics and evaluation capacities
- Two new management departments at Headquarters, with clear roles and responsibilities
- New annual programme budget with better performance, planning and resource information
- Ongoing simplification of policies and processes, supported by a senior-level client-feedback mechanism

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT: 12 KEY OUTCOMES

Secretary-General António Guterres opens the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019. The Summit aimed to boost ambition and accelerate action on climate change and the goals of the Paris Agreement (New York, 23 September 2019)

- Ambitious national climate plans are needed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050
- Public, private and accessible finance is key to net-zero emissions and climate resilient economies
- Focused discussion to end new coal-fired plants beyond 2020
- Nature-based solutions as economically viable options for climate action
- Climate risks must be integrated into decision-making systems
- Access to finance agreed for small island developing States to deliver on climate action
- The critical role of cities for implementing national climate plans
- Measures for increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Solutions proposed to support the most vulnerable members of society
- Least developed countries are most impacted by climate change and most committed to climate action
- Multi-stakeholder initiatives recognizing the benefits of climate action must leave no one behind
- New partnerships on how net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 is possible

UNITED NATIONS DISABILITY INCLUSION STRATEGY: BRINGING ABOUT TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

The Strategy's wide-ranging scope covers all three United Nations pillars – human rights, peace and security, and development – as well as programmes and operations

The Strategy includes concrete benchmarks to accelerate and measure progress on disability inclusion

58 United Nations entities reported on the Strategy in its first year to establish a system-wide baseline on disability inclusion

Montserrat Vilarrasa, Secretary of the Assembly of Human Rights Montserrat Trueta and Member for Intellectual Disability at the City Council of Barcelona, speaking at the high-level meeting of women with disabilities in political and public leadership (New York, June 2019)

A CALL TO ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The COVID-19 pandemic hit at a time of widespread disregard for human rights. In February, we launched a call to action on human rights by which we committed ourselves to making human dignity the core of the Organization's work, with a special focus on such areas as rights at the centre of sustainable development; rights in times of crisis; gender equality and equal rights for 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. The pandemic immediately put these commitments to the test. Human rights formed a cornerstone of the United Nations response.

"Our work preventing, responding and rebuilding from crises must always be guided by the principles of equality and inclusion of all. We must strive in particular to achieve gender equality and disability inclusion."

Ana Maria Menéndez, Senior Adviser on Policy

RAISING OUR VOICES FOR PEACE

The pandemic is having profound social, economic and political consequences, and we must do everything possible to find the peace and unity that our world needs. There can be only one fight in our world today: our shared battle against COVID-19. That is why, on 23 March 2020, I issued an appeal for a global ceasefire, which has been widely endorsed by the Security Council, nearly 180 countries, more than 20 armed groups and 800 civil society groups. My special envoys and I are working together to establish effective ceasefires and overcome the legacy of long-lasting conflicts.

Violence is not confined to the battlefield; it affects many women in their homes, where they may now be confined in lockdown or quarantine with their abusers. In April, I called for an end to violence against women everywhere. Some 146 Member States committed themselves to including violence prevention and response in their COVID-19 response plans.

"Our legacy is defined by when, how and for whom we mobilize global action."

Volker Türk, Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination

RENEWING MULTILATERALISM

As we emerge from this pandemic, we cannot go back to a world that was delivering only for the few. We need a new social contract within States and a new global deal between States. We need new global governance, rebalanced financial and trade systems, effective delivery of critical global public goods and decision-making guided by standards of sustainability. Our recovery from COVID-19 and our renewal of multilateralism must be based on fair globalization, on the rights and dignity of every human being, on living in balance with nature, on taking account of the rights of future generations and on success measured in human rather than economic terms.

These are not only the lessons of COVID-19. They are also the clear wish expressed in the worldwide consultation process for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. People want a global governance system that delivers for them and is based on full, inclusive and equal participation in global institutions. I look forward to working with Member States and civil society to chart a way forward that allows us to jointly live up to these expectations.

As we build multilateral approaches, we also need stronger digital cooperation. Technology can turbocharge recovery from COVID-19 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. My Road Map for Digital Cooperation promotes a vision of an inclusive, sustainable digital future for all.

A participant of a townhall meeting greets a United Nations staff member. The townhall was held as part of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 12 March 2019)

SELECT TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDAS*

The long-term objectives of the United Nations revolve around transformative agendas endorsed or welcomed by the Member States.

1995

BEIJING DECLARATION
Fourth World Conference on Women, and Platform for Action

2000

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY
Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)

MILLENNIUM DECLARATION
Summit and Millenium Development Goals

2001

DURBAN DECLARATION ON RACISM
Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, outcome document of the Durban Review Conference 2009

2002

MONTERREY CONSENSUS
International Conference on Financing for Development

2005

MAURITIUS DECLARATION
Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

WORLD SUMMIT DECLARATION
Development, peace and collective security, human rights and the rule of law, and strengthening the United Nations

2008

DOHA DECLARATION
Follow-up Conference on Financing for Development

2011

ISTANBUL DECLARATION
Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

2012

RIO+20
Conference on Sustainable Development

2014

SAMOA PATHWAY
SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

2015

DOHA DECLARATION
Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

ADDIS ABABA ACTION AGENDA
Third International Conference on Financing for Development

VIENNA DECLARATION
Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

SENDAI FRAMEWORK
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

PARIS AGREEMENT
Agreement of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

AGENDA 2030
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

2016

SUSTAINING PEACE
New framework for sustaining peace, adopted in General Assembly resolution 70/262 and identical Security Council resolution 2282 (2016)

COUNTERING DRUGS
Joint Commitment to Effectively Address and Counter the World Drug Problem (General Assembly resolution S-30/1)

NEW URBAN AGENDA
United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

2017

2030 AGENDA AND AGENDA 2063
Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027, in support of the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

OCEAN DECLARATION
Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action

2018

YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY
Security Council resolution 2419 (2018) building on resolution 2250 (2015)

ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING
Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

MIGRATION
Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

2019

REFUGEES
Global Compact on Refugees

UNITED TO REFORM
Implementation of the Secretary-General's development, management, and peace and security reform agenda

2020

HUMAN RIGHTS
The Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY TO FIGHT COVID-19
General Assembly resolution 74/270 and Security Council resolution 2532 (2020) on a global ceasefire

** The diagram shows select transformative agendas since 1995. The list is not exhaustive. The United Nations programme of work is also guided by several other legislative mandates.*

STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATION

As part of our efforts to revitalize multilateralism, we continued the implementation of an ambitious reform agenda to improve the effectiveness and accountability of the United Nations. New structures across the development, peace and security and management architectures of the Secretariat were established in 2019 to allow the Organization to respond more nimbly to emerging requirements and better cooperate across the pillars of its work. The new approaches introduced as part of these reforms have been validated through a trial by fire, as they allowed the United Nations to continue its critical work uninterrupted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

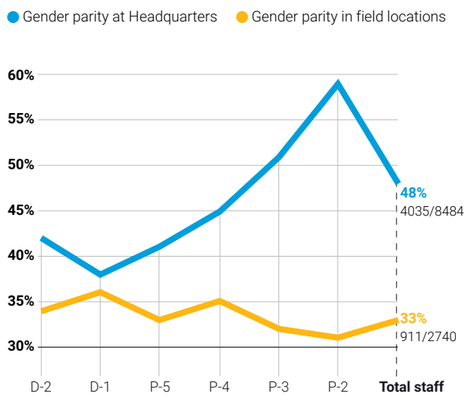
Only an Organization that is inclusive and equitable will sustain us for the future. We have maintained gender parity among senior management, and we now have the highest number of women serving as heads and deputy heads of mission in our history. We are also working to build a more geographically diverse workforce. In March 2020, I launched the Geographical Diversity Strategy to improve the representation status of unrepresented and underrepresented Member States within the Secretariat. In 2019, I launched the first ever United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy to raise the Organization's standards and performance and enhance coordinated efforts to mainstream disability inclusion across the United Nations system.

Townhall meeting for civil society and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres: The townhall was an opportunity for civil society to engage with the Secretary-General and senior leadership on topics pertaining to gender equality and the work of the Organization (New York, 12 March 2019)

To improve our fitness for the challenges of the twenty-first century, 50 United Nations entities jointly designed a data strategy as a comprehensive playbook for data-driven change. Data permeate all aspects of our work, and their power – harnessed responsibly – is critical to the global agendas that we serve.

The work and reforms of the Organization remain at risk of financial disruption. In 2019 the Organization faced its worst regular budget cash shortage in a decade, and the situation in 2020 may worsen further. Cash constraints are forcing us to prioritize our work on the basis of availability of funds, rather than programmatic priorities.

ACHIEVING GENDER PARITY AT THE UNITED NATIONS



Implementation of the Gender Parity Strategy has progressed well at United Nations Headquarters, and most entities are on track to reach parity at each level

The Secretary-General achieved his 50/50 gender parity target among senior leadership in full-time Under Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General posts in January 2020, almost two years ahead of schedule

Challenges remain to reaching parity in the field, particularly in peace operations, where the full attention of senior leadership will be focused on achieving the target of parity at every level in the Organization by 2028

Secretary-General António Guterres with members of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) (New York, November 2019)

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S DATA STRATEGY FOR ACTION BY EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

To strengthen our fitness for the challenges of the twenty-first century the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere was launched. It is a comprehensive playbook for data-driven change based on global best practice.

Data permeates all aspects of our work, and its power – harnessed responsibly – is critical to the global priorities we serve. The footprint, expertise and connectedness of the United Nations family create unique opportunities to advance global "data action" with insight, impact and integrity.

The Strategy will guide us through a long-term transformation: so that everyone, everywhere, can nurture data as a strategic asset for insight, impact and integrity, to better deliver on our mandates for people and the planet.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we grapple with the effects of COVID-19, we have an opportunity to build a more equal world. This means creating a new social contract – integrating education, employment, sustainable development and social protection – based on equal rights and opportunities for all. Social protection systems for the future must include universal health coverage and promote women's employment and gender equality, investment in public services and economies that work for people and the planet.

We also need a global new deal in which global governance and financial and trade systems are rebalanced and decisions are guided by standards of sustainability, giving light to the aspirations in the 2030 Agenda. COVID-19 is a human tragedy, but it has also created a generational opportunity. Let us make the commitment to build back better, upholding the vision and resolve reflected in the Charter signed 75 years ago, which continues to guide our way forward together.

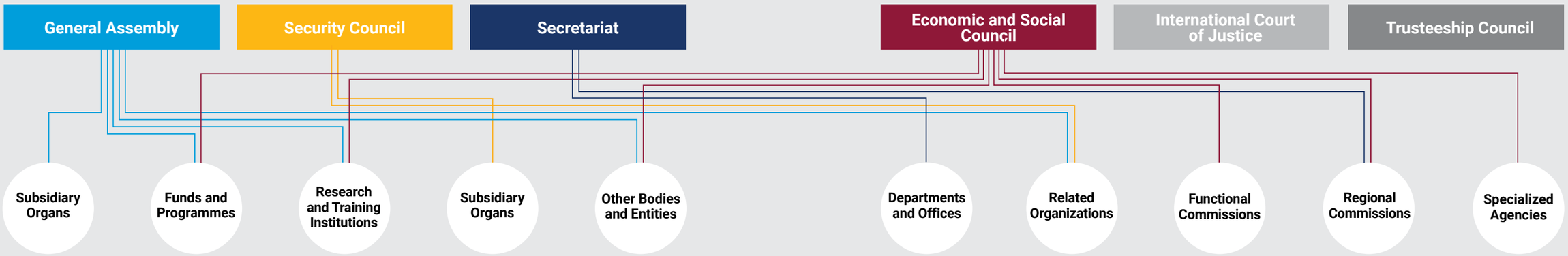
A young visitor wearing a sweatshirt proclaiming "Our Generation Will Change the World" listens to a tour guide explaining the working methods of the Security Council (New York, 15 November 2019)

United Nations Family: Our Work

The Secretariat is one of six principal organs of the broader United Nations family. The organs comprise numerous agencies, funds and programmes, subsidiary organs, functional and regional commissions, and training institutes, among others.

Below is a sample of the work of the broader United Nations family, in particular the work of the agencies, funds and programmes serving on the ground.

PRINCIPAL ORGANS



Climate action

Protects, improves or restores **344 million** hectares of landscapes and marine habitats

Mobilizes funding and supports renewable energy development across more than **27** developing countries

Supports clean, affordable and sustainable energy access for **800,000** households headed by women in **16** countries

Food security

Provides food and assistance to **87 million** people in **83** countries

Assists 25 million people with cash transfers in **62** countries, empowering people to achieve nutrition outcomes while boosting local markets

Women

Assists over **337,000** girls and women in preventing or addressing female genital mutilation

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

Supports 150,000 women in receiving legal aid

Advocates for and empowers women in the economy, including through **82** laws and policies adopted in **40** countries

Human rights

Seeks to protect human rights, make violations known and hold perpetrators accountable, with **7,500** monitoring missions

Helps 40,000 victims of torture in **78** countries

Partners with **89** countries to reform discriminatory laws

Peace and security

Maintains more than **40** political missions and peacekeeping operations, including **95,000** peacekeeping personnel

Deploys special envoys and representatives of the Secretary-General in **54** contexts in efforts to secure sustainable peace

Assists some **60** countries with their elections

Children

Feeds 16 million children with daily school meals

Benefits 51 million children with cash transfer programmes

Supports 4.1 million children in receiving treatment for severe acute malnutrition

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

Safe water and sanitation

Facilitates access to safe drinking water for **18.3 million** people

Helps 15.5 million people gain access to basic sanitation services

Disease prevention

Supports the vaccination of **108 million** people against yellow fever

Assists with the shipping of **21 million** doses of oral cholera vaccine

Helps train thousands of health workers, tested **220,000** samples and vaccinated **303,000** people as part of a **22-month**-long response to an Ebola outbreak

Displacement

Registered 9 million refugees last year in the United Nations Biometric Identity Management System in 69 countries

Assists over **81,000** stateless individuals in acquiring and/or confirming their nationality

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

Livelihoods

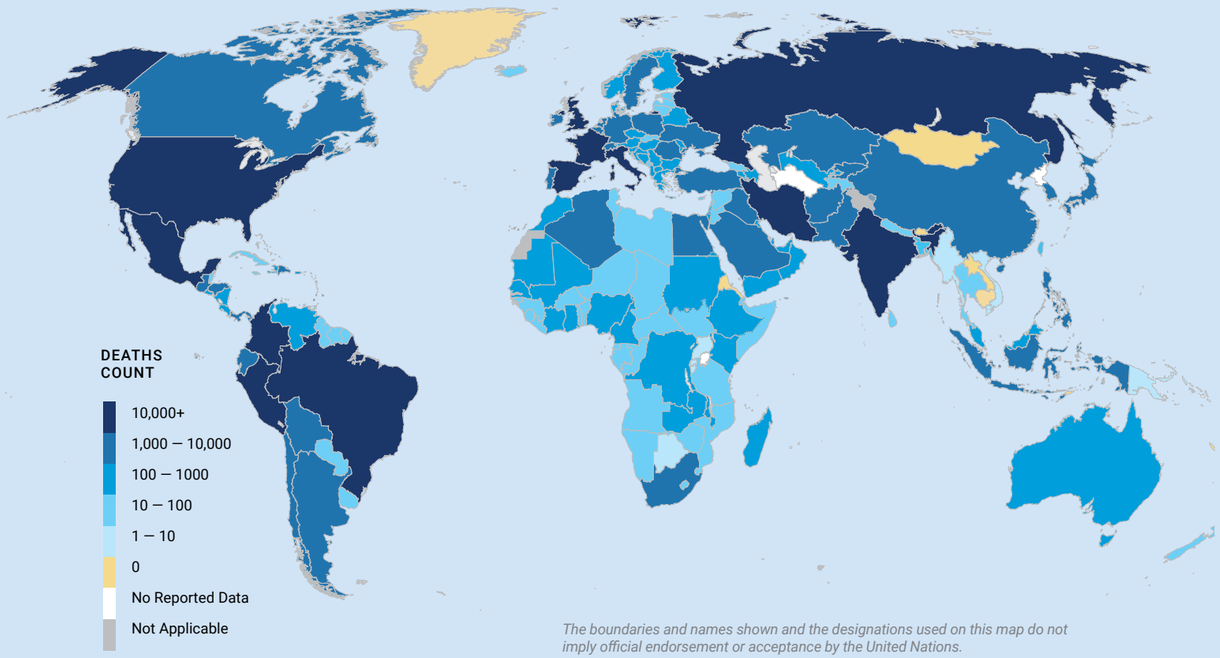
Supports 5 million people in **28** crisis-affected countries in getting a job or a better livelihood

Helps 24 million people in **22** countries gain access to financial services

Engages with **30** Governments to build multi-dimensional poverty indices to improve social inclusion

The United Nations response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has swiftly taken hundreds of thousands of lives, infected millions of people, upended economies and disrupted every aspect of modern life. It is more than a health crisis: it is an economic crisis, a humanitarian crisis, a security crisis and a human rights crisis. The global response requires reimagining the structures of societies and how we cooperate for the common good.



THREE-PILLAR RESPONSE

We are pursuing a three-pillar response: first, a large-scale health response, including accelerating work towards a vaccine, diagnostics and treatment for everyone, everywhere; second, an effort to address the devastating socioeconomic, humanitarian and human rights effects of the pandemic; and third, a recovery that builds back better – towards more equal, inclusive, resilient and sustainable societies, as well as an international system that can protect and deliver on critical global public goods.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S POLICY INITIATIVES

JULY

23 JULY Impact of COVID-19 on the **Arab region**

9 JULY the impact of COVID-19 on **Latin America and the Caribbean**

30 JULY Impact of COVID-19 on **South-East Asia**

28 JULY COVID-19 in an **urban world**

AUGUST

25 AUGUST COVID-19 and **transforming tourism**

4 AUGUST **Education** during COVID-19 and beyond

JUNE

9 JUN Impact of COVID-19 on **food security and nutrition**

3 JUN COVID-19 and **people on the move**

25 JUNE United Nations **comprehensive response** to COVID-19

19 JUN The **world of work** and COVID-19

MAY

8 MAY Appeal against **hate and xenophobia**

6 MAY A **disability-inclusive response** to COVID-19

1 MAY Impact of COVID-19 on **older persons**

21 MAY **Verified** campaign on trusted factual COVID-19 information

20 MAY Impact of COVID-19 in **Africa**

13 MAY COVID-19 and the need for **action on mental health**

MARCH

31 MAR Shared responsibility, global solidarity: responding to **socio-economic impacts**

23 MAR Appeal for **global ceasefire**

APRIL

16 APR Impact of COVID-19 on **children**

9 APR Impact of COVID-19 on **women**

5 APR Appeal against **gender-based violence**

23 APR COVID-19 and **human rights:** We are all in this together

17 APR **Debt** and COVID-19: a global response in solidarity

JOINT OPERATIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGIES FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FAMILY AND PARTNERS

1 – HEALTH: COVID-19 STRATEGIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

Strategic objectives

1. Mobilize all sectors and communities
2. Control sporadic cases and clusters, and prevent community transmission
3. Suppress community transmission
4. Reduce mortality
5. Develop safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics

Partners

200+
Governments, international and non-governmental organizations, research institutes and businesses

Funding requirements

$1.74 billion
required; $1.44 billion received (83% funded)

2 – HUMANITARIAN: GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

Strategic objectives

1. Contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and reduce morbidity and mortality
2. Decrease the deterioration of human assets, human rights, social cohesion and livelihoods
3. Protect, assist and advocate for refugees, internally displaced people, migrants and vulnerable communities

Partners

110+
international and non-governmental organizations

Funding requirements

$10.31 billion
required; $2.475 billion received (24% funded)

3 – DEVELOPMENT: UNITED NATIONS SOCIOECONOMIC RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

Strategic objectives

1. Protect health services and health systems during the crisis
2. Protect people: provide social protection and basic services
3. Protect jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, informal sector
4. Facilitate macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration
5. Support social cohesion and community resilience

Partners

165+
national institutions in countries and territories with United Nations country teams

Funding requirements

$1 billion
required; $58 million received (6% funded)

ATTENTION TO THE HARDEST-HIT COUNTRIES AND POPULATIONS

Since the outset, I have advocated for special attention to be given to those hardest hit by the pandemic. This includes 63 countries already facing humanitarian or refugee crises, and vulnerable groups, including women, children, older persons, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals, those with disabilities, those with mental health considerations and those who are on the move, among others.

We cannot afford to leave anyone behind in our response and recovery. To support global leaders, I have issued policy briefs to guide the response to those most in need. No one is safe until everyone is safe.

RESPONSE OF THE BROADER UNITED NATIONS FAMILY

The entire United Nations system has mobilized behind the World Health Organization-led health response to distribute medical supplies, train health workers, support testing and tracing, prevent the spread of the virus, disseminate information and support national plans.

As Secretary-General, I convened world leaders to cooperate on a vaccine that is universally available and affordable, as well as on financing and debt relief. On 23 March, I appealed for a global ceasefire, which has been endorsed by close to 180 Member States, over 20 armed movements and 800 civil society organizations.

Our humanitarian agencies already support more than 100 million people around the world and are placing a high priority on continuing to provide life-saving help while also supporting the response of the wider United Nations system to the pandemic through the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19.

Through the United Nations development system, we are assisting in five areas: essential health services; social protection and basic services; protecting jobs and providing support to small and medium-sized enterprises and informal sector workers; financing; and social cohesion and resilience.

The United Nations country teams have mobilized to support a coherent response to the pandemic, collaborating with Governments, international financial institutions and others in socioeconomic impact assessments and expeditious solutions in a "development emergency" mode.

The specialized agencies are supporting Governments and partners with guidance on public health measures, aviation, shipping, tourism, technology, food supply and security, agriculture and other areas on which the pandemic had an impact.

The peacekeeping missions have put in place mitigation measures to continue protecting vulnerable communities while promoting the safety and health of our personnel and maintaining continuity of operations.

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) trained young social workers and activists to educate communities on how to protect themselves from COVID-19 (Bor, South Sudan, 15 July 2020)

UNITED NATIONS FAMILY SUPPORT ON THE GROUND

MEDICAL COORDINATION
174 countries coordinating with World Health Organization (WHO) on strategic preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic

MEDICAL SUPPLY CHAIN
>452 million items of personal protective equipment shipped or to be shipped

MEDICAL COORDINATION
123 countries supported in formulating national health plans and registering financial needs on WHO Strategic Partnership Portal

MEDICAL SUPPLY CHAIN
29 million diagnostic tests and **collective kits** shipped or to be shipped

MEDICAL SUPPORT
12,000 beds provided by WHO Global Emergency Management Team to **bolster clinical-care capacity**

CRISIS RESPONSE
110 Governments and **non-governmental organizations** contributing funds to the global humanitarian response plan

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
2.6 billion people reached with messaging on prevention and access to health services

CRISIS RESPONSE
63 countries rapidly targeted for priority emergency assistance with the help of the INFORM risk framework for COVID-19

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
4.2 million learners in 119 specialized OpenWHO COVID-19 courses

CRISIS RESPONSE
22,493 households affected by COVID-19 receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grants for basic needs

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
2.1 million health and community workers trained in detection, referral and appropriate management of cases on the ground

CRISIS RESPONSE
36 million households benefiting from new or additional social assistance provided by Governments with United Nations family support

As of 31 August 2020

RECOVERING BETTER

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored fragilities, which extend far beyond global health. Recovery will be an opportunity to address inequality, exclusion, gaps in social protection systems, the climate crisis and many other injustices that have been exposed. Instead of going back to unsustainable approaches, we need to transition to renewable energy, sustainable food systems, greater gender equality, stronger social safety nets, universal health coverage and an international system that can deliver.

CONTINUING OUR WORK

The United Nations has been able to continue delivering with minimal interruption during the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of strong business continuity measures in place, including investments over the past few years on information and communications technology platforms that have enabled uninterrupted productivity and collaboration for the Organization's workforce, of which significant numbers of staff members were required to shift abruptly to remote working arrangements.

Reforms implemented since January 2019 have also allowed us to effectively meet the challenge of operating during a pandemic. The changes brought about by reform include a new, empowered and independent system to coordinate sustainable development efforts, enhanced delegation of authority to senior managers to better respond to issues specific to their respective mandates and locations, the shift to a more nimble supply chain management approach that facilitated faster sourcing and delivery of necessary goods and services, clearer divisions of responsibility in the area of human resources that enabled the rapid revision of policy and the uninterrupted delivery of operational support, and the consolidation of disparate medical and health-care capacities at Headquarters into a unified structure that was better able to coordinate medical support and evacuation arrangements for United Nations personnel. COVID 19 therefore served as an important validation of the principles of the reforms.

Doctors and nurses with the United Nations Population Fund COVID-19 response (Cariacuao, Venezuela, 5 May 2020)

Staff outside the SDG Action Zone at United Nations Headquarters. The Zone is a new opportunity to reshape multilateral engagement during the General Assembly high-level week (New York, 20 September 2019)

Promotion of Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

KEY PROGRAMMES

- Support to global policymaking organs
- International cooperation for development
- Regional cooperation for development

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$1.6B
$483M regular assessed and
$1.1B voluntary contributions

SELECT MANDATES

- Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, General Assembly resolution 74/15
- 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
- Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy, General Assembly resolution 74/217
- Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, General Assembly resolution 72/279
- Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, General Assembly resolution 74/4
- Victoria Falls Declaration on the United Nations Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development in Africa, ECA/RFSD/2020/16

SELECT ENTITIES

- Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- Regional Commissions
- UN-Habitat
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Secretary-General António Guterres speaks at the opening of the United Nations Climate Action Summit, which aimed to boost ambition and accelerate action to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement (New York, 23 September 2019)

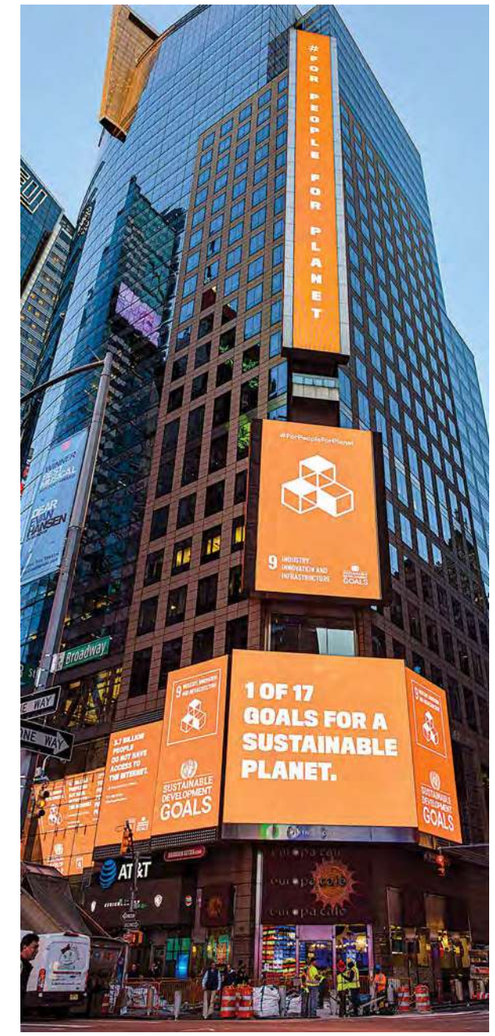
CONTEXT

Now in its fifth year of implementation, work on the 2030 Agenda is accelerating, guided by the pledge of leaving no one behind.

In 2019, Member States reaffirmed their shared commitment to the 2030 Agenda, with leaders calling for a decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of accelerating progress in eradicating fundamental deprivations, reducing inequalities and reversing course on climate change and biodiversity loss, all central aspirations in the Agenda.

“Recovering better means creating more sustainable economies and resilient societies to preserve our environment and leave no one behind.”

Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs



Billboards showcasing the Sustainable Development Goals in Times Square, New York City, displayed in advance of the General Assembly high-level week (New York, 19 September 2019)

KEY OBJECTIVES

The Organization provides solutions to foster international cooperation and partnerships in the follow-up to transformative global agendas, including the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2011–2020. Regional support is spearheaded by the regional commissions and regional offices of entities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Western Asia. On the ground across 162 countries and territories, the resident coordinators help to join up the expertise of all resident and non-resident entities in the United Nations development system in support of national efforts.

KEY OUTCOMES

Stocktaking and acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals

Five years after their creation, the Sustainable Development Goals represent the collective desire to build a better world for people and the planet. The United Nations plays a key role in supporting Member State implementation. Since 2016, 168 countries have developed plans for the Goals and presented voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, demonstrating their commitment to adapting policies and institutions.

While there is progress on some of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including for indicators on poverty, hunger, youth employment, biodiversity, climate change and access to justice, the world is not on track to achieve them by 2030. Consequently, global leaders gathered in September 2019 for the first United Nations summit on the 2030 Agenda since its adoption. As a result, Member States adopted a commitment to accelerate implementation through a decade of action. Since then, I have called for greater mobilization, ambition, financing and solutions, particularly on poverty, climate and gender equality.

Accelerated action for the 2030 Agenda depends on high-quality, disaggregated data and statistics. The Data for Now initiative is aimed at accelerating the sustainable use of geospatial information, big data and other non traditional sources. Through the Global Land Indicators Initiative, for example, over 200 experts have been trained on data collection and reporting.

2019 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS STOCKTAKING

>125
senior government officials convened in 2019 at the United Nations

… with over
2,000
representatives across sectors…

… to examine SDG progress in
47
countries
(+1 in 2018)…

and will complete reviewing progress in
168
countries by 2020

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

DECADE OF ACTION

Participants at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, held under the auspices of the General Assembly (New York, 24 September 2019)

“A reformed UN development system – built around a new generation of UN resident coordinators, who lead UN teams in the field – is essential for the UN to meet its responsibilities to support Member States achieve the SDGs.”

Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination

“The regional dimension of development goes beyond the sum of actions at the national level; development issues require a transboundary approach.”

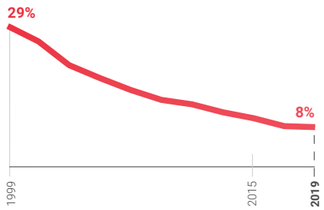
Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AN OVERVIEW

1 NO POVERTY

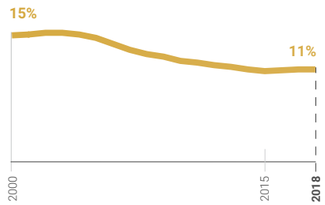
Proportion of population below the international poverty line, total



As of 2019, roughly 8% of the world's population still lives in extreme poverty.

2 ZERO HUNGER

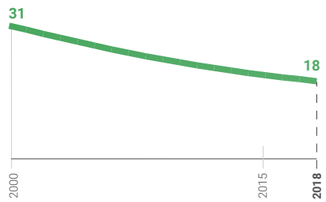
Prevalence of undernourishment



After extended progress, the number of people suffering from hunger is on the rise.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

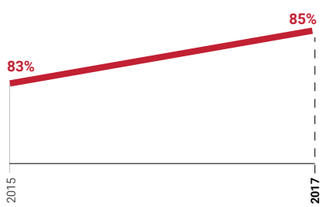
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)



The neonatal mortality rate has consistently declined.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

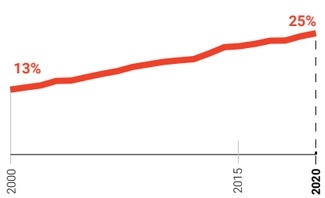
Primary school completion rate (of relevant age group)



Universal and equitable access to primary education is yet to be achieved.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

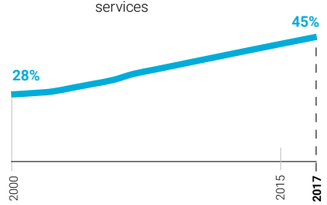
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments



Major progress made towards addressing underrepresentation of women in parliament.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

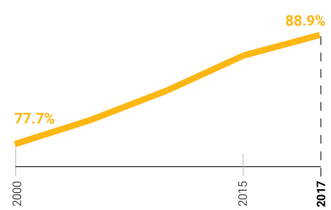
Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services



More people have access to safely managed sanitation services today.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

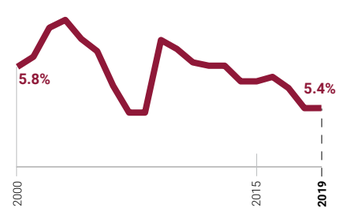
Proportion of population with access to electricity



The vast majority of the world's population now has access to electricity.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

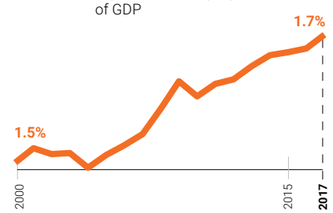
Global unemployment rate



Global unemployment has declined relative to 2000.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

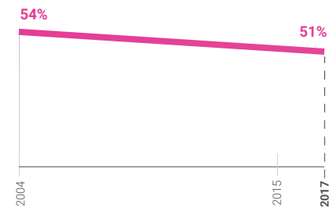
Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP



Research and development is increasingly prioritized across the globe.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

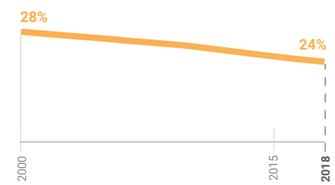
Labour share of GDP



The share of national income going to labour has shown a downward trend.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

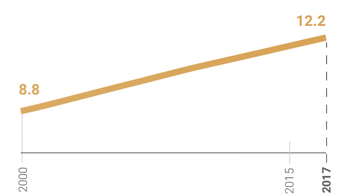
Proportion of urban population living in slums



The number of people living in informal urban settlements has declined steadily.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

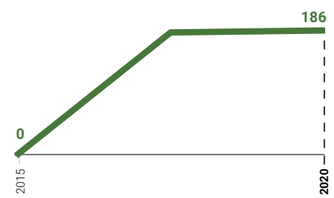
Material footprint per capita (metric tons per person)



The global material footprint per capita has increased.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

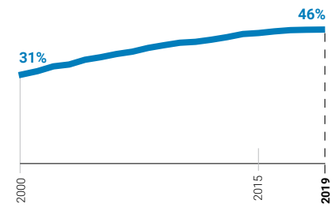
Parties that have communicated their first nationally determined contributions to the United Nations



186 of the 189 Paris Agreement signatories have communicated their first NDCs.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

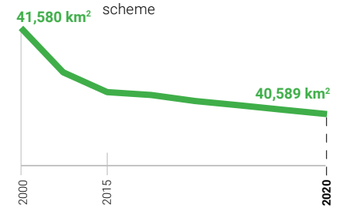
Average proportion of marine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas



Even more must be done to safeguard KBAs.

15 LIFE ON LAND

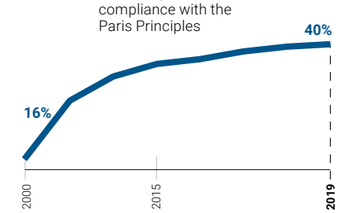
Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme



More efforts are needed to conserve and restore forests around the world.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

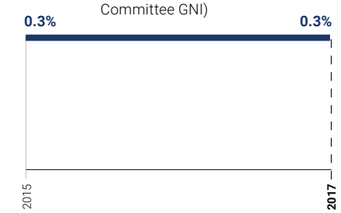
Proportion of countries with human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles



Less than 50% of countries have human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.

17 PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

Net ODA (proportion of Development Assistance Committee GNI)



The 0.7% aid/GNI target for international aid has yet to be collectively achieved.
Source: OECD

ACCELERATING PROGRESS

Five years into implementation, the Sustainable Development Goals are not on track to being achieved by 2030, despite progress in some areas. Furthermore, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress has slowed – and in some cases, been reversed – across the 17 Goals. This makes the Decade of Action all the more urgent, requiring the support of Member States and other partners.

For a detailed progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals, visit www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/progress-report

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities is at the very core of the 2030 Agenda. Today, 1.3 billion people remain at risk of being excluded from realizing the Sustainable Development Goals as a result of multidimensional poverty. The United Nations therefore supports initiatives for vulnerable countries and populations, based on the principle of "leaving no one behind". For example, we jointly organized the Global Conference on Scaling Up Energy Access and Finance in Least Developed Countries in 2019, as access to sustainable energy is a key enabler of the Goals' implementation. In addition, we helped to launch the Coalition for Sustainable Energy Access at the 2019 Climate Action Summit to accelerate universal access in rural and vulnerable areas. The midterm review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway also witnessed Member States advancing their commitment to the needs of small island developing States.

As part of United Nations support for sustainable urbanization, I released my guidance note on land and conflict, the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements and the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development, improving tenure security and the resolution of land disputes, focused on 1.2 million vulnerable people in 13 countries.

In the area of trade, we supported policies that allow women to benefit from opportunities in international exchange, for example through the Borderline initiative in six border districts of Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, which trains women informal traders on how to formalize their businesses.

Yetnebersh Nigussie, disability rights activist and lawyer, and 2017 Alternative Nobel Prize Recipient, briefs press on the issue of women with disabilities, during the twelfth session of the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (New York, 12 June 2019)

DISABILITIES

The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy is a key component of leaving no one behind. It represents the first ever United Nations system-wide strategy for 1 billion individuals with disabilities. Launched in 2019, the Strategy is aimed at mainstreaming disability inclusion across the United Nations system.

Students at the National Education Centre in St. Esprit de Grand Chemin photographed during the United Nations Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group's mission to Haiti (Grand Chemin, Haiti, 23 May 2019)

"Urbanization is a truly transformative force: we now have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get things right. Our future depends on making our cities more equitable, climate resilient, and a place for all."

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

"We must ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable countries – the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS – are heard loud and clear, and that their sustainable development agendas are advanced."

Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu, High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

CLIMATE ACTION

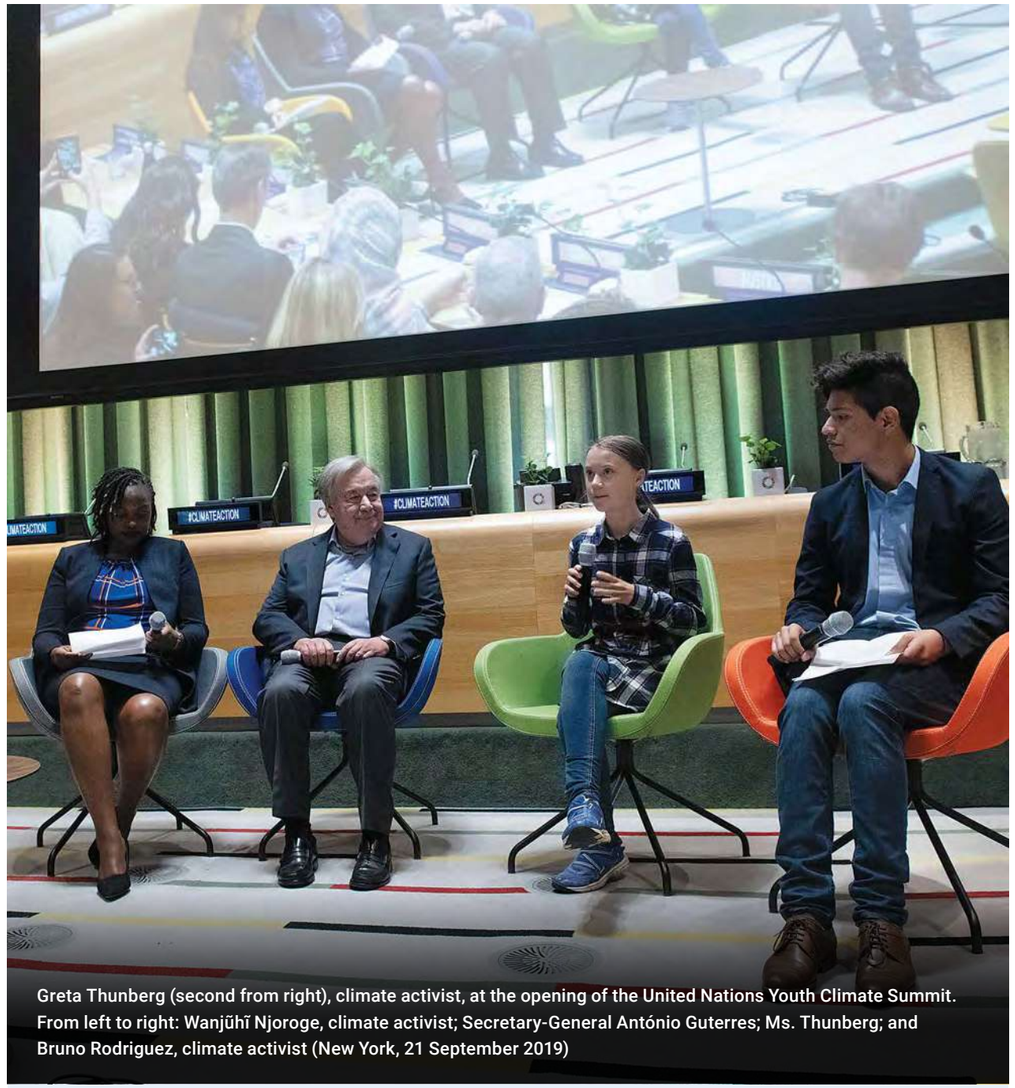
With global emissions reaching record levels, I called leaders to the Climate Action Summit in September 2019, which resulted in 70 countries committing to more ambitious national plans. Business leaders also responded, with some of the world's largest asset managers – responsible for directing more than $2 trillion in investments – committing to moving to carbon-neutral portfolios by 2050. In 2020, we also wrap up the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, during which 63 Governments made commitments under the Clean Seas campaign.

The scientific community has repeatedly sounded the alarm on the climate emergency, including biodiversity breakdown, marking 2020 as a "super year" for action. While several events scheduled for 2020 were postponed owing to the pandemic, climate change remains the biggest threat facing humanity in the long term. We therefore need to increase ambition and action on climate change, as the virus only heightens our vulnerability to global threats.

"The environmental challenge has the ability to change the course of history. Whether we change track in the right direction or not is entirely up to us."

Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations staff and their family members gather in support of the Global Climate Strike at the Visitors' Plaza, United Nations Headquarters, just days before the United Nations Climate Action Summit (New York, 23 September 2019)



Greta Thunberg (second from right), climate activist, at the opening of the United Nations Youth Climate Summit. From left to right: Wanjũhĩ Njoroge, climate activist; Secretary-General António Guterres; Ms. Thunberg; and Bruno Rodriguez, climate activist (New York, 21 September 2019)

YOUTH

The *World Youth Report* highlighted the essential role that young people play in advancing the 2030 Agenda. To mobilize youth for climate action, the 2019 Youth Climate Summit provided a platform for young leaders from 140 countries and territories.

After two weeks of dialogue, the sixty-third session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women concluded with a strong commitment by Member States to safeguard and improve women's and girls' access to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure (New York, 22 March 2019)

GENDER EQUALITY

The year 2020 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In the lead-up to the 2020 session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Member States conducted national reviews of progress and challenges related to the Platform of Action. To date, more than 160 States have completed their reviews, which served as the basis for the political declaration adopted during the session of the Commission. While progress has been made, major gaps remain, including the fact that, 25 years on, no country has fully achieved gender equality, which is now a priority during the decade of action.

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

The Spotlight Initiative is a multi-year programme, supported by the European Union, to end violence against women and girls globally by 2030. Through comprehensive, rights-based programming, the Initiative is strengthening agency collaboration under the leadership of resident coordinators, in partnership with civil society, to support government efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

UN-Women Regional Goodwill Ambassador, Jaha Dukureh (left), and Spotlight Champion, actress Cecilia Suárez (right), hold up a sign during the Spotlight event "Progress and perspectives on eliminating violence against women and girls" (New York, 26 September 2019)

42 MILLION
people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotypes

41
laws signed or strengthened in 15 countries

50%
$124 million of programme funds have been budgeted for civil society organizations

38%
of targeted countries disaggregate national statistics to better reflect multiple forms of discrimination

Approximately
15%
increase in survivors of violence seeking help from support services

10%
increase in the number of cases reported to the police, compared to last year

Nearly
350,000
adolescents reached through education programmes

77
women's rights groups increased the use of citizen audits, shadow reports and other accountability mechanisms

More than
500,000
people regularly involved in community mobilization activities

SCALING UP FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

To achieve the 2030 Agenda, developing countries face a financing gap of at least $2.5 trillion per year – not considering the impact of COVID-19. In September 2019, the General Assembly convened the first High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which resulted in over 20 new initiatives and commitments by Governments and stakeholders to help to fill the gap.

In October 2019, I also launched the Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance with leaders of 30 financial institutions and corporations. Collectively, the Alliance manages some $16 trillion dollars of assets and serves 700 million clients in over 160 countries. Over the next two years, the group will reshape investment solutions to unlock more finance for sustainable development, especially for countries most in need, and align its business practices with the 2030 Agenda.

“We must confront challenges to inclusive trade and investment as growth engines and reignite the spirit of multilateralism.”

Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Aligning economic policies, financial and tax systems, and financing flows with the 2030 Agenda

Enhancing sustainable financing strategies and investments at the regional and country levels

Seizing the potential of financial innovations, new technologies and digitalization to provide equitable access to finance

REGIONAL SUPPORT

More than ever, our greatest challenges transcend borders. The regional commissions therefore help Governments to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development across the five regions. For example, the Economic Commission for Africa developed a regional strategy for the decade of action and launched the Sustainable Development Goal 7 initiative for Africa to steer private sector finance into African sustainable energy projects.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, together with the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, helped to organize high-level political regional forums on the 2030 Agenda and issued policy advice on how to accelerate regional progress, within the framework of empowerment and inclusion.

“We need to reimagine strengthened cooperation to secure sustainable development and connectivity in the region.”

Armida Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed (third from left) meets with (left to right): Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); and Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (New York, 21 February 2019)

“We envision an integrated, stable and peaceful region, where all individuals enjoy a dignified life in just, diverse and flourishing societies.”

Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary,
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

“With only ten years left to reach the SDGs, we must recognize the role cities and local leaders play in driving sustainable transformation.”

Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary,
Economic Commission for Europe

The debt for climate adaptation swap initiative advocated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean gained momentum and now incorporates a stronger Caribbean Resilience Fund. It addresses the two most urgent development needs facing the Caribbean: debt and vulnerability to climate change.

Collectively, the regional commissions for Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Western Asia pioneered regional “SDG Gateways”, which are a window to data across regions, subregions and countries. For the first time, the Gateways help Member States to assess where we are on track for the Sustainable Development Goals and what new investments are needed. In addition, they offer best practices, lessons and tools for policy.

A community member utilizes a United Nations-supported water station in Mathare informal settlement (Nairobi, Kenya, May 2020)

United Nations development system reform

The year 2019 was a defining year for the entities in the United Nations development system as it repositioned its support for the 2030 Agenda with programmes and projects of about $36 billion annually. The reform of the United Nations development system has resulted in a better-coordinated use of our global and regional capacities and refocused our on-the-ground support for countries at the start of the decade of action.

At the heart of the reform is the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, in which resident coordinators have greater authority, capacities and tools. Resident coordinators are leading 131 United Nations country teams in 162 countries and territories. With their support, country teams undertake more integrated planning and tailor responses to country priorities and needs in their pathway towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, centred on the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. The Development Coordination Office was also set up to support the resident coordinator system, and a funding compact was agreed with Member States to transform how the system is financed and managed.

The shift to better coordination is demonstrating results: 95 per cent of all United Nations country teams report that the joined-up approach has strengthened relationships with Governments, two thirds of partner Governments already indicate that resident coordinators deliver increased capacity on national development priorities, and almost 80 per cent of host Governments identified the newly reformed United Nations development system as more relevant to their country's development needs. We are on the right track and will continue to rigorously monitor the implementation of these reforms. While consolidating the new development coordination system that we have built together, I am determined to forge ahead on the remaining mandates of the repositioning process, notably for multi-country offices, the regional review and system-wide evaluation.

KEY OUTCOMES

We work with Governments and partners in
162
countries and territories for the 2030 Agenda

2/3
of programme country Governments indicate that resident coordinators have shown increased capacity to support national development priorities

72%
of cooperation frameworks in 2019 featured gender results as an outcome

STRENGTHENING COUNTRY-LEVEL SUPPORT

In Uganda, after a first-of-its-kind dialogue between the United Nations country team and the President of Uganda, the Government appointed a new national Sustainable Development Goals focal point to interact with the country team

In Guatemala, the United Nations country team and the European Union undertook a major exercise to align their respective planning tools; Sweden bilaterally committed to align to the cooperation framework

In Bangladesh, United Nations country team commitments in the Scorecard for the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality translated into a gender responsive cooperation framework, grounded in gender analysis in the Common Country Analysis for the first time

Josefa Sanchez, Ixil Mayan from Guatemala, survivor of sexual violence during the armed conflict, together with other indigenous women, is demanding justice and reparations with the support of a Peacebuilding Fund project mplemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (Guatemala, 2019)

Maintenance of International Peace and Security

KEY PROGRAMMES

- Support to global policymaking organs
- Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts
- Peacebuilding support
- Policy, evaluation and training
- Protection of civilians
- Rule of law and security institutions
- Electoral assistance

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$8.1B
$902M regular assessed,
$6.8B peacekeeping assessed (2018/19)
and $393M voluntary contributions

SELECT MANDATES

- Peacebuilding and sustaining peace, General Assembly resolution 72/276 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016)
- Restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar, General Assembly resolutions 72/199 and 72/262 C
- Women, peace and security, Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 2493 (2019)
- Children in armed conflict, Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 2427 (2018)
- Sexual violence in armed conflict, Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) and 2467 (2019)
- Youth, peace and security, Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018)
- Comprehensive review of special political missions, General Assembly resolution 74/91
- Safety and security of peacekeepers, Security Council resolution 2518 (2020)

SELECT ENTITIES

- Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
- Department of Peace Operations
- Peacekeeping Missions, Political Missions and Offices

In Niger, conflicts between farmers and pastoralist were significantly reduced by empowering women and youth as peacebuilders in conflict-prone regions (Niger, 2019)

ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONTEXT

As the United Nations marks 75 years of work for the maintenance of international peace and security, our efforts encounter complex and multifaceted challenges, many of which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. By the end of 2019, for example, 79.5 million people had been displaced by conflict, the highest number on record. In the face of these challenges, we are focused on strengthening our support for preventing and mitigating conflict.

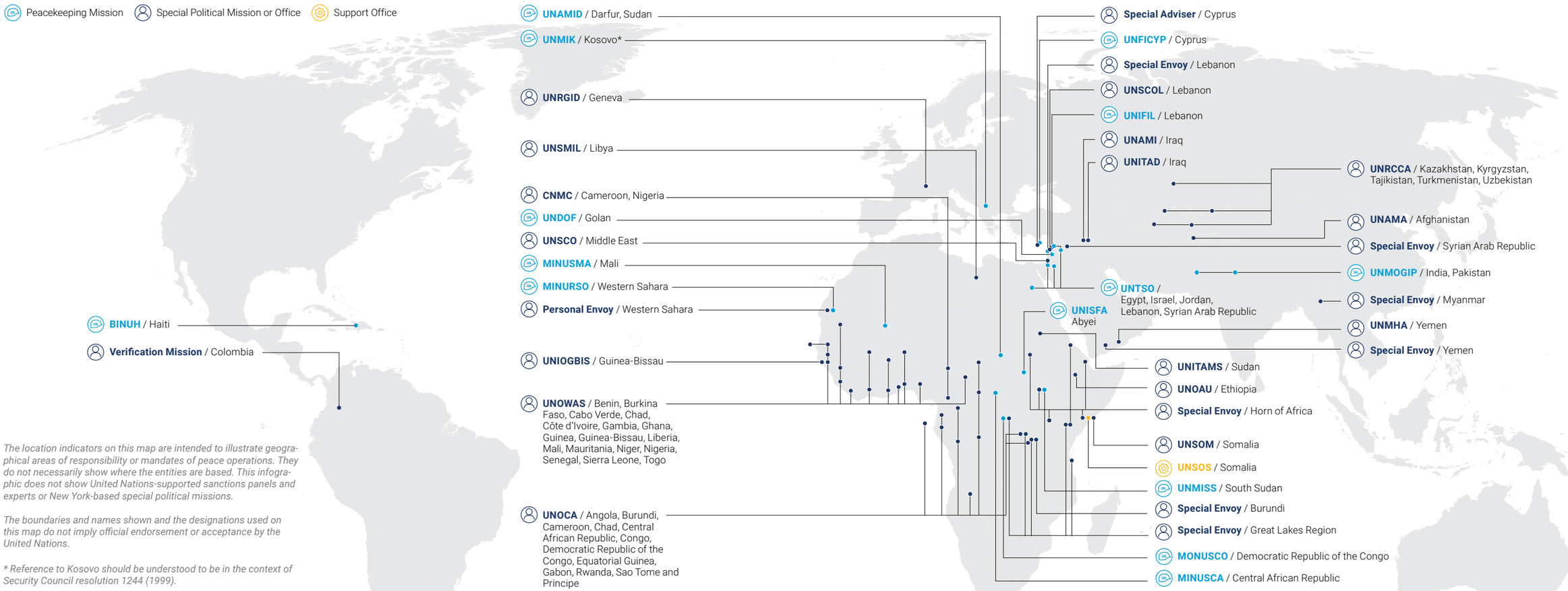
As part of my reform agenda, the peace and security architecture at Headquarters was restructured to increase coherence through a shift to a whole-of-pillar approach. Two new departments were established in 2019: the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, including a strengthened Peacebuilding Support Office, and the Department of Peace Operations, supported by a joint political-operational regional structure and shared capacities. Benefits from the reform are already evident through the prioritization of prevention, more tailored peacekeeping efforts, integrated approaches to transitions, the development of regional strategies, closer alignment with the United Nations development system, a strengthened partnership with the World Bank and greater impact of the Peacebuilding Fund.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Grounded in the principles of the Charter and the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the United Nations supports Member States through a wide range of activities in the area of international peace and security. Through its political, peacebuilding and peacekeeping engagements, the Organization assists in the prevention, mitigation, management and peaceful resolution of conflicts. The Organization also provides dedicated capacities to tackle violence against children, sexual violence in conflict, children and armed conflict, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and the prevention of genocide.

Women leaders from Papua New Guinea discuss peace and security with a United Nations delegation, including United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima, and United Nations Envoy on Youth Jayathma Wickramanayake (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 8 March 2020)

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS AND OFFICES



The location indicators on this map are intended to illustrate geographical areas of responsibility or mandates of peace operations. They do not necessarily show where the entities are based. This infographic does not show United Nations-supported sanctions panels and experts or New York-based special political missions.

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

** Reference to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).*

ACRONYM

BINUH	United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti
CNMC	United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNAMID	African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
UNDOF	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNIOGBIS	United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau
UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
UNITAD	United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
UNITAMS	United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan
UNMHA	United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
UNMOGIP	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
UNOAU	United Nations Office to the African Union
UNOCA	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNRGID	United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions
UNSCO	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
UNSCOL	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
UNSOS	United Nations Support Office in Somalia
UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization

In addition to the missions listed here, Personal Envoys and Special Advisers of the Secretary-General were deployed to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Mozambique and Sudan in support of peacemaking, peacebuilding or peace consolidation efforts.

KEY OUTCOMES

Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

At the heart of our work remains diplomacy for peace. To this end, my special envoys and representatives have been deeply engaged over the past year to secure sustainable peace in 54 contexts, including Libya, Mali, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Supporting the transition in the Sudan has been a key priority, as have the peaceful referendum in Papua New Guinea, diffusing post-election tensions in Malawi and the response to the unfolding crisis in Burkina Faso. Our good offices in the Gambia were instrumental in encouraging consensus-building, while in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, my Personal Envoy helped to calm tensions and violence in the aftermath of the 2019 elections. In Colombia, the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia continues to support the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace.

The world's most complex issues are borderless. Addressing them requires cross-border approaches, for example through the Group of Five for the Sahel, as well as the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region. In the current Peacebuilding Fund strategy, cross-border and regional support has been made a priority, with the aim of allocating 20 per cent of the Fund's portfolio to such efforts.

"Diplomacy and dialogue must be at the centre of efforts to prevent and end conflict. Only political solutions can ensure lasting peace."

Rosemary A. DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

SUPPORTING MEDIATION EFFORTS

Provided mediation support through **116** deployments in 25 different contexts

Developed a Digital Toolkit for Mediators to optimize use of technologies and counter misinformation or malicious use of the cyberspace

Supported regional organizations, civil society and Member States

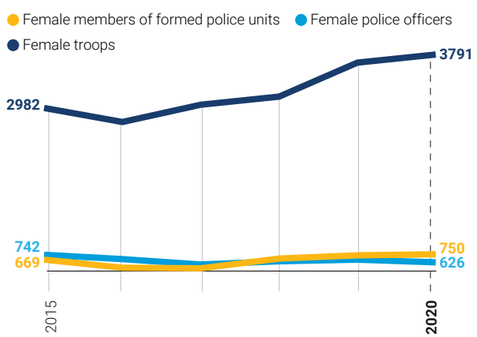
Expertise provided in relation to constitutions, natural resources, local mediation, transitional justice, national dialogues, gender and inclusion

WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY

As the international community marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, we put the protection and participation of women at the centre of all peacemaking, peacebuilding and conflict prevention. In the Central African Republic, for example, in 2019 women were formally involved in peace negotiations for the first time. In Lebanon, our support contributed to a first national action plan on women and peace and security, endorsed by the Government in 2019.

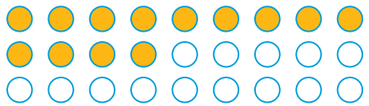
Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo, Gender Advocacy Officer with the United Nations mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), speaks with members of the local community. The Commander received the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (Bangui, Central African Republic, 8 May 2020)

THE NUMBER OF FEMALE PEACEKEEPERS IS INCREASING



INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN MEDIATION AND PEACE PROCESSES

100% United Nations mediation support teams had women members



Women were represented in **13 out of 27** conflict party delegations in four peace processes led or co-led by the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS GENDER ADVISERS

Gender support increased from 127 advisers in 2018 to ...

146 advisers in 2019, including **100** women and **46** men ....

.... engaged in providing **gender expertise** and **technical support**

...across **22** Special Political Missions

An integrated team from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) investigates recent armed attacks in the Mopti region (Koulogon, Mali, 21 February 2019)

The United Nations maintains more than 40 special political missions and peacekeeping operations to support conflict prevention and peacebuilding mandates on the ground. Combined, these missions comprise more than 95,000 civilian and uniformed personnel. The number of deployed women in uniform has increased fivefold in the past three decades, and we are working towards full gender parity based on our uniformed gender parity strategy.

“UN peacekeeping remains a vital tool to advance peace, requiring our sustained effort to consolidate and build on gains made.”

Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations

OUR PEACEKEEPING WORK

120+
countries participate…

…in
13 United Nations peacekeeping missions

…with
95,000+
uniformed and civilian personnel

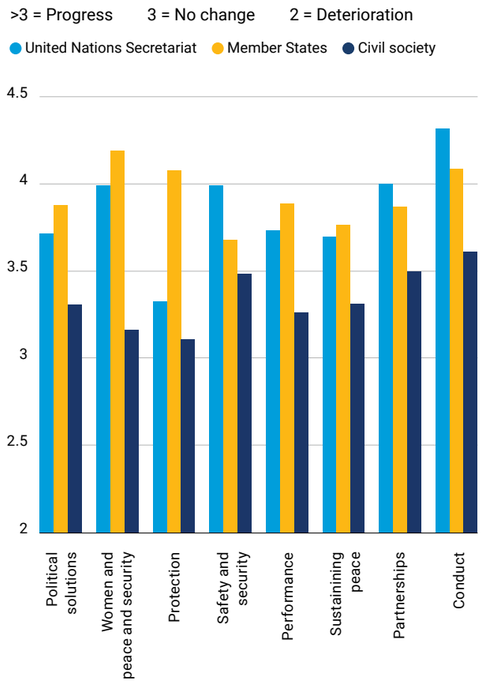
…including
3,900+
uniformed female military and **1,300+** uniformed female police personnel…

…to support peace and stability in
15+
countries

Peacekeeping operations in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, South Sudan and Darfur are implementing complex mandates, including protecting civilians and supporting political processes. In the Central African Republic, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic supported the implementation of the peace agreement, as well as election preparation, while in Mali, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali contributed to discussions on the redeployment of the reconstituted Malian Defence and Security Forces through accelerated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Our work in peacekeeping continues to be guided by the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. Endorsed by 153 Member States, the initiative provides a road map for strengthening peacekeeping in eight priority areas through commitments for collective action by all stakeholders. In 2019, we implemented a first ever partnership survey, which indicated progress, in particular on conduct, safety and security, and women and peace and security.

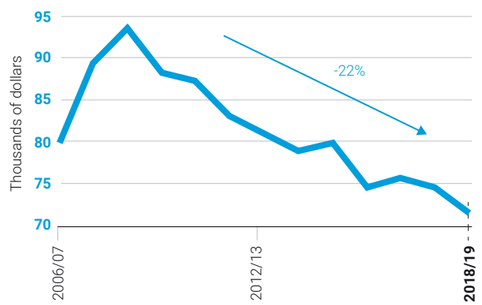
ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING (A4P): STRENGTHENING PEACEKEEPING IN EIGHT AREAS



In August 2019, the United Nations carried out a survey to gauge the perception of progress relating to A4P commitments. The graph shows the average response for each of the eight priorities.

WE HAVE REDUCED THE COST PER PEACEKEEPER BY 22%

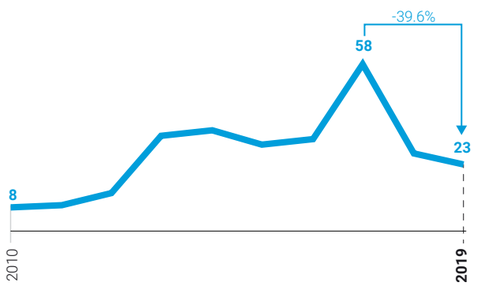
Expenditure per uniformed personnel, inflation adjusted*



** Excluding UNSOS and AMISOM. 2018/19 based on approved budget. Figures shown in 2018 dollars, inflation based on OECD average.*

FEWER PEACEKEEPERS DIED IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE IN 2019

Number of peacekeeping fatalities



Enhancing overall performance and improving the safety and security of peacekeepers

A United Nations peacekeeper looks over the General Assembly Hall during the 2019 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial meeting on the theme "Uniformed Capabilities, Performance and Protection" (New York, 29 March 2019)

The Comprehensive Performance Assessment System, which contributes to the initiative's commitment to performance and accountability, will have operated across 13 peacekeeping missions by the end of 2020. The System helps to assess our impact and generates analysis for better mandate delivery.

As part of our reform agenda, we are devoting particular attention to nationally led transitions, for example in the Sudan, where we are simultaneously drawing down the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and preparing for the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan, which will support the political transition, sustain stability gains in Darfur and assist in peacebuilding. Transition also occurred in Haiti with the establishment of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti and is under way in Guinea-Bissau with a strengthened role for the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel.

Protection of civilians

The year 2019 marked 20 years since the protection of civilians was added to the agenda of the Security Council and was first mandated in a United Nations peacekeeping operation, in Sierra Leone. Today,

CLIMATE SECURITY

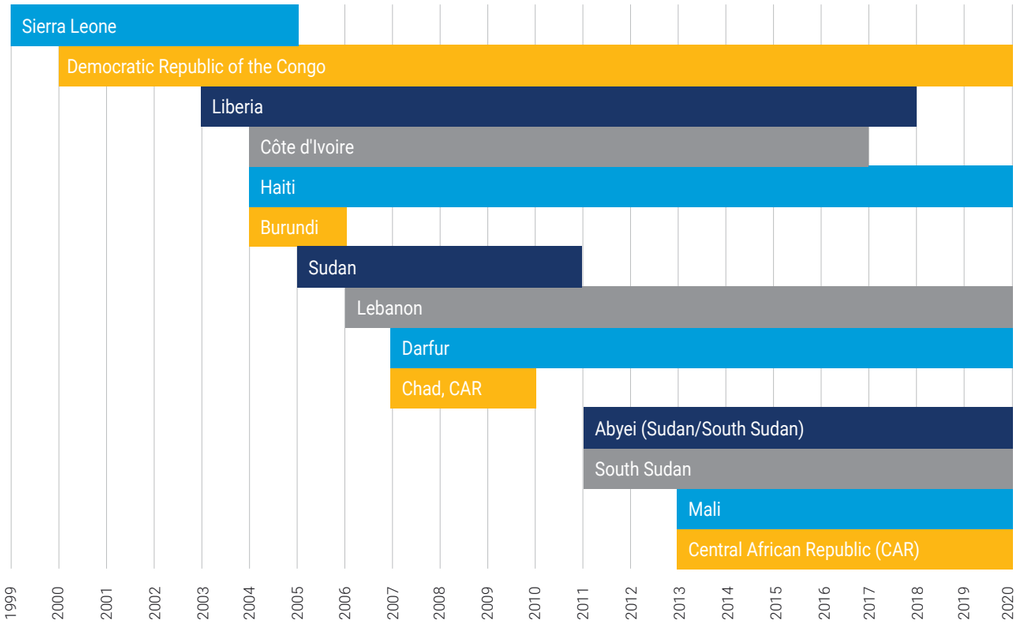
Our climate security mechanism advances a systematic approach to analysing and addressing climate-related security risks across the Organization and improves inter-agency cooperation and knowledge exchange. In 2019 and 2020, it supported risk analysis for West Africa and the Sahel, the Middle East and the Pacific islands.

95 per cent of all peacekeeping personnel serve in missions with protection mandates. In Mali and South Sudan, for example, our missions help to identify "hotspots" in communities at risk. In other contexts, such as the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and Mali, the missions are using community violence reduction approaches and surge teams.

As part of its Community Violence Reduction and Prevention project, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) distributes educational pamphlets to local residents (Munigi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 26 July 2019)

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS MANDATE

Protection of civilians mandates in peacekeeping operations from the year of inclusion to the termination of the mission



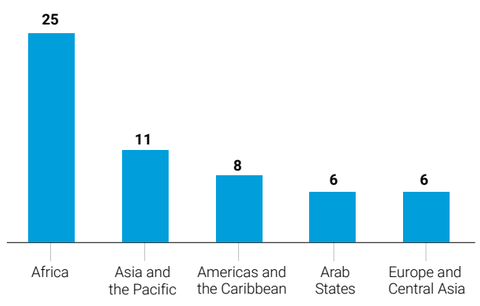
Peacebuilding support

The third review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture commenced in 2019 as we strengthen our support for the Peacebuilding Commission, scale up the Peacebuilding Fund and foster cross-pillar collaboration and our partnerships with international financial institutions. As the Organization's instrument of first resort for conflict prevention, the Fund supported the system-wide response in Burkina Faso, along with the Peacebuilding Commission. It also supported countries in transition, such as the Sudan. In 2019, the Fund provided $191 million in investments across 34 countries, an increase from $183 million in 2018, the previous record. For every $1 allocated, donors and Governments typically mobilize an additional $10 dollars of investment, illustrating the Fund's catalytic impact for peace.

"Prevention is a cost-effective way to secure development gains; yet, adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding remains a critical challenge."

Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support

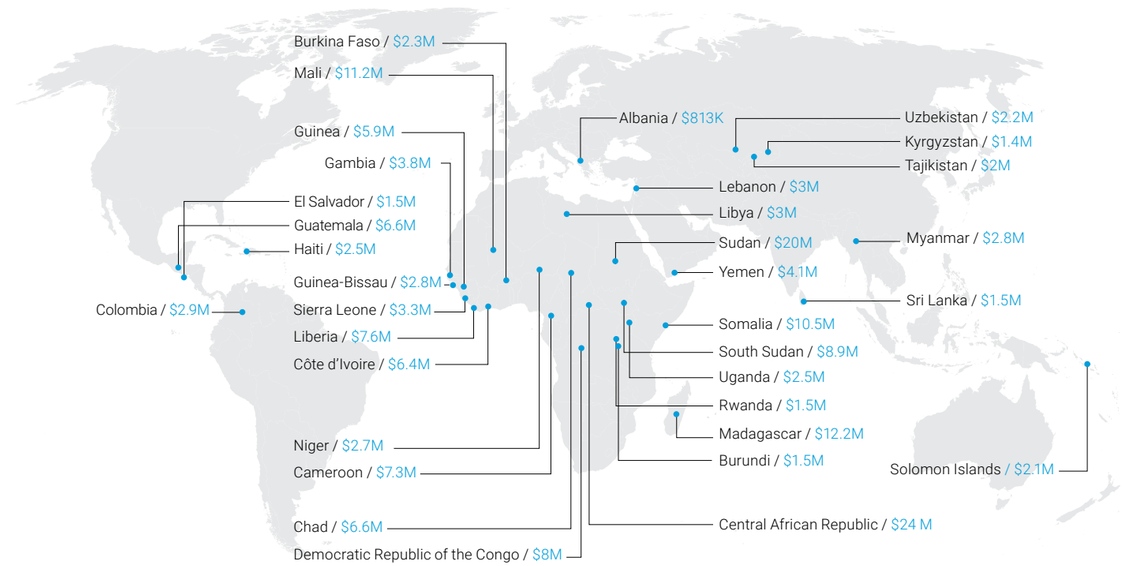
56 UNITED NATIONS PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT ADVISERS DEPLOYED ACROSS 70+ COUNTRIES*



*As of June 2020

In Colombia, the Peacebuilding Fund has financed key initiatives that have strengthened implementation of the peace agreement between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) (Colombia, 1 February 2020)

THE PEACEBUILDING FUND APPROVED $191 MILLION ACROSS 34 COUNTRIES AND 102 PROJECTS IN 2019 — ADDRESSING CRITICAL GAPS FOR SUSTAINING PEACE



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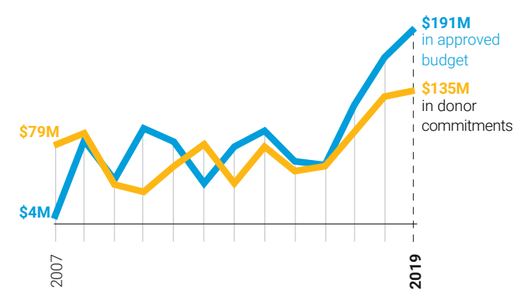
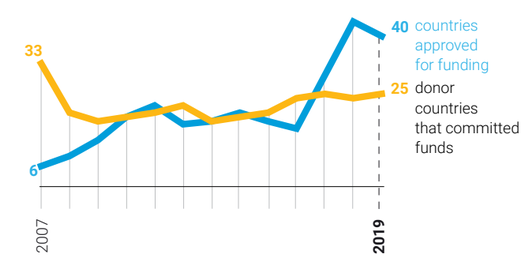
** All references to Kosovo in this document should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).*

$191M APPROVED FOR PROJECTS AND $135M RECEIVED IN NEW COMMITMENTS



MORE COUNTRIES BENEFIT FROM THE FUND WITH A STABLE NUMBER OF DONORS



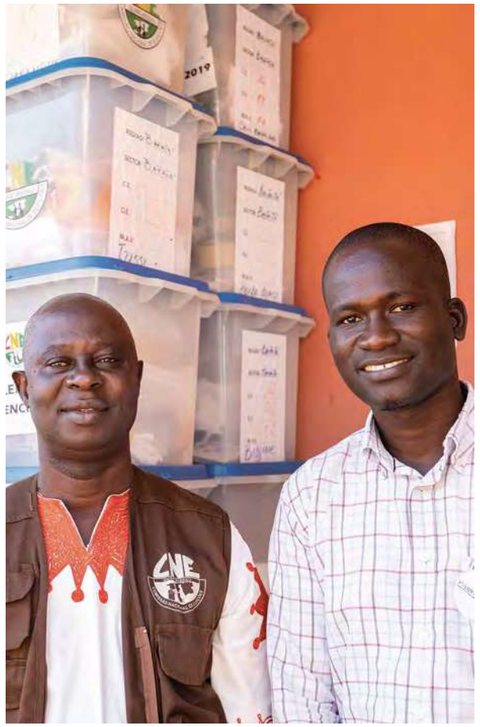
Participants in the first regional dialogue on Youth and Peace and Security (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, June 2019)

YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

In June 2019, we helped to organize the first regional dialogue on youth and peace and security in Ulaanbaatar to advance youth-led discussions and policies. In addition, the gender and youth promotion effort of the Peacebuilding Fund invested $20 million in young people's leadership, making it the largest funding initiative in support of the youth and peace and security agenda.

Electoral assistance

In 2019, we provided electoral assistance to 60 Member States and undertook 70 electoral missions involving 90 experts and staff, including in Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Liberia and Uzbekistan. The Organization provided direct assistance to 19 elections, which were assessed as peaceful and orderly by national and international observers. Our assistance also contributed to an increase in women's participation and representation, one of our key guiding principles. Over the past five years, the average number of women in parliament in countries receiving United Nations electoral assistance rose by more than 7 per cent.



A representative of the National Electoral Commission (CNE) and a UNIOGBIS staff member in front of ballot kits used for the 2019 presidential elections (Bafata, Guinea-Bissau, 2019)

OUR ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

We provided capacity development support to
60
Member States on electoral processes and institutions

and conducted
70
needs assessment and advisory missions…

We also directly assisted in the conduct of
19
elections

including in Afghanistan, Madagascar and Papua New Guinea

and
30
Member States benefitted from regional electoral training courses and workshops organized jointly by the United Nations in partnership with regional organizations

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Ingrid Hayden, visits the polling station at Zarghoona Girls High School in the Qalla e Fathullah area of Kabul during the September 2019 presidential election (Kabul, Afghanistan, 28 September 2019)

Rule of law and security institutions

United Nations support contributes to the strengthening of the rule of law as a core pillar of stability. In the Central African Republic, Mali, South Sudan and the Sudan, for example, we helped to increase the availability of justice and corrections services in conflict-affected areas, enhanced accountability for serious crimes and strengthened the capacity of national oversight bodies for accountability.

In the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we helped to train and support national police services, while in the Central African Republic and Mali, security sector reform was mainstreamed into the peace processes. The Organization also supported a nationally owned security sector reform in the Gambia and conducted a threat analysis of armed non-State actors in Burkina Faso.

In support of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, we launched revised global standards that now guide our programmes in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mali, Somalia and the Sudan.

View of the Security Council chamber during the meeting on the situation in Haiti (New York, 3 April 2019)

Security Council affairs

In 2019, the United Nations Secretariat continued to support the Security Council in preparing 258 meetings, five missions to the field, 52 resolutions and 15 presidential statements. Support was also provided to the Council's subsidiary bodies, including sanctions committees and working groups.

Violence against children, children and armed groups, sexual violence in conflict and victims' rights

As part of our efforts to address human rights violations associated with conflict, we provided input to the Central African Republic peace talks, which led to the release of over 600 children. Globally, the United Nations supported the development of at least 14 action plans resulting in the release of 13,600 children from armed forces and groups.

Local women prepare maize flour outside their village (Northern Burkina Faso, 24 May 2019)

Development in Africa

KEY PROGRAMMES

- Coordination of global advocacy and support for African Union development initiatives
- Regional coordination of and support for African Union development initiatives
- Public information and awareness activities for African Union development initiatives
- Regional cooperation for economic and social development in Africa

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$119M
$103M regular assessed and
$16M voluntary contributions
(including Economic Commission for Africa)

SELECT MANDATES

- Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda, General Assembly resolution 71/254
- A monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development, General Assembly resolution 66/293
- Political declaration on Africa's development needs, General Assembly resolution 63/1
- Ending conflict in Africa, Security Council resolution 2457 (2019)
- New Partnership for Africa's Development, General Assembly resolution 73/335
- United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, General Assembly resolution 57/7
- Implementation of the recommendations on the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, General Assembly resolution 73/336
- Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change, General Assembly resolution 57/300

SELECT ENTITIES

- Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
- Economic Commission for Africa
- Department of Global Communications

A woman drinks water as she and her family visit their old home in the village of Nanjua. Hers was one of 147 families that were relocated to the Taratara Camp after cyclone Kenneth (Cabo Delgado province, Mozambique, 10 July 2019)

ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONTEXT

Support for African priorities constitutes a significant portion of our work. Collectively, the United Nations system, including the Secretariat, assists 54 countries on the continent. Over 40 per cent of spending is delivered in Africa, and two out of every five staff work in the continent.

Over the past several years, Africa has made encouraging progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. However, progress has remained uneven. The pandemic will further exacerbate vulnerabilities and have an impact on economic growth, which is now expected to contract by 2.6 per cent, pushing nearly 29 million people into extreme poverty and resulting in 19 million jobs lost.

KEY OBJECTIVES

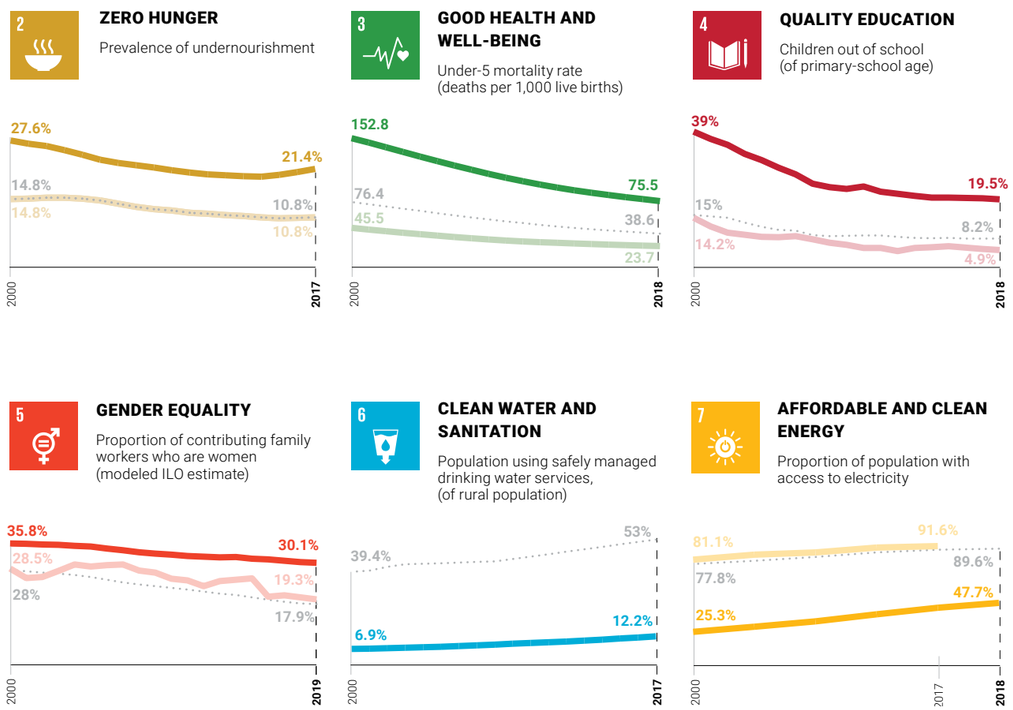
The United Nations promotes sustainable development and peace in Africa, addressing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development and the interlinkages among peace, security, human rights and development. We also help to foster intra-regional integration and international cooperation on the continent.

“Our vision is better informed when we recognize the linkages amongst peace, security, economic and social development and human rights.”

Bience Gawanas, former Special Adviser on Africa

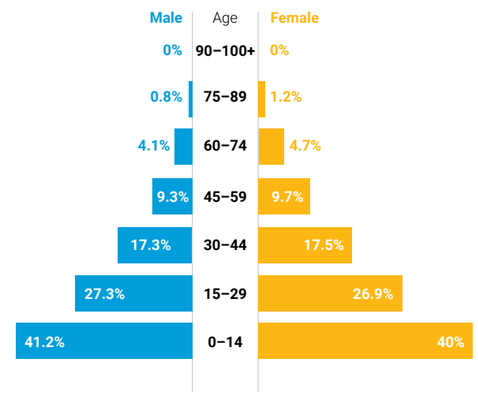
AFRICA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sub-Saharan Africa — Northern Africa — World



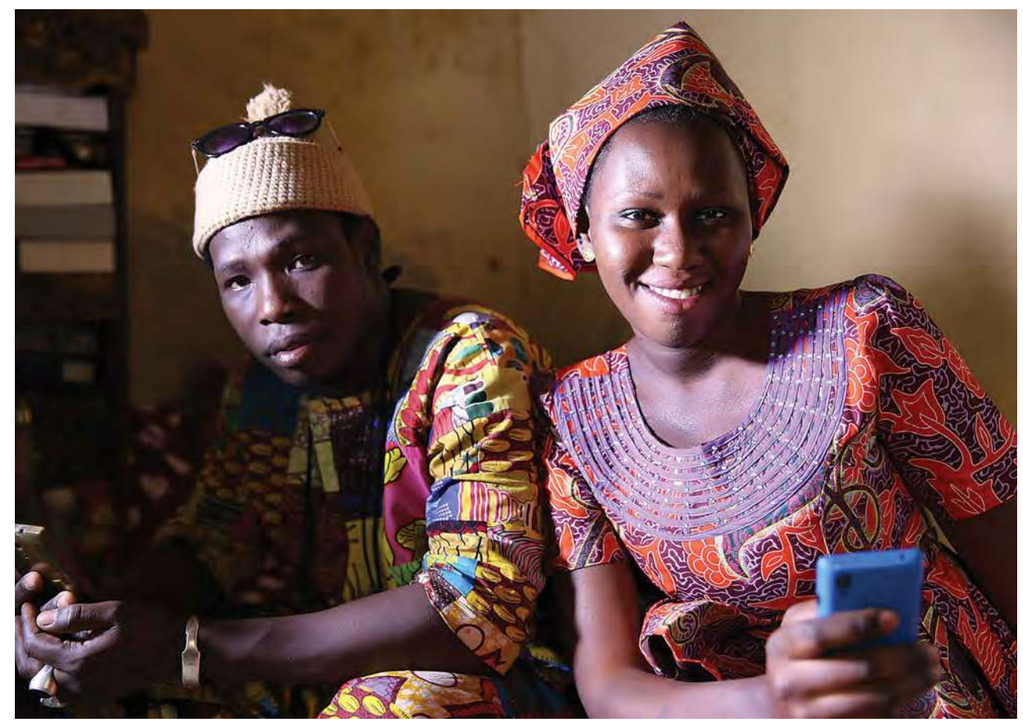
HARNESSING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF A YOUNG AND GROWING POPULATION IN AFRICA

Population by age and gender



KEY OUTCOMES

On 6 May 2019, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and I convened the third United Nations-African Union annual conference, deepening our collaboration through the Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and the Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, we also co-organized a special session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa for more than 400 policymakers and practitioners.



The United Nations is supporting digital transformation in Senegal with payments made online and via electronic devices, including through mobile phones (Senegal, 8 December 2017)

United Nations | African Union

MAPPING UNITED NATIONS-AFRICAN UNION PARTNERSHIP

SELECT UNITED NATIONS-AFRICAN UNION AGREEMENTS

2017 Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security

Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda **2017–2027**

2018 African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Draft African Union-United Nations Joint Framework on Human Rights

SELECT UNITED NATIONS-AFRICAN UNION COLLABORATION IN PEACE AND SECURITY

Central African Republic: The United Nations and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) supported the African Union-led mediation process, which led to the conclusion and implementation of the February 2019 political agreement

Madagascar: The United Nations, the African Union and South African Development Community (SADC) facilitated peaceful and credible elections in late 2018, and a peaceful transition in January 2019

Nigeria and Democratic Republic of the Congo: Since 2017, the United Nations and the African Union have held annual high-level solidarity missions of the African Women Leaders Network for gender equality and women's empowerment

Somalia: Concerted efforts by the United Nations, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have helped the country to build its federal system, implement its political road map and enable the gradual transfer of security responsibilities from the African Union Mission to the Somali security forces

Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed (centre) meets United Nations resident coordinators in Africa at the sixth Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on the theme "2020–2030: A Decade to Deliver a Transformed and Prosperous Africa through the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063" (Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 23 February 2020)

Aya Chebbi, African Union Special Envoy on Youth, addresses the Security Council meeting on mobilizing youth towards silencing the guns by 2020 under the topic "Peace and Security in Africa" (New York, 2 October 2019)

“Immense opportunities exist for Africa to embark on a bold new path leveraging emerging technologies, deeper regional integration, trade and innovative partnerships.”

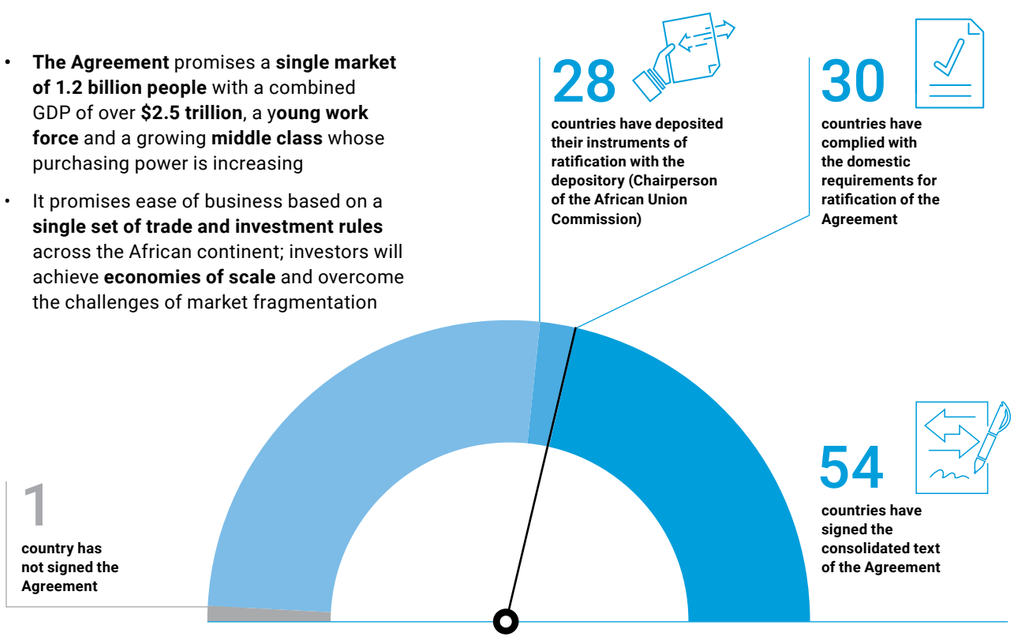
Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa

In May, we also co-hosted the 2020 Africa Dialogue Series, on the theme “COVID-19 and silencing the guns in Africa: challenges and opportunities”. The goal was to enhance global advocacy for the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 and Security Council resolution 2457 (2019), as well as my appeal for a global ceasefire.

The Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area entered into force in May 2019, creating one of the world’s largest trading blocs with over 50 countries. The Agreement, which creates a single market for goods and services covering about 1.2 billion consumers, has the potential to boost intra-African trade by half. The United Nations held awareness-raising events in 34 Member States to promote its ratification and provided assistance for national strategies, including for the inclusion of women, who represent 70 per cent of informal cross-border traders.

AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

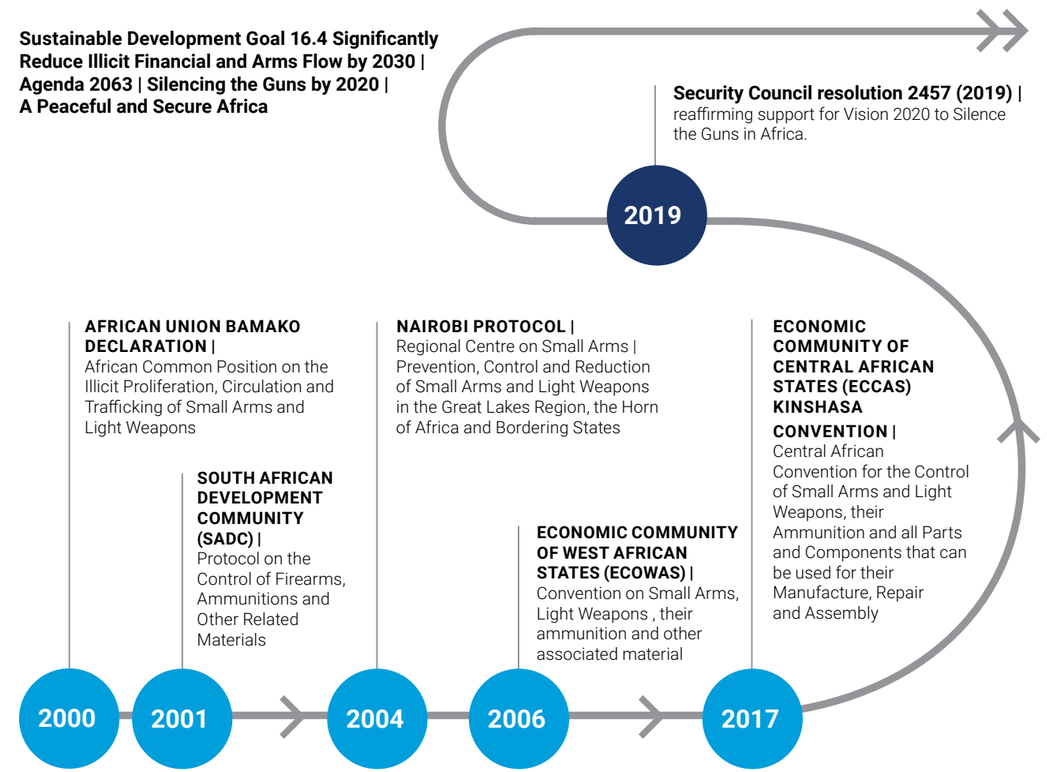
- **The Agreement** promises a **single market of 1.2 billion people** with a combined GDP of over **$2.5 trillion**, a **young work force** and a growing **middle class** whose purchasing power is increasing
- It promises ease of business based on a **single set of trade and investment rules** across the African continent; investors will achieve **economies of scale** and overcome the challenges of market fragmentation



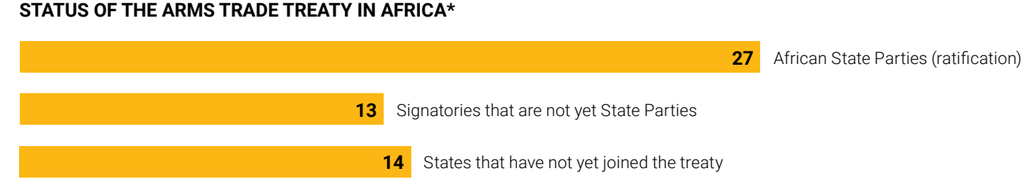
As of May 2020

As part of our work to strengthen the use of data and statistics, the United Nations supported Member States in adopting digitized approaches to census taking. In Kenya, a 2019 census was taken digitally, saving an estimated 506 days of work, as well as strengthening data quality. Other countries are learning from the experience of Kenya, and 27 Member States have undertaken assessments of civil registration and statistics systems.

AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA



STATUS OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY IN AFRICA*



**The Arms Trade Treaty regulates international trade in conventional arms – from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships. It entered into force on 24 December 2014.*

Students from Public School 22 perform "We the Children" with Charlie Chan at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 20 November 2019)

Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

KEY PROGRAMMES

- Supporting human rights treaty bodies
- Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms
- Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities
- Human rights mainstreaming, the right to development, research and analysis

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$323M

$128M regular assessed, $2M peacekeeping assessed and $193M voluntary contributions

SELECT MANDATES

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, General Assembly resolution 217 (III)
- Declaration on the Right to Development, General Assembly resolution 41/128
- High Commissioner for the Promotion and Protection of all Human Rights, General Assembly resolution 48/141
- Strengthening and Enhancing the Effective Functioning of the Human Rights Treaty Body System, General Assembly resolution 68/268
- Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review, General Assembly resolutions 60/251 and 65/281

SELECT ENTITIES

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, stands next to an installation on the lawn of United Nations Headquarters. The 3,758 backpacks each represent a loss of a young life to conflict, commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 9 September 2019)

ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONTEXT

Fostering peaceful societies and sustainable development goes hand in hand with human rights. Bringing States, civil society, private sector actors and other stakeholders together behind the universal commitment to rights facilitates the building of just and inclusive societies.

Participants take part in a game with questions related to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the special event on Youth Standing Up for Human Rights (New York, 10 December 2019)

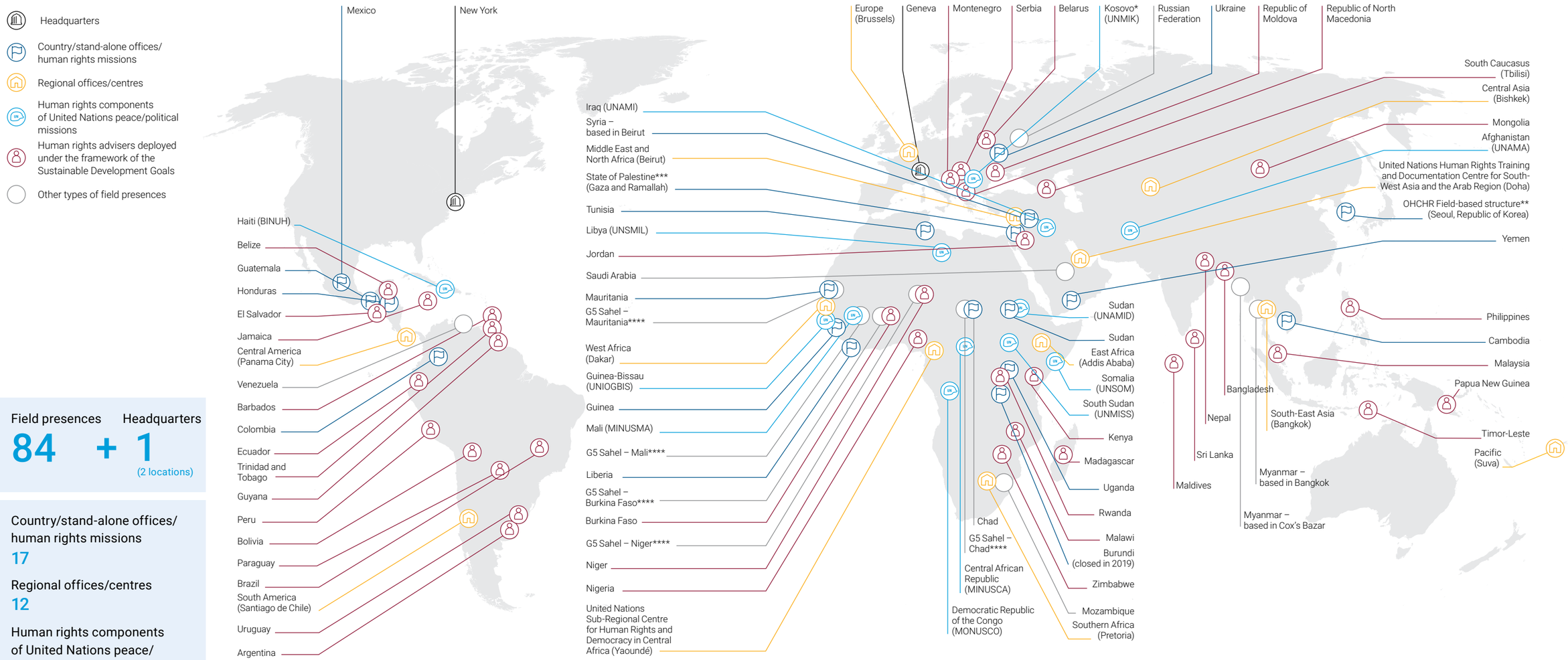
KEY OBJECTIVES

Our work to advance the protection and promotion of human rights spans the following thematic pillars: support for international human rights mechanisms; mainstreaming human rights within development and peace and security efforts; and advancement of the core human rights principles of non-discrimination, participation and accountability. In the context of the current pandemic, the United Nations is working to ensure that human rights are central to the response, including through 14 policy recommendations in a dedicated Secretary-General's brief.

"Bringing up children and young people secure in their rights is fundamental to the future of humanity. Thirty years after it was adopted, the Convention on the Rights of the Child continues to be a vital guide for us all."

Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD IN 2019



Field presences	Headquarters
84	+ 1 (2 locations)

Country/stand-alone offices/ human rights missions
17

Regional offices/centres
12

Human rights components of United Nations peace/ political missions
12

Human rights advisers deployed under the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals
37

Other types of field presences
6

** Reference to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).*

*** Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.*

**** Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood to be in the context of General Assembly resolution 67/19.*

***** G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger).*

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

KEY OUTCOMES

Support for international human rights mechanisms

Our support for treaty-based and intergovernmental bodies continued during the past year. For example, the special procedures and other mechanisms of the Human Rights Council undertook 84 visits to 57 States and territories in 2019. The treaty body capacity-building programme helped to strengthen national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up in Botswana, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Kenya and Sierra Leone, among others.

CALL TO ACTION

The Secretary-General launched his Call to Action for Human Rights at the forty-third session of the Human Rights Council, in February 2020, to advance the effective enjoyment of all human rights by all everywhere, based on the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With the full strength of the Secretary-General's office and the United Nations family, the call proposes core guiding principles across seven domains to realize the "highest aspiration of humankind".

EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

TREATY-BASED BODIES

1 Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

2 Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

3 Human Rights Committee

4 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

5 Committee against Torture

6 Committee on the Rights of the Child

7 Committee on Migrant Workers

8 Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

9 Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

10 Committee on Enforced Disappearances

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

1 Human Rights Council

2 Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council

SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

133 State Party reports reviewed by human rights treaty bodies in 2019

92 resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council

42 Member States reviewed for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations

6 new Human Rights Council mandates established, including 1 new expert mechanism on the right to development

44 thematic and **12** country-specific special procedures mandates

41 newly established and/or strengthened National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up

Secretary-General António Guterres (at podium) makes remarks at the opening of the fortieth session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva, Switzerland, 25 February 2019)

Human rights within development efforts

In 2019, a draft legally binding instrument on the right to development was prepared, as was a prototype tool to design, monitor and assess human rights-based development policies. We also prioritized the integration of human rights in environment and climate policies. In September 2019, the Peoples' Summit on Climate, Rights and Human Survival was held, resulting in a declaration signed by more than 400 organizations.

Peace and security

The integration of human rights in peace operations is a key element of my Action for Peacekeeping initiative. In 2019, we trained more than 500 mission leaders, police and military officers and developed new policy and guidance on preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence, in addition to the work of human rights personnel who conduct investigations and report in conflict settings.

Non-discrimination

In our work to enhance equality and counter discrimination, we provided support to the adoption of 15 new national laws to combat discrimination in all its forms. The roll-out of the standards of conduct for tackling discrimination against LGBTI persons continued, including disseminating them at global corporate events such as the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and receiving the support of 270 of the largest companies in the world.

OUR SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATE COOPERATION

39
treaty actions: **2** signatures; **19** ratifications; **18** accessions

57
Governments hosted **84** visits by special procedures mandates

133
State Party reports reviewed by the treaty bodies with 7 States Parties visited by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

3,174
official documents submitted for meetings of human rights mechanisms, General Assembly and the United Nations Economic and Social Council

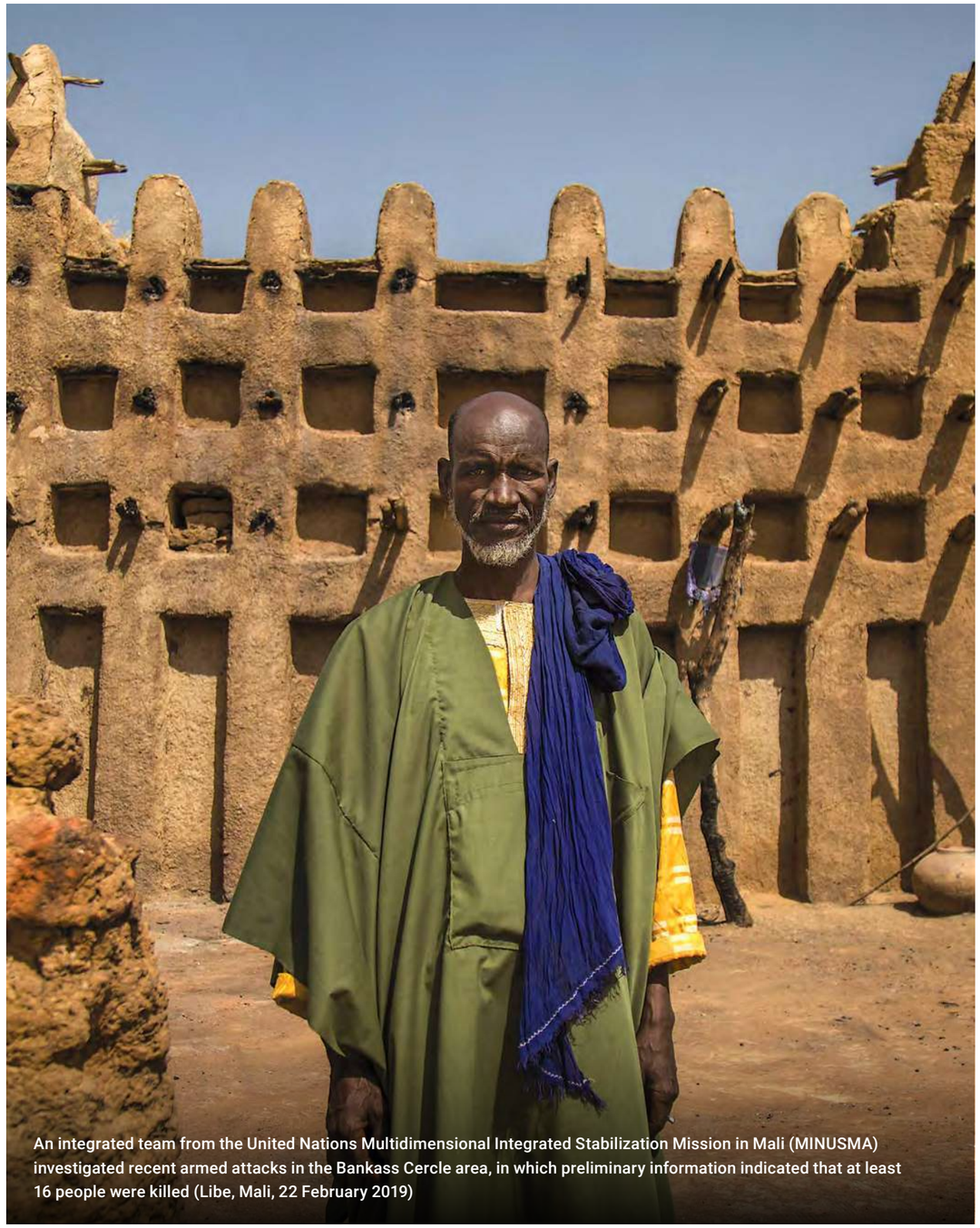
OUR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

35,997
victims of torture in **77** countries received rehabilitation support

8,594
victims of contemporary forms of slavery in **23** countries obtained assistance

12
human rights components in United Nations peace missions, including **524** staff

37
Human rights advisers deployed in United Nations country teams



An integrated team from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) investigated recent armed attacks in the Bankass Cercle area, in which preliminary information indicated that at least 16 people were killed (Libe, Mali, 22 February 2019)

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The year 2019 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in which it is recognized that children are entitled to non-negotiable rights. The Convention protects the rights of all children, everywhere, to be free from discrimination, violence and neglect.

CRC30 YEARS
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Amaya Pilla Masaquiza speaks at the high-level commemorative event of the General Assembly on thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 25 September 2019)

196 States parties to the Convention

168 States Parties to Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Armed Conflict

176 States Parties to Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

46 States Parties to Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure

196 States reported at least once

1,592 civil society reports submitted from 2009 to 2019

327 children who met with the Committee during its pre-sessional working group from 2008 to 2019

63 reports submitted by children from 2009 to 2019

52 States made **200+** pledges on **24** articles of the Convention to celebrate the anniversary

Child-friendly version of the Convention produced in **6** United Nations languages

A child stands by the doors to the General Assembly Hall during the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 20 November 2019)

ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION

Since its establishment in 1985, United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples has supported the participation of over

2,500

indigenous persons in United Nations human rights mechanisms

15

national laws adopted to combat discrimination in all forms

270

companies expressed public support for the Standards of Conduct for Business in Tackling Discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans and Intersex People

United Nations Human Rights LGBTI Fellowship Programme launched

The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent sent **44** allegation letters and urgent appeals on behalf of over

30,200 victims

A specially trained instructor works with children with disabilities and special needs in an inclusive classroom at LEC centre (Boulaos, Djibouti, 2018)

Participation

We continued our support for the International Decade for People of African Descent, notably through a fellowship programme. Since 2011, 83 fellows from 32 countries have been empowered through the programme and subsequently played instrumental roles in promoting the Decade in their countries.

Accountability

We continued to support States and other stakeholders in the design and implementation of context-specific, victim-centred and human rights-based accountability and transitional justice processes. We worked with security forces to ensure respect for human rights in the context of counter-terrorism and continued to chair the Global Compact Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and Supporting Victims of Terrorism.

INCREASING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE

7.6M

followers across United Nations Human Rights social media platforms

36,900+

unique visitors to the Universal Human Rights Index website

85,000+

publications and other print materials dispatched to **51** countries

4.89M

visits to online publications

481

civil society side events organized during Human Rights Council sessions

Students at 25 de Junho School in Beira, Mozambique. The school is currently hosting some 5,000 children. During the cyclones in March and April 2019, windows were broken and most of the tin roof flew off, except for parts that are now hanging (Beira, Mozambique, 8 July 2019)

Effective Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance

KEY PROGRAMMES

- Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response
- Emergency support services
- Humanitarian information and advocacy
- Natural disaster reduction
- Policy and analysis

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$1.9B

$105M regular assessed (including Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR, UNRWA) and $1.8B voluntary contributions (including Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Central Emergency Response Fund and Country-based Pooled Funds)

SELECT MANDATES

- Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions 46/182 and 74/118
- International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, General Assembly resolution 74/115
- Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, General Assembly resolution 74/116
- Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, General Assembly resolution 74/160
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, General Assembly resolution 69/283
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, General Assembly resolution 70/1

SELECT ENTITIES

- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Rania Abulraheem conducts an assessment mission at Al Sha'ab internally displaced persons collective center (Aden, Yemen, 27 July 2019)

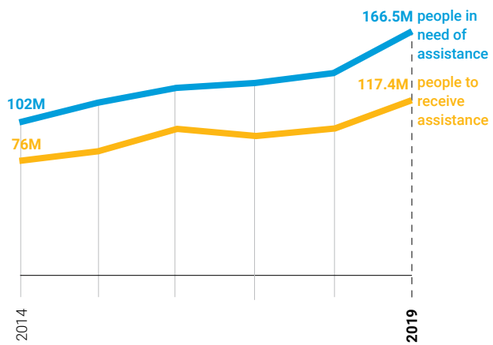
ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONTEXT

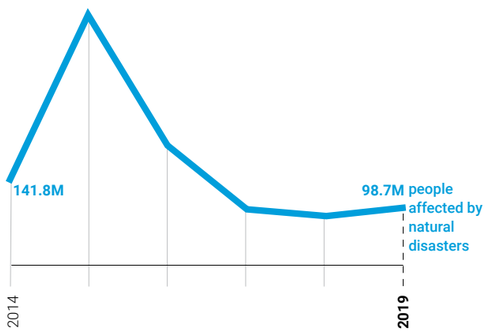
The past year has been one of tremendous challenges. The combined impact of protracted and intensifying conflicts, climatic shocks and the COVID-19 pandemic pushed humanitarian needs to unprecedented levels, resulting in more than 166 million people requiring assistance. The number of people displaced again rose to record levels, with 79.5 million displaced by conflict, violence and persecution. The world's eight worst food crises were all linked to conflict and climate shocks. For millions of people, exposure to these multiple risks eroded their resilience and increased the likelihood of humanitarian crisis.

Abaco Island, Bahamas, after Hurricane Dorian, a category five hurricane, swept the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama on 1 September 2019 (Marsh Harbor, Bahamas, 11 September 2019)

MORE THAN 166.5 MILLION PEOPLE WERE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN 2019



OVER 98.7 MILLION PEOPLE AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS IN 2019



Source: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters

KEY OBJECTIVES

The United Nations works to ensure coherent, coordinated, effective and timely humanitarian responses to save lives and alleviate human suffering in natural disasters and complex emergencies. We advocate humanitarian principles, promote knowledge-sharing in crises, help to expedite assistance and develop policies for greater coherence. Working with a range of stakeholders, we mobilize resources to prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises. Facilitating early and rapid action, including through anticipatory approaches and humanitarian and development collaboration, remains crucial to effective coordination.

KEY OUTCOMES

In 2019, we worked with partners to mobilize over $18 billion in contributions for life-saving aid for more than 117 million people, compared with $15.8 billion in 2018, the previous record. Jointly, we help to coordinate more than 570 partners for humanitarian action. Their collective impact was illustrated in Yemen, the world's most severe crisis and where humanitarian organizations reach more than 13 million people every month. In 2020, global needs further increased owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, which required a Global Humanitarian Response Plan for 63 of the world's most vulnerable countries.

"Humanitarian partners are mobilizing and innovating to save lives. We must strengthen anticipatory approaches and early action rather than waiting for disasters to escalate."

Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

OUR SUPPORT TO COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

56
countries affected and in need of humanitarian assistance

We helped coordinate
35
response plans, regional plans, and appeals…

… deployed gender and protection advisers to
21
humanitarian emergencies...

… and brought
570+
partners together...

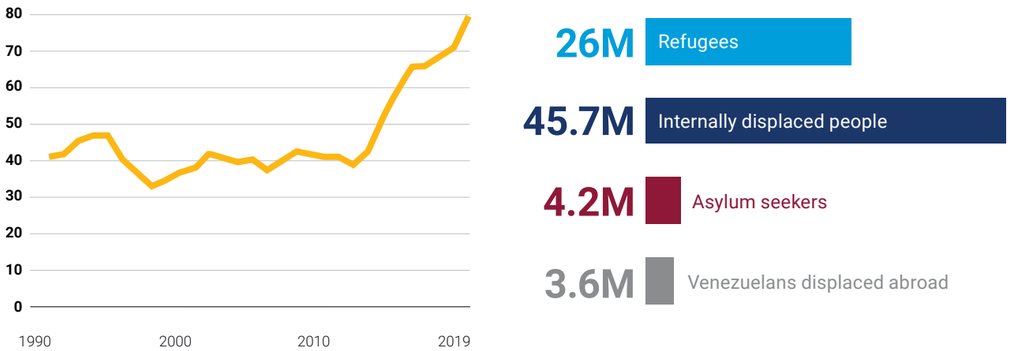
… to help
117.4 M
people in need…

… and mobilized
$18.1B
in humanitarian assistance

Three girls at a United Nations-supported settlement in Barsologho in the north of Burkina Faso (Barsologho, Burkina Faso, 21 May 2019)

IN 2019, GLOBAL FORCED DISPLACEMENT ROSE TO A RECORD 79.5M, INCLUDING 45.7M INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

Millions of people



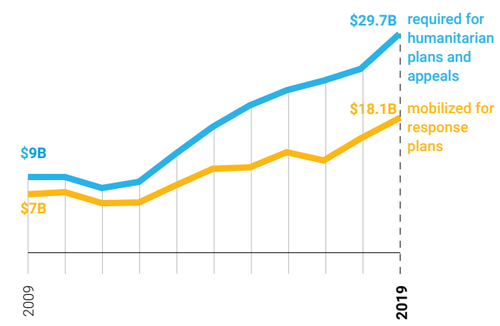
A student looks through a window at the "25 de Junho" School, located in Beira, Mozambique. The school is currently hosting around 5,000 children ranging in ages from 5 to 14, as the country recovers from Cyclones Idai and Kenneth (Beira, Mozambique, 8 July 2019)

Aerial view of Marsh Harbor, a town in Great Abaco Island, Bahamas, which was devastated by category 5 Hurricane Dorian (Abaco Island, Bahamas, 14 September 2019)

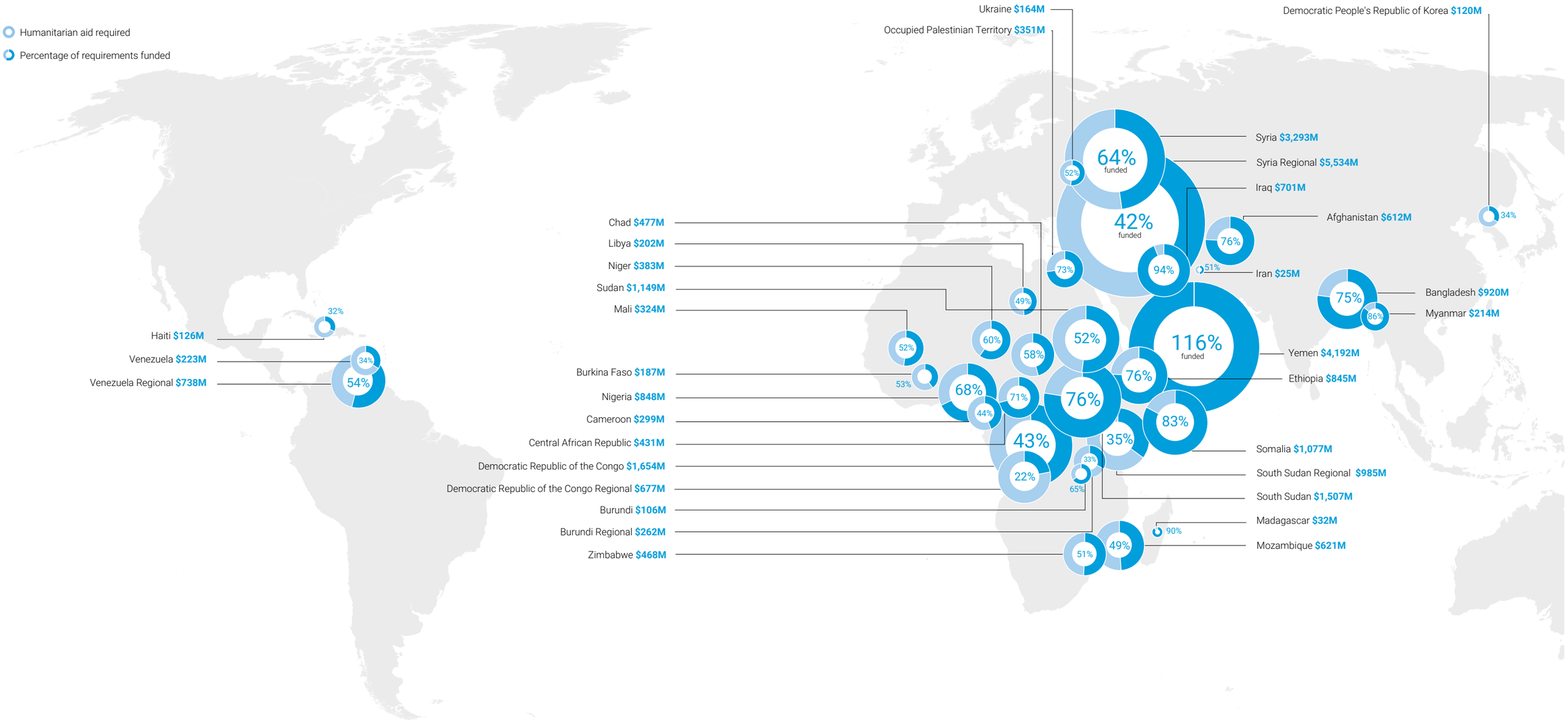
United Nations humanitarian pooled funds were at the forefront of channelling funding to areas where needs were greatest. Country-based pooled funds allocated $1.02 billion to humanitarian organizations on the ground for more than 1,600 humanitarian projects targeting 27.5 million people in 18 countries. Some 25 per cent of allocations went directly to national non-governmental organizations.

In Southern Africa, for example, we predeployed emergency coordination experts, as well as resources from the Central Emergency Response Fund, to enable a quick life-saving assistance response to cyclones Idai and Kenneth. When Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas, the United Nations supported national actions to reduce suffering and save lives.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND DONOR SUPPORT REACHED RECORD HIGHS IN 2019



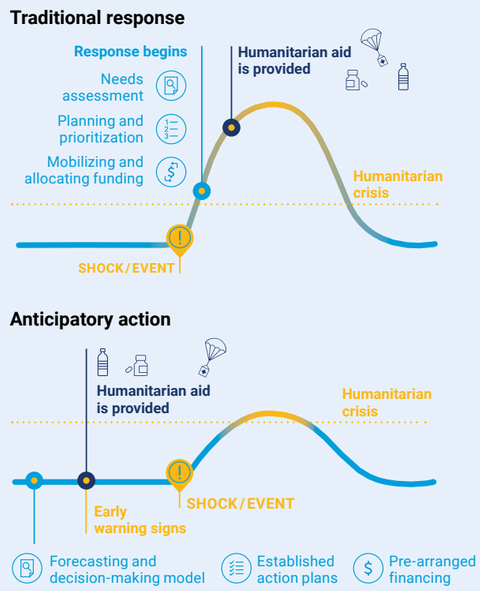
WITH 35 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANS AND APPEALS, THE UNITED NATIONS HELPED MOBILIZE $18.1B OF THE $29B NEEDED TO ASSIST 117.4M PEOPLE IN 56 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES



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

TRADITIONAL RESPONSE AND ANTICIPATORY ACTION

Financing action before a disaster strikes can save lives and reduce suffering. In 2019, we continued to support anticipatory action, for example by supporting the Global Cholera Risk Model, which can provide up to four weeks' advance warning of potential outbreak, and by developing the first anticipatory action framework for drought in Somalia.

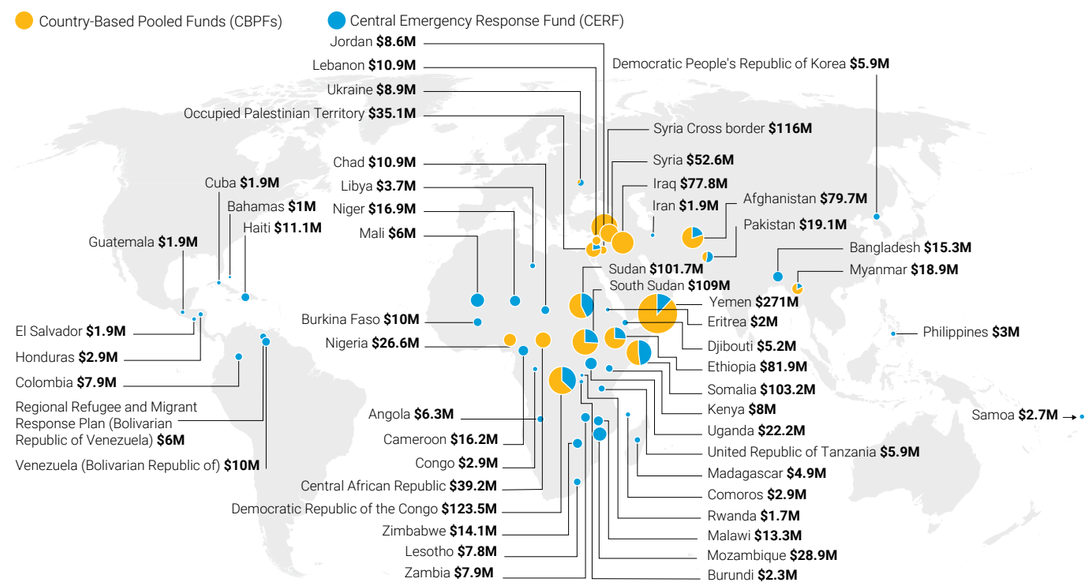


In July 2019, heavy monsoon rains triggered widespread flooding in Bangladesh. An OCHA ROAP communications mission was used to capture the impact of CERF-funded projects for affected people and to hear their stories (Kurigram District, Bangladesh, February 2020)

In total, the Central Emergency Response Fund disbursed $538.7 million to responses in 49 countries and territories, where people's suffering was often out of sight of the world's media. For example, following consecutive harvest failures, the Fund provided $45 million to scale up support for 1.8 million drought-affected people across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. In response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak, the Fund allocated $9.8 million to the in-country response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as $10.5 million to support preparedness and mitigation in Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda.

Eutur Nafra (left) is working to raise community awareness regarding COVID-19 at the Abnaa Mhin internally displaced persons camp (Idleb Governorate, Syria, 17 April 2020)

UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN FUNDS ALLOCATED A RECORD $1.5B ACROSS 48 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES IN 2019



- ***Country-Based Pooled Funds*** *allow donors to pool their contributions into single, unearmarked funds to support local humanitarian efforts*
- ***Central Emergency Response Fund*** *pools contributions from donors into a single fund to enable rapid emergency response and to support underfunded emergencies*

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

We also continue to engage policymakers in critical humanitarian issues. In May 2019, a high-level conference on ending sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises generated $363 million in pledges and critical political commitments. In October, I announced a High-level Panel on Internal Displacement for durable solutions and better support for the more than 50 million people and host communities affected. In November, we launched guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

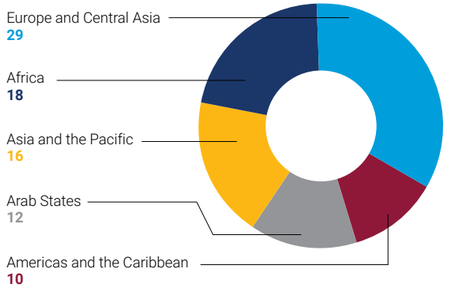
We also continued to provide support to countries in developing disaster risk reduction strategies based on the Sendai Framework. The Sendai Framework monitor is now used by 131 Member States to report progress towards the seven targets and disaster-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Kiombwe and Jovial at the the Katwa Child care Centre, in Butembo, North Kivu. The Centre cares for children whose parents are receiving treatment from Ebola (North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2019)

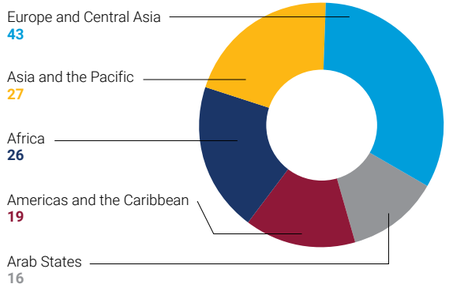
Twenty-six-year-old Rokaya (centre) and her children all currently live in a former school-turned settlement for internally displaced persons. Rokaya and her family fled Al Hudaydah in June 2018 (Dar Saad, Aden, Yemen, 21 March 2019)

85 COUNTRIES REPORT NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES

A total 85 countries reported through the Sendai Framework Monitor on national disaster risk reduction strategies that are aligned to the Sendai Framework



131 COUNTRIES USE THE NEW SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITOR



OUR SUPPORT TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

4,087
government officials and disaster risk reduction stakeholders trained, of which **39% were women**

4,311
cities participating in the Making Cities Resilient campaign

131
Member and Observer States using the new Sendai Framework Monitor

“Good governance underpins disaster risk reduction. Addressing the systemic and cascading effects of disasters requires governments to invest in communities and cross-cutting solutions for resilience.”

Mami Mizutori, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Peace Palace, seat of the International Court of Justice (The Hague, Netherlands)

Promotion of International Justice and Law

KEY PROGRAMMES

- Legal services for the United Nations as a whole
- Legal services for United Nations organs and programmes
- Extraordinary international accountability mechanisms
- Custody, registration and publication of treaties
- Development and codification of international law
- Law of the sea and ocean affairs
- International trade

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$190M

$71M regular assessed, $3M peacekeeping assessed (2018/19), $98M other assessed and $18M voluntary contributions

SELECT MANDATES

- Charter of the United Nations
- Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework, General Assembly resolutions 23 (I) and 73/210
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), General Assembly resolutions 73/124 and 73/125
- International matters, General Assembly resolutions 57/228 B and 71/248, Human Rights Council resolution 39/2, Security Council resolutions 1315 (2000) and 1966 (2010)

SELECT ENTITIES

- Office of Legal Affairs
- International Court of Justice
- Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar
- International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
- Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone
- International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

Reading of the Advisory Opinion of the Court on Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 at the International Court of Justice (the Hague, Netherlands, 25 February 2019)

ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONTEXT

In the Charter of the United Nations, the world committed "to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained". This pledge continues to serve as the foundation for Member State interactions in achieving their common goals and is integral to all aspects of our work.

"For the last 75 years, the United Nations has been placed at the centre of international law-making."

Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel of the United Nations

KEY OUTCOMES

Progress was made on a legally binding instrument 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. The next session, in 2021, will consider a revised draft text of an agreement.

I took further measures to establish the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law with respect to Myanmar since 2011. The Mechanism issued its first report to the Human Rights Council in 2019 and has since taken steps to become fully operational.

In March 2019, the Appeals Chamber of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals sentenced Radovan Karadžić to life imprisonment for genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war committed in the former Yugoslavia. In Paris, French authorities arrested Félicien Kabuga, who had been sought by the Mechanism for genocide and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Rwanda in 1994.

Participants at the Singapore Convention Signing Ceremony 7 August 2019

SINGAPORE CONVENTION ON MEDIATION

In August 2019, a signing ceremony was held for the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (Singapore Convention on Mediation), which will facilitate international trade and commerce by enabling disputing parties to easily enforce and invoke settlement agreements across borders. Expected to enter into force in 2020, the Convention was signed by 46 countries on the day it opened for signature, the highest number of State signatories for any United Nations trade-related convention upon its opening.

In June 2020, the International Criminal Court detained Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, who had been sought for crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in Darfur between 2003 and 2004. The United Nations, in particular the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, assisted the Central African authorities and the Court in ensuring a successful arrest and transfer of Mr. Abd-Al-Rahman to the Court.

The International Court of Justice continued to consider many high-profile cases in 2019 and the first half of 2020. In January 2020, the Court unanimously decided to order four provisional measures binding on Myanmar in the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)*.

Security Council meeting on the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals which is mandated to perform a number of essential functions previously carried out by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (New York, 28 February 2020)

Public entrance to United Nations Headquarters in New York, showing the sculpture "Non-Violence" or "The Knotted Gun" by noted Swedish sculptor Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd. The sculpture was a gift from the Government of Luxembourg to the United Nations. It is an oversize revolver with a knotted barrel, to symbolize peace and non-violence.

Disarmament

KEY PROGRAMMES

- Multilateral negotiations and deliberations
- Weapons of mass destruction
- Conventional arms
- Information and outreach
- Regional disarmament

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$30M
$14M regular assessed and
$16M voluntary contributions

SELECT MANDATES

- Disarmament, General Assembly resolution S-10/2
- The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, General Assembly resolution 74/60
- Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, General Assembly resolution 74/35
- Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, General Assembly resolution 73/46
- Regional disarmament, General Assembly resolution 74/37
- Study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, General Assembly resolution 73/59
- Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation, General Assembly resolution 74/64
- The Arms Trade Treaty, General Assembly resolution 74/49

SELECT ENTITIES

- Office for Disarmament Affairs

Ali, 6 years old, stands in the rubble of what used to be his home, destroyed when a missile hit the house next door (Bayt Mayad neighbourhood, Sana'a, Yemen, 7 July 2015)

ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONTEXT

Given rising military expenditures, a deteriorating security environment and weakening arms control, disarmament remains particularly relevant. In 2019, military expenditure rose to $1.9 trillion, the highest level since the end of the cold war.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The United Nations supports multilateral negotiations and efforts aimed at achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament, focusing on the elimination of nuclear weapons, upholding the prohibition of other weapons of mass destruction, regulating conventional weapons and promoting regional disarmament efforts and public awareness.

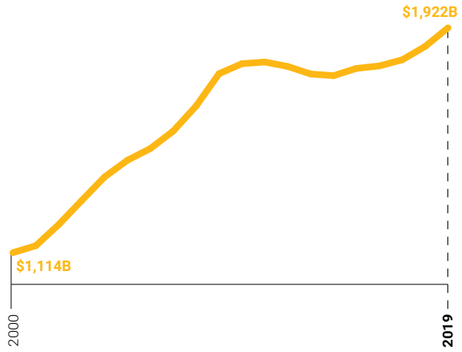
KEY OUTCOMES

In 2019, the Organization implemented key elements of my Agenda for Disarmament, which proposes and tracks 40 concrete actions to advance disarmament across five domains. Already, the Agenda has contributed to a rethinking of disarmament in the context of new and emerging technologies, threats and actors. Within the Agenda, special emphasis has been placed on explosive weapons in populated areas and supporting Member States in efforts to develop a political declaration.

In pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons, we supported the preparations for the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We have also continued to support disarmament work on lethal autonomous weapon systems, including the adoption of guiding principles and efforts to develop recommendations on the normative and operational framework.

GLOBAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE HAS BEEN INCREASING

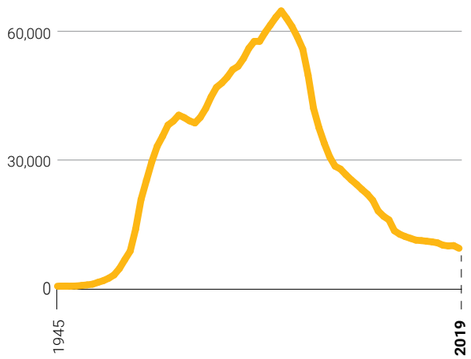
At constant 2018 prices and exchange rates



Source: SIPRI

THOUSANDS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS REMAIN IN STOCKPILES ACROSS THE WORLD

Global stockpiles of nuclear weapons



Source: The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists

Notes: Does not include DPRK

Bulletin has not reported on 2018 or 2019 figures for UK or Israel, 2017 figures have been substituted

“In disarmament, no single actor alone is able to achieve the outcomes required. We need to work together to achieve progress.”

Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

Under the auspices of the United Nations, progress was made on new technologies in the context of international security through two intergovernmental groups on this issue, which held consultations with regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia. On issues of outer space security, we facilitated discussions that led to agreement on the new Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

To uphold norms against the use of other weapons of mass destruction, we enhanced the operational readiness of my Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons, in accordance with its established mandates, including through the training of experts.

In contributing to the regulation and limitation of conventional arms, a group of governmental experts recommended in 2019 to expand the Register of Conventional Arms by encouraging States to report international transfers of small arms and light weapons. In 2020, a new group of governmental experts began consideration of concrete means of addressing ammunition safety and security challenges, such as unplanned explosions and diversion to the illicit market.

OUR DISARMAMENT WORK

182
multilateral meetings and deliberations facilitated

46%
rise in participation in the high-level segment of the Conference on Disarmament

Since 2008
124
Member States contributing to United Nations conventional arms register

8
in-depth publications on disarmament

22
projects to support regional disarmament

EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS

66% of all deaths and injuries from explosive weapons were civilians

Total reported deaths and injuries: 29,499
Total civilian deaths and injuries: 19,407

Populated areas

91% of all deaths and injuries from explosive weapons used in populated areas were civilians

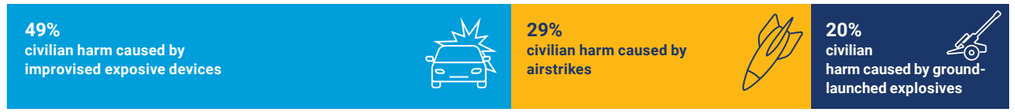
Non-populated areas

15% of all deaths and injuries from explosive weapons used in non-populated areas were civilians

When explosive weapons are used in populated areas, civilians bear the brunt.

In his Agenda for Disarmament, the Secretary-General places special emphasis on addressing the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and has committed to support Member States in their efforts to develop a political declaration as well as appropriate limitations, common standards and operational policies in conformity with international humanitarian law.

Civilian deaths and injuries by weapon launch method



The Secretary-General addressing the first session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction held in New York on 18–22 November 2019.

From left to right: Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly; Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Ms. Sima Bahous, President of the first session of the Conference; and Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

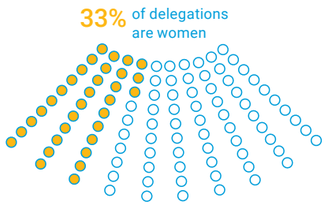
DISARMAMENT

The first session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction was held in 2019. The Conference adopted a political declaration, confirming the commitment of participating States to pursuing the establishment of such a zone in an open and inclusive manner.

GENDER IN DISARMAMENT FORUMS

Ensuring women's equal, full and effective participation in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control is a priority of the Secretary-General. Yet despite growing attention to the issue, 2019 saw no significant progress towards achieving women's equal participation in multilateral disarmament meetings.

2019 General Assembly First Committee

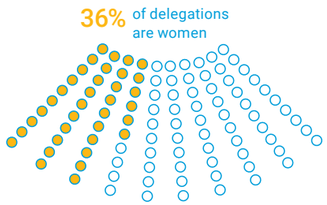


32% of heads of delegations are women

45 delegations included no women and 10 delegations included no men

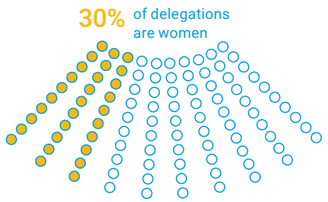
1 in 4 statements were delivered by women and 7% of the Rights to reply (of 67 total) were made by women

2019 Conference on Disarmament



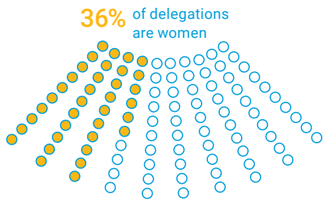
23% of heads of delegations are women

2019 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the NPT



25% of heads of delegations are women

2019 Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of States Parties



20% of heads of delegations are women

Participants at the #Youth4Disarmament event "74 Years of Nuclear Disarmament and the Contribution of Youth beyond 2020" (New York, 24 January 2020)

YOUTH FOR DISARMAMENT

On International Youth Day, we launched the Youth for Disarmament (#Youth4Disarmament) initiative to empower young people with knowledge and skills for change. As part of the initiative, 75 young people spent a day during the session of the First Committee with United Nations officials, diplomats and civil society representatives.

Farmers participating in an alternative development farming programme at the Vanmai Cooperative. They are processing their first harvest, which started late in 2019 (Houaphanh Province, Lao People's Democratic Republic)

Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Combating Terrorism

KEY PROGRAMMES

- Countering the world drug problem
- Countering transnational organized crime
- Countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism
- Countering corruption
- Justice
- Research, trend analysis and forensics
- Policy support
- Technical assistance

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$402M
$27M regular assessed and
$375M voluntary contributions

SELECT MANDATES

- The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review, General Assembly resolution 72/284
- Strengthening the capability of the United Nations System to assist Member States in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, General Assembly resolution 71/291
- United Nations Convention against Corruption
- United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto
- International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem, General Assembly resolution 74/178
- Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, General Assembly resolution 74/177

SELECT ENTITIES

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODOC)
- Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT)

This woman from Nigeria is among the survivors who shared their stories at the exhibition "Surviving Terrorism: The Power of Resilience". Having previously been taken captive by an insurgency group, she attends a support network for women who survived captivity, which has helped her gain peace and forgiveness. She now leads support groups for other women (New York, 21 August 2019)

ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONTEXT

In 2019, transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism continued to pose major threats around the world. Cybercrime, trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling and environmental crimes are increasingly linked to State fragility, undermining the rule of law, and illicit drugs remain a risk to millions of people.

Terrorists continue to wreak havoc in communities around the world, with rising concerns over the threat from new violent extremist groups that resort to terrorist tactics, especially against minority groups. The anxiety generated by the COVID-19 crisis has been used to spread hate, conspiracy theories and anti-government sentiments to incite attacks.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The United Nations supports Member States in addressing the areas of drugs, crime and terrorism to contribute to peace and security for all. This involves advancing international law and implementing principles and standards in such instruments as the United Nations Conventions against Corruption and against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, conventions and protocols against terrorism, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Security Council resolutions and United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice.

"To advance justice and achieve peaceful societies, we need to build a more inclusive world where the rule of law prevails."

Ghada Waly, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

KEY OUTCOMES

Crime prevention and countering transnational organized crime

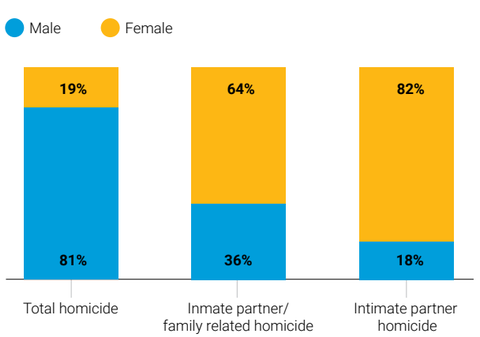
The United Nations continues to support regional networks to prevent illicit financial flows from drugs and crime, as well as to facilitate cooperation against money-laundering and on the counter-financing of terrorism. For instance, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa seized over $1 billion cumulatively from 2016 to 2019 and assisted Member States in opening investigations and issuing forfeiture orders.

In 2020, we released a major upgrade of our anti-money-laundering software, goAML – the largest software project of its kind at the United Nations. Currently installed in the financial intelligence units of 53 countries and serving 100,000 users, the software has contributed to the reporting of more than half a billion suspicious transactions.

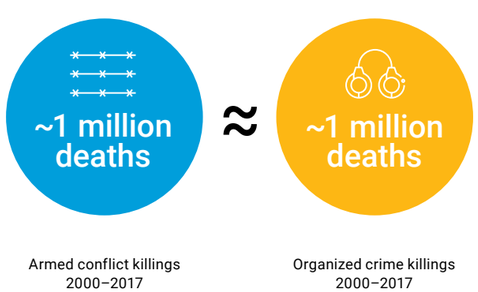
In Central Asia, we supported the development and adoption of 20 legal documents, including the implementation of local crime prevention action plans. For example, in Bishkek, 10 women's committees were established and equipped to work on the prevention of crime and gender-based violence.

At the sidelines of the eighth session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the UNODC Civil Society Team, in partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, held an event featuring an all-woman panel to present ideas and best practices for the implementation of UNCAC in Southeast Europe (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, December 2019)

WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCOUNT FOR THE GREATEST BURDEN OF INTIMATE PARTNER/FAMILY-RELATED HOMICIDE AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE



ORGANIZED CRIME KILLS AS MANY PEOPLE AS ALL ARMED CONFLICTS COMBINED



OUR SUPPORT TO CRIME PREVENTION, DRUG CONTROL AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

Facilitated the identification and rescue of
33
potential child victims of human trafficking and the seizure of **6.5 tons** of fraudulent medicine, strengthening cross-border cooperation

Equipped
95,000
children and parents in **18** countries on preventing and addressing drug use, youth violence and child maltreatment

Strengthened the access of alternative development products into markets with the export of
71
tons of international fair-trade certified coffee, to reduce cultivation of illicit crops

Provided
12,000+
anti-corruption practitioners from **70+** countries with advisory services for legislative and policy drafting

Countering the world drug problem

In 2019, we helped to improve treatment, care and rehabilitation services in 22 countries, reaching an estimated 39,000 people with drug use disorders. In Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, for example, improved services were provided for an estimated 12,000 children exposed to drugs. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the "Strong families" programme improved the health and safe development of children in challenging family settings.

With regard to the global response to the opioid crisis, the Organization provided 2,698 reference standards of controlled drugs and their precursors to 115 laboratories in 51 countries and supported a network of 289 forensic drug testing and toxicology laboratories in 90 countries. Support was provided to law enforcement through the provision of over 1,400 field drug and precursor testing kits, along with specialized training on the identification and analysis of drugs and precursors.

A participant views the pamphlet of a special event to commemorate International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (New York, 31 May 2019)

Community members in the Fallah vicinity in Tehran participate in a "Strong families" session, implemented by the NGO Society for Recovery Support to improve the health and development of children in challenging family situations (Tehran, Iran, 2019)

Terrorism prevention

Enhancing international counter-terrorism cooperation and promoting whole-of-society partnerships remain a priority for the United Nations. In 2019, we supported seven regional high-level conferences on counter-terrorism issues and convened a "virtual counter-terrorism week" during the COVID-19 crisis. The newly developed United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform facilitates information exchange and collaboration between 193 Member States.

We also enhanced our technical assistance to Member States through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, bringing together 43 entities in joint planning, resource mobilization and delivery efforts. This included several flagship initiatives to counter the radicalization, travel and financing of terrorists and their access to weapons; to assist victims of terrorism; and to address the precarious situation of women and children associated with United Nations-listed terrorist groups, including through repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration.

"Only by investing in multilateralism can we build societies able to respond to the evolving threats posted by terrorism."

Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, Office of Counter-Terrorism

OUR COUNTER-TERRORISM WORK

Engaged more than
170
Member States in counter-terrorism outreach and capacity-building activities

Involved over
7,300
individuals in outreach and capacity-building activities

Implemented
71
capacity-building programmes and projects for a total budget of $60.4M across the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

43
partners have joined the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact

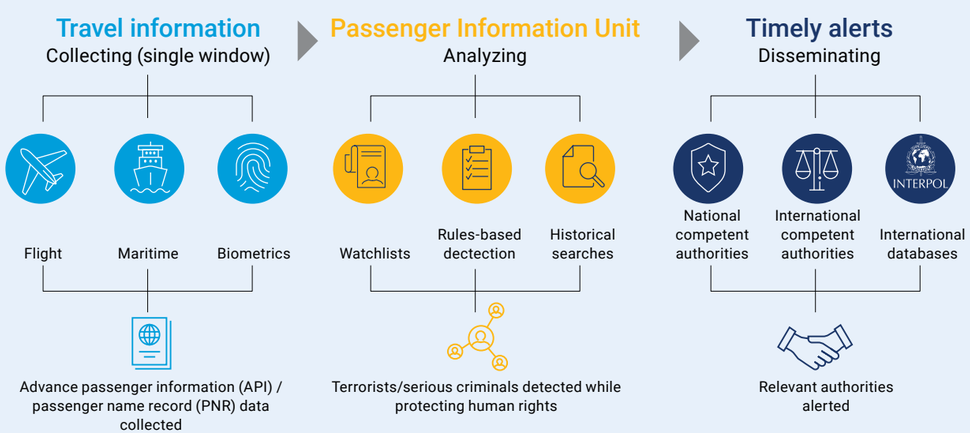
Organized
7
regional high-level counter-terrorism conferences with 3,200+ participants in total

Adela Raz, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations, makes remarks during the launch meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism (New York, 25 June 2019)

COUNTER-TERRORISM

The United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, launched in 2019, helps Member States to develop capacity to use passenger information to detect and counter terrorist travel in line with Security Council resolution 2396 (2017). As of July 2020, 36 Member States were participating in the Programme.

UNITED NATIONS COUNTERING TERRORIST TRAVEL PROGRAMME*



Joint programme between the United Nations and INTERPOL

Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, meets with five young leaders who are active in efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism in their local communities (New York, 18 July 2019)

A view of the "green" roof at United Nations Headquarters, next to the new solar panels gifted by India (New York, 21 September 2019)

Effective Functioning of the Organization

KEY PROGRAMMES

- General Assembly affairs and conference management
- Global communications
- Oversight
- Management strategy, policy and compliance
- Offices away from headquarters
- Operational support
- Safety and security

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$1.6B
$1.2B regular assessed,
$333M peacekeeping assessed (2018/19)
and $60M voluntary contributions

SELECT MANDATES

- Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions 72/266, 72/266 B and 73/281
- An accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat, General Assembly resolution 73/289
- Human resources management, General Assembly resolution 72/254
- Procurement, General Assembly resolution 69/273
- Multilingualism, General Assembly resolution 71/328
- Pattern of conferences, General Assembly resolution 73/270
- Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2020, General Assembly resolution 74/262
- Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat, General Assembly resolution 74/271

SELECT ENTITIES

- Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
- Department of Global Communications
- Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
- Department of Operational Support
- Department of Security and Safety
- Office of Internal Oversight Services
- United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna

A visitor looks at an exhibition at United Nations Headquarters in New York City, which has been open to the general public since November 1952 (New York, 30 December 2019)

KEY WORKSTREAMS

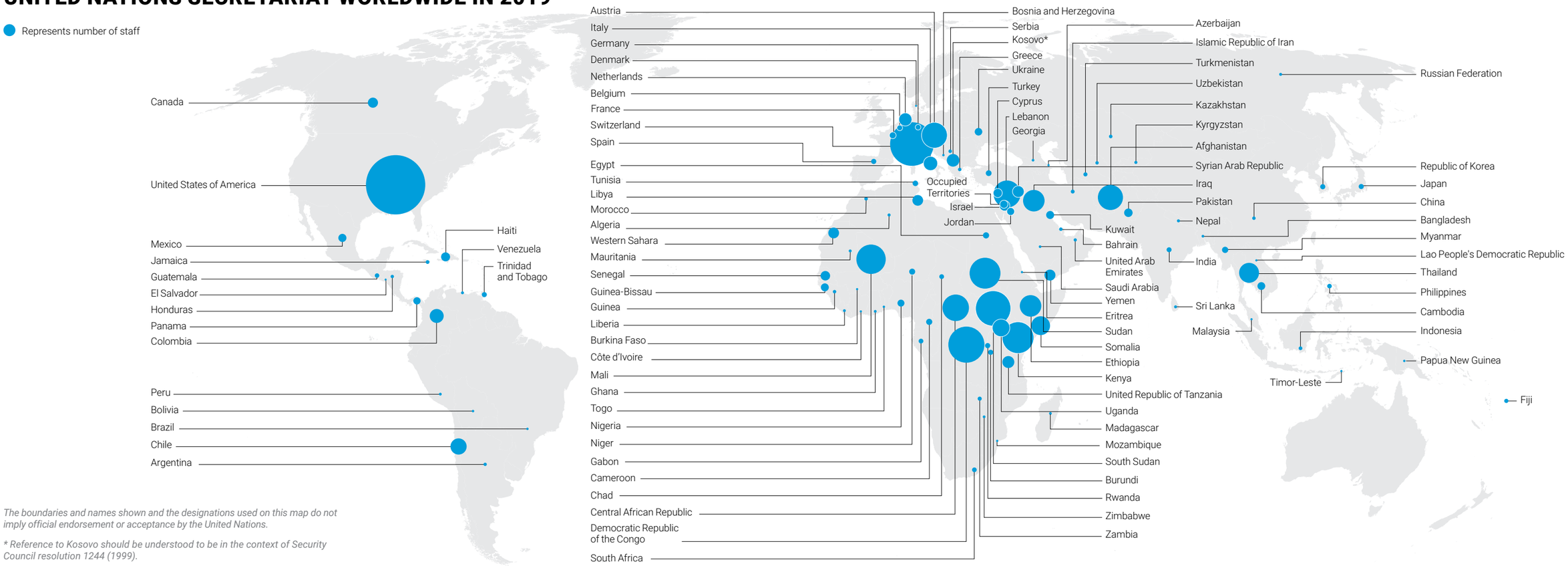
With more than 36,000 staff in 461 duty stations, the work of the United Nations Secretariat is underpinned by the management of finance, human resources, information and communications technology, supply chains, facilities, conference services and security and safety operations, as well as communicating the work of the Organization to global audiences.

KEY OUTCOMES

The shift to a more decentralized Secretariat, the centrepiece of my management reform, has been anchored by a new system of delegation of authority that came into effect in January 2019. The new approach enhances our effectiveness by delegating more responsibility to the point of mandate delivery. A stronger organizational architecture, led by the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Department of Operational Support, was established to support the new paradigm.

An inside look at one of the United Nations interpreters at work on the opening day of the General Assembly's general debate (New York, 24 September 2019)

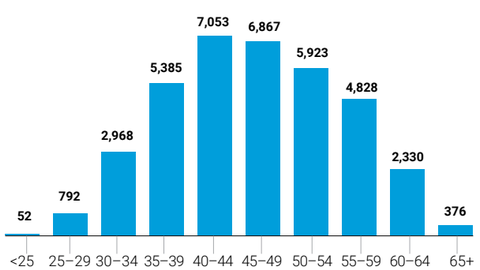
OVER 36,000 STAFF WORKED FOR THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT WORLDWIDE IN 2019



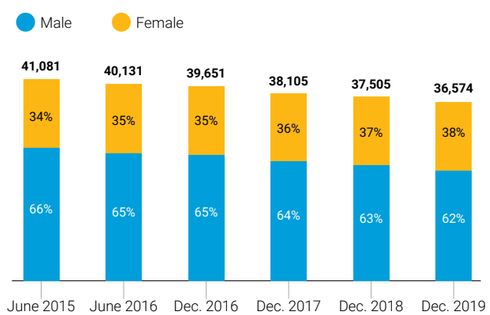
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

** Reference to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).*

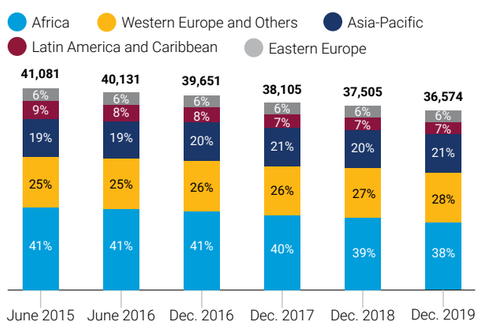
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT STAFF IN 2019



FEMALE REPRESENTATION IS INCREASING AMONG UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT STAFF



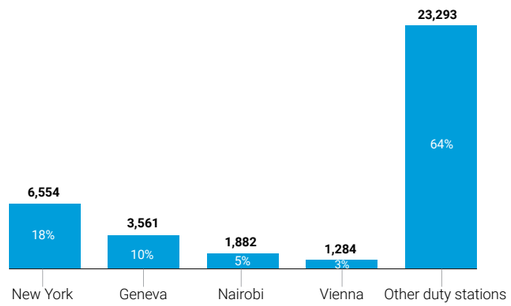
UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT STAFF BY REGIONAL GROUP*



**The five regional groups were formed to facilitate the equitable geographical distribution of seats among the Member States in different United Nations bodies.*

Note: Because of rounding, totals may not equal the sum of parts.

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT STAFF BY LOCATION (DECEMBER 2019)



OUR EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING EFFORTS

We serviced
36,900+
intergovernmental meetings and conferences

We translated
245M+
words

257,000+
visitors took guided tours at Headquarters in New York

436,900+
visitors took guided tours across the four main United Nations duty stations (New York, Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna)

57.8M
visitors accessed un.org and some **24.7M** users consulted the dedicated Sustainable Development Goals website

"Operating in challenging environments demands responsiveness and agility. We are making great strides toward consistently delivering effective, tailored, timely and efficient solutions."

Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support

"The essence of our work is to shape a more nimble, innovative, transparent and inclusive United Nations."

Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance

"Innovation is a key enabler of our forward-looking vision and of a strong multilateral system."

Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management

"We must lead by example in resource management and stewardship, integrity and compliance, and professional competence."

Fatoumata Ndiaye, Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services

A newly designed delegation of authority management system has allowed me to directly empower heads of entities and align their responsibility for mandate implementation with the authority to manage resources. Delegation has been simplified and is now managed through an electronic portal.

A new tiered support structure is in place, helping managers in exercising their decision-making authority. The Department of Operational Support provides dedicated advisory support to managers, while the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance focuses on regulatory frameworks and policies to ensure that they fit the needs of the Organization. The new Management Client Board provides a critical feedback mechanism on performance.

Analytics capabilities have been reinforced to foster accountability and transparency. Corporate data from enterprise systems such as Umoja now come together so that verified operational data are available in one place. Based on the data, a standardized performance framework helps to oversee global operations and identify issues. We are also implementing a new risk management approach and a self-evaluation framework to provide more performance information in the new annual budget.

The new annual programme budget, which is in its second year of implementation, is a major step towards more realistic budgeting and a greater focus on results. It improves the accuracy of the Secretariat's resource estimates, enabling it to adapt more quickly to changes in mandates and allowing it to adjust planning on the basis of actual programme performance, thereby improving accountability for results. Given the annual cycle, the Secretariat was able to capture programmatic changes resulting from the pandemic in the budget for 2021.

MANAGEMENT REFORM

In the last year, we have made great strides towards a new management paradigm. Key achievements include:

Increased delegations of authority to improve the effectiveness and accountability of delivery on the ground.

Streamlined annual budget to shorten budgeting timelines, enhance planning and increase responsiveness to emerging demands by Member States.

Tiered advisory model allowing Headquarters to better support empowered managers in the field.

Improved human resource management through increasingly simple policies and processes.

Integrated supply chain management enabling end-to-end planning and management.

Improved support to troop and police contributing countries (T/PCCs) through a new dedicated Uniformed Capabilities Support Division.

Consolidated Information and Technology functions to create single IT platform.

Continuous feedback loops with managers through the new Management Client Board, consisting of rotating internal client representatives.

Increased accountability and transparency based on a new accountability framework for decision-making and enhanced analytics.

“An ethical organizational culture underpins and enables UN core values – integrity, professionalism, and respect for diversity – to thrive and be reflected in our work.”

Elia Yi Armstrong, Director of the Ethics Office

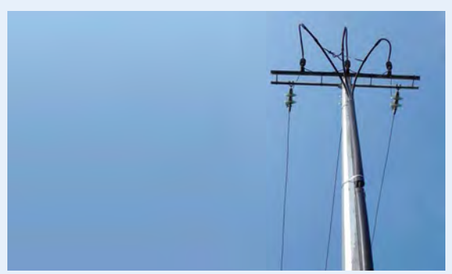
The reform has also started a continuous process to simplify policies and processes. In human resources, for example, we streamlined the recruitment process and are working to improve onboarding. A wider human resources policy review process has begun, and obsolete policies were abolished in 2019.

Gender parity and geographical diversity among staff are among my key priorities. Having already achieved gender parity among senior management, I have set a goal for system-wide gender parity by 2028. The Geographical Diversity Strategy, launched in March 2020, aims to ensure a diverse and inclusive workforce.

Helin Argav, a United Nations tour guide from Germany, describes for visitors the posters depicting the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, created by Brazilian artist Otavio Roth (New York, 23 January 2019)

A view of conference officers at their desk during the United Nations high-level meeting on universal health coverage (UHC) (New York, 23 September 2019)

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE: CONNECTING TO A RENEWABLE GRID IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Implementation of the Environment Strategy for Peace Operations remains a key priority. It aims to achieve maximum efficiency in the use of natural resources, minimize risk to people and ecosystems, and leave a positive legacy.

The sites of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUSCO, were primarily powered by diesel generators due to the previous lack of a robust national electrical power supply across mission locations. Following major developments and improvements to hydroelectrical power stations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUSCO has connected more sites to this renewable grid, leading to a reduction in fuel consumption of approximately 750,000 litres per annum. Hydropower now meets 30 per cent of overall energy requirements.

The toolkit entitled “United to respect” was issued to provide guidance on applying my bulletin “Addressing discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority” (ST/SGB/2019/8). The toolkit includes information on maintaining a work environment in which colleagues are treated with respect and dignity, as well as guidance for those affected by prohibited conduct. We are preparing a plan of action for a one-year campaign aimed at promoting knowledge, awareness and action on racism within the Organization.

In 2019, the United Nations produced information in 106 languages, as well as Braille, to strengthen communication on the Organization’s work. This included coverage of key events, such as the 2019 Climate Action Summit and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit. Through our conference services, we provided support to more than 36,000 multilateral meetings and conferences in 2019. Our security officers enabled the safe access of more than 36,000 staff and delegates and more than 1,000 Heads of State and Government, as well as more than 3 million visitors.

Captain Charlene Wilson (left) decorates one of the new United Nations Security Officers at a graduation ceremony for new officers. The group consists of thirteen female officers (New York, 20 January 2020)

COMMUNICATING WITH GLOBAL AUDIENCES

Produced communications products in
108
languages

Provided communications support in
180
countries

57.8M
visitors to the United Nations website

2.2M
people engaged online with #ActNow climate campaign

2M
users of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library

2,000+
live streams of United Nations meetings and events

"In an increasingly complex operating environment, we must commit to evolving, improving, and innovating to continue providing trusted security leadership and solutions."

Gilles Michaud, Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security

"We cannot achieve our ambitious goals unless we capture people's attention and move them to care."

Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications

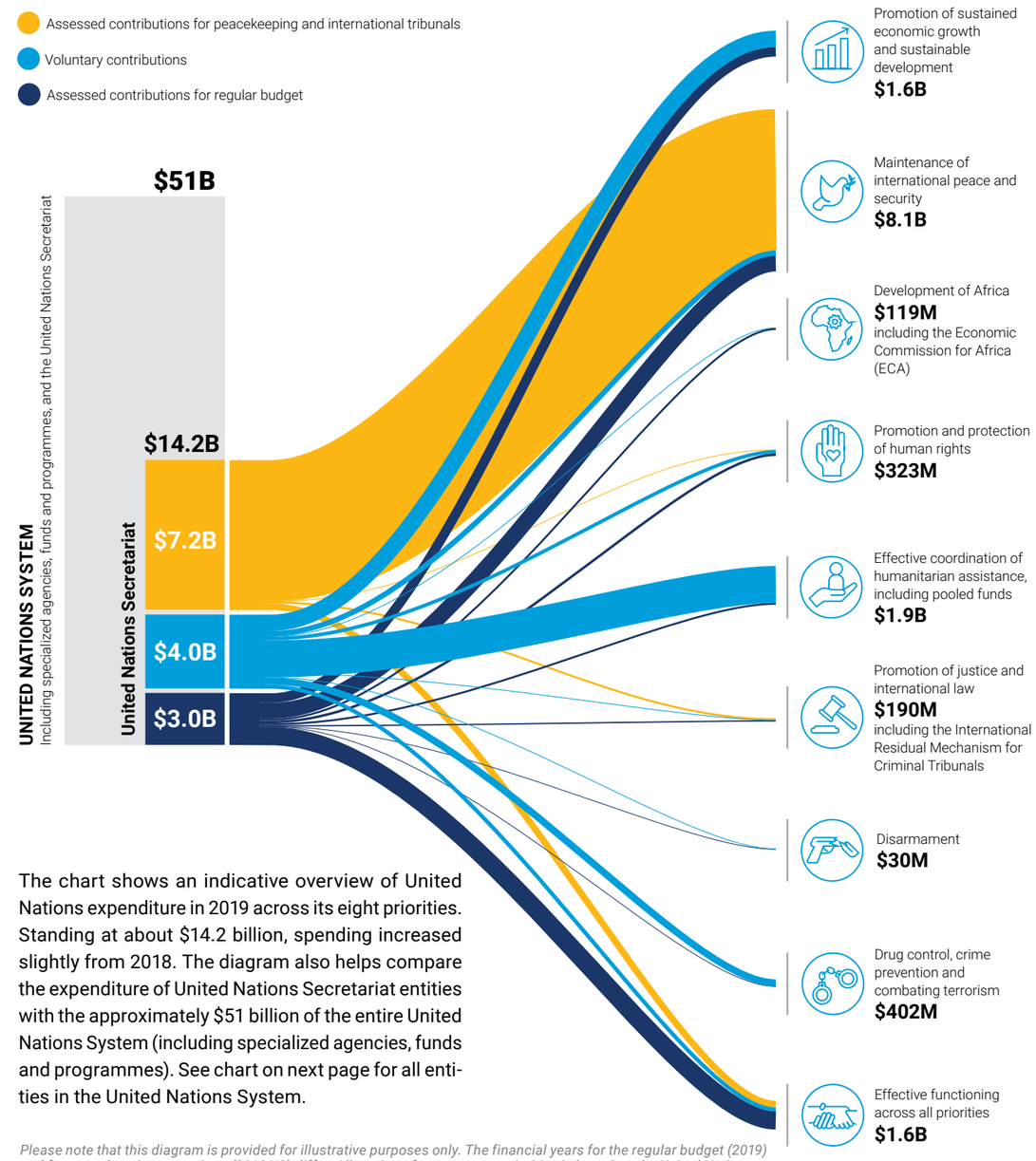
A staff member of the United Nations Facilities and Management Service adjusts the clock at the Security Council chamber as daylight saving time ended on Sunday 3 November (New York, 4 November 2019)

While progress was made in improving our effectiveness, unfortunately the trend of ongoing – and deepening – cash shortfalls continued to affect our work in 2019. The programme budget saw a record deficit of $520 million, surpassing the record high set just a year earlier despite several cash conservation measures. Without these measures, the General Assembly meetings held in September 2019 would have been disrupted. Furthermore, the year ended with $711 million in outstanding contributions, the highest in nearly a decade. The aggravation of the liquidity pressure does not bode well for mandate delivery in 2020. In peacekeeping, outstanding assessed contributions totalled $1.7 billion by the end of the financial period. Troop- and police-contributing countries bore the burden of the cash shortfall as outstanding reimbursements to them reached a record high of $631 million.

These persisting liquidity challenges undermine the Organization's ability to implement its mandates and carry out its approved programme of work. I continue to reiterate my request to Governments to meet their financial obligations to the United Nations and to approve my proposals for structural changes to place the Organization on a sound and sustainable financial footing.

A view of microphone at the Security Council stakeout (New York, 18 February 2020)

RESOURCES ACROSS PRIORITY AREAS IN 2019



The chart shows an indicative overview of United Nations expenditure in 2019 across its eight priorities. Standing at about $14.2 billion, spending increased slightly from 2018. The diagram also helps compare the expenditure of United Nations Secretariat entities with the approximately $51 billion of the entire United Nations System (including specialized agencies, funds and programmes). See chart on next page for all entities in the United Nations System.

Please note that this diagram is provided for illustrative purposes only. The financial years for the regular budget (2019) and for peacekeeping operations (2018/19) differ. Allocation of resources to priorities is based on the United Nations Programme Budget 2021. Data for the United Nations System is based on indicative reports to the United Nations Chief Executive Board Secretariat. For detailed information, please refer to audited financial statements.

THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT IS PART OF THE WIDER UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

UN PRINCIPAL ORGANS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Subsidiary Organs

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

Funds and Programmes [1]

UNDP United Nations Development Programme
- **UNCDF** United Nations Capital Development Fund
- **UNV** United Nations Volunteers

UNEP [8] United Nations Environment Programme

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UN-HABITAT [8] United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

WFP World Food Programme (UN/FAO)

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)

UNCTAD [1,8] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNHCR [1] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNOPS [1] United Nations Office for Project Services

UNRWA [1] United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

UN-WOMEN [1] 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

IOM [1] International Organization for Migration

ISA International Seabed Authority

ITLOS International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

OPCW [3] Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

WTO [1,4] World Trade Organization

Peacebuilding Commission

HLPF

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

SECURITY COUNCIL

Subsidiary Organs

- Counter-Terrorism Committee
- International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
- Military Staff Committee
- Peacekeeping operations and political missions
- Sanctions committees (ad hoc)
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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 Commissions [8]

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

ESCWA Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Other Bodies [10]

- 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

UNGEGN 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

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 GROUP [7]
- **IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **IDA** International Development Association
- **IFC** International Finance Corporation

SECRETARIAT

Departments and Offices [9]

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

SRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

SRSG/SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

SRSG/VAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

UNDRR United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNODC [1] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNOG United Nations Office at Geneva

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

UNON United Nations Office at Nairobi

UNOP [2] United Nations Office for Partnerships

UNOV United Nations Office at Vienna

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL [6]

Notes:

1 Members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).
2 UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP) is the UN's focal point vis-a-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 operation on 1 November 1994, as on 1 October 1994 Palau, the last United Nations Trust Territory, became independent.
7 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.

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