



## WE WILL LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

“The next 10 years, which have been designated as the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, will be the most critical of our generation. It is even more important as we build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic. We need a strong United Nations Development System and effective collaboration between the United Nations and the international financial institutions. We support the Secretary-General’s efforts and measures in this regard. We are determined to implement the 2030 Agenda in full and on time. There is no alternative. The peoples have to be at the centre of all our efforts. Particular attention must be given to people in vulnerable situations. Humanitarian access to those in need of assistance must be granted without obstacle or delay and in line with the humanitarian principles. We are guided by the universal declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties and instruments and will ensure the human rights and fundamental freedoms of everyone.”

*United Nations General Assembly, “[UN75 Declaration](#)”, September 2020, A/RES/75/1.*

“The UN has made significant contributions to building a more peaceful and egalitarian world, but each person who is still out of school, who still lives in poverty or who does not know where his next meal will come from should remind us that there is still much to be done.”

*Dialogue organized by UN Brazil, ages 31-45, managers & professionals, mostly men.*

### UN75 DATA ON THIS COMMITMENT

UN75 dialogues



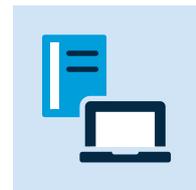
UN75 survey



Media analysis



Research snapshot



We organize the relevant UN75 data gathered across 2020 according to the [UN75 Declaration’s 12 commitments](#). For the full methodology, see the UN75 report “[Shaping Our Future Together](#)”.

# FROM THE UN75 DIALOGUES<sup>1</sup>

## WHERE WE ARE NOW

Participants identified several obstacles that undermine the lives and dignity of the poorest and most vulnerable people across society, hindering, and in some cases reversing development progress. Participants identified a range of causes of inequality, as well as factors that influence or exacerbate disadvantages and inequality for many. Participants highlighted the extreme disparity between the richest and poorest, and the extreme concentration of wealth in the hands of a very few.

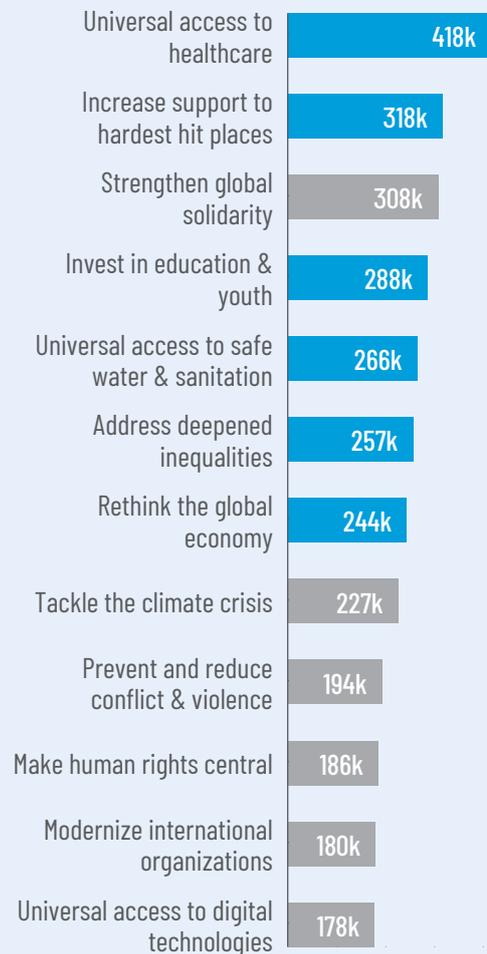
### On socio-economic inequalities

Participants raised concern about the increasing polarization of wealth distribution between and within nations. They discussed inequalities relating to income, educational attainment, life expectancy, access to basic services (food, shelter, health and education), with rural areas most affected. Existing social structures were seen to perpetuate inequalities and disadvantage, especially for women and girls. Participants perceived the structure of the dominant economic system, as well as conflict, crime, psychosocial unrest and human rights violations as exacerbating inequality.

### On the causes and impact of discrimination

Participants across regions raised concerns about the exclusion of people on the basis of gender, class, sexual orientation and disability. They highlighted the marginalization of disabled persons and the stigmatization of

**UN75 Survey immediate priorities to recover from the pandemic: Access to basic services, international support to places hardest hit, reducing inequalities all top priorities**



UN75 Survey Question: What should the international community prioritize to recover better from the pandemic? Base: 1,133,501 (all respondents as from 22 April, when this question was added). Participants could select up to three responses.

1. This report contains a summary of the analysis of 1,141 UN75 dialogue summaries received from 94 countries between 2 January and 7 November 2020. The dialogue summaries were analyzed in partnership with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. For the full methodology, see the UN75 report "[Shaping Our Future Together](#)".

individuals living with HIV/AIDS, as well as the challenges faced by the LGBTQI+ community.

“Inequality has a face and a history. Certain groups have been historically marginalized on a systematic basis, while others have retained the majority of power and assets. Inequality is a function of where you were born and now live: while inequality between countries has decreased, the gap between developed and developing countries remains very high, and within country inequality has increased.”

*Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, USA, mixed age groups, professions, mostly women.*

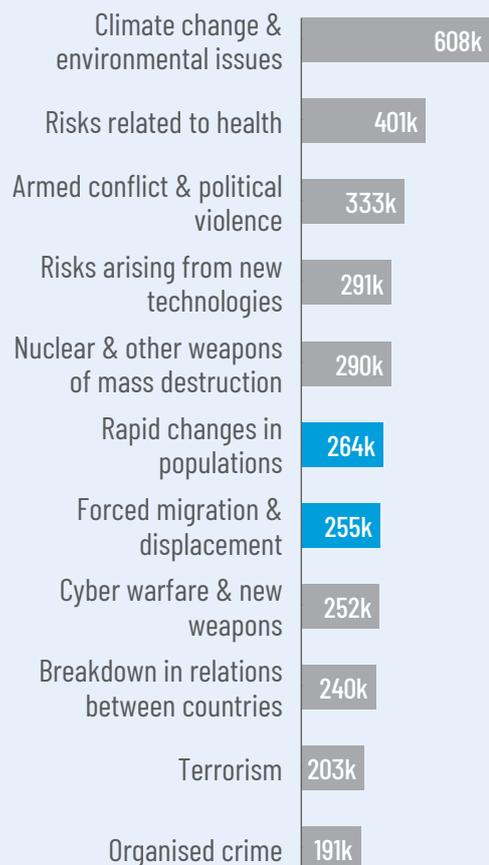
### On the movement of people as an inequality pressure point

International and rural-urban migration were seen as contributing to rising populations in cities with higher numbers of urban poor, especially across Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. In India, participants discussed the impact of COVID-19 lockdown policies on rural-urban migration trends that resulted in insufficient transport, shortages of water, sanitation and food and poor access to medical care.

High resource use by those in wealthier countries was seen to have disastrous environmental consequences, in turn affecting migration and health. Participants identified population pressures on food security, access to clean water, air pollution, exhaustion of fossil fuels and minerals, habitat destruction, and toxic contamination of soils and water resources as predominantly affecting the poor.

Participants highlighted the refugee crisis and unequal access to regular travel and migration for many people from lower human development countries as both a symptom of global inequality, and a cause of further inequality, especially when refugees and migrants are not treated justly and humanely,

### UN75 Survey future threats: 250,000+ respondents view population changes, forced migration & displacement as future threats



UN75 Survey Question: Which of these global trends do you think will most affect our future? Base: 1,220,848 (all respondents). Participants could select up to three responses.

and in accordance with international law. They noted that 'one world' will not be possible until basic inequalities are eradicated, until peace replaces conflict, and until safe travel is accessible to those forced to move. Participants largely expect the movement of people across the globe to continue. They discussed the need for a new 'climate refugee' category.

**"Understanding population dynamics and anticipating the demographic changes in future are crucial to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development."**

*Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners, India, mixed ages, professions and genders.*

## WHERE WE WANT TO BE

**"Now is the time for governments and international actors to transform development models, rethink global economic arrangements, and direct multilateral cooperation efforts towards delivering on the 2030 Agenda. We already have at our disposal many of the tools and solutions, which are needed. What is urgently required now is the political will to implement, and the forging a strong alliance of willing partners that can support each other's efforts to deliver. Inequality and exclusion are not inevitable."**

*Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, USA, mixed age groups, professions, mostly women.*

Ensuring that no one is left behind means, for participants, committing to fully implementing the 2030 Agenda. They agreed that progress towards a more just, inclusive and sustainable society will require all actors taking robust action across all levels of decision making. Participants want a world where wealth is

distributed more equally, with support to the most disadvantaged, and holding the most wealthy accountable for sharing what they accumulate.

Participants across regions and age groups want to see access to basic services, free and universal health care, free and universal education from early childhood through to adult education, and food security. Poverty alleviation and post-COVID-19 recovery were considered vital, as was support to vulnerable and marginalized groups, including those in remote and rural areas, refugees, migrants, and Indigenous peoples.

**"Poverty and inequality prevent people from coming up with and sharing ideas and taking action that will make a difference. Poverty and inequality will not allow some aspiring ideas to shine and ideas that might just save us all will be thrown away into the darkness and never come to fruition."**

*Ole Anders Røsand, Norway, ages 15 years & younger, students, mixed genders.*

Participants wanted a world in which refugees and migrants could not only survive, but also thrive. Where they are treated equally, fairly, lawfully, and with guarantees of respect for their rights, with the provision of basic needs such as food, housing, safety, welfare support (when needed), rights to work, education and language support. Participants discussed the need for finding new, permanent solutions to the growing number of refugees living in camps, of ensuring everyone has access to safe travel and dismantling punitive, deterrent based migration policies.

*“The next 10 years is the time for education to turn into a public good that is universally accessible regardless of gender and location.”*

*Dialogue organized by UN Academic Impact, online, mixed ages, professions, genders.*

Participants in regions affected by conflict and disasters called for more equal inclusion of women, individuals with a disability, LGBT(QI+) persons, the elderly and Indigenous peoples, including increased access to education, infrastructure, health, work, and political representation.

*“Transgender people even today continue to face a great deal of hate and discrimination, high level of violence and poor health outcomes.”*

*Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners and the State Legal Services Authority, Chandigarh, India, mixed ages, professions, genders.*

## HOW WE CAN GET THERE

Participants agreed that integrated approaches and progressive action by diverse stakeholders are needed to ensure that no one is left behind. They proposed the following solutions.

### **Inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups**

#### **Dialogue participants called on their national governments to ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups in decision-making:**

- Policies to ensure the inclusion of the LGBTQI+ community and people with a disability in political meetings, by leveraging digital technologies and innovations. Participants in Tajikistan

and Uzbekistan called for more inclusive national policies for people with disabilities, such as creating government employment positions, adopting a national programme for the protection of rights, and creating a database to inform policymaking.

- Governments were encouraged to respect the independence and autonomy of Indigenous peoples and improve communications with rural Indigenous communities. Participants in Mongolia proposed establishing a ‘Council of Elders’ with equal sectorial representation in parliament; In Colombia, participants wanted Indigenous communities included in decision-making processes, especially concerning their regions and territories, mining, fracking, and other development

projects; In Costa Rica, participants called on the government to develop policies and programs to recover ancestral territory, traditions, and culture of Afro-Costa Rican descendants.

### **Participants called on governments and the UN to ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups in UN proceedings and for the respect of their rights:**

- To diversify the types of overseas development assistance support to countries where economic conditions of women, children, the elderly, and the poor are particularly severe.
- Participants in the United States proposed to upgrade the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to a Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Participants in numerous dialogues in India called on the government to fight against child abuse through more stringent implementation and enforcement of related policies and provisions.

### **Governments were encouraged to ensure the universal rights of people with disabilities, and to promote the establishment of an UN Convention to protect the rights of older people:**

- Participants in the United States called on Member States to ratify existing conventions for the prevention of child labour, recalling that while Conventions 138–Minimum Age for Non–Agriculture Work and 182–Worst Forms of Child Labor have high ratification rates, Conventions C010–Minimum Age for Agriculture Work and C123–Minimum Age for Underground work have much lower rates of ratification (55 and 41 countries respectively).

### **Participants proposed that the private sector should play a role in combating racism and**

### **creating economic opportunities for women and ethnic minorities:**

- Promoting their inclusion in management positions and offering training programmes. One example discussed was the Global Compact Network in Brazil’s “Equity is Priority” movement, which establishes clear goals to increase the number of women in leadership positions before 2030. The expectation is now to launch a similar initiative with an ethnic-racial approach.

## **Ensure access to basic services for all**

### **Participants encouraged governments to ensure universal healthcare and food security for all:**

- In Egypt, participants proposed to include mental healthcare as part of basic health services, and to improve birth registration controls through tech applications and ICT infrastructure.
- In Brazil, Colombia, Tajikistan and the United States, participants encouraged governments to act on food security by providing economic subsidies to farmers, funding for innovative farming techniques and school meal programmes, the establishment of educational and sensitization courses and collaborative food donations between grocery stores and community organizations.
- In Afghanistan, participants lamented the low internet access in rural areas that limited not only the provision of health care services, but also basic COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

**The Secretary-General was called on to encourage an international agreement to guarantee free water and sanitation for all:**

- An online student dialogue called for the promotion of the right to water and sanitation, especially during the pandemic, through the support of water and sanitation infrastructure and technicians.

- In the Republic of Gambia, participants called for international support to ensure universal access to clean water and sanitation, in particular for communities hardest hit by the pandemic.

**Focus on equitable access to quality education**

**To ensure quality education for all, dialogue participants proposed that governments promote educational reform to respond to future needs.**

- They suggested focusing on political, economic, social and sustainability spheres, and funding collaborations between governments and community leaders to achieve digital literacy in developing countries.

**Participants called on governments to ensure that education is affordable for all income levels, and that it is universally inclusive, regardless of gender and ethnicity.**

- Participants called for the inclusion of girls in education, ensuring that their rights are respected and fighting against early marriage that prevents their enrolment in school. They also asked governments to ensure equal accessibility to educational technology, and to strengthen public libraries as essential for improving national culture and quality of life.

**“Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.”**

*UN75 Confederation of Young Leaders Uttar Pradesh State Team, India, mixed ages, professions.*

**UN75 Survey long-term priorities: Access to basic services, employment, equality within & between countries**



UN75 Survey Question: Taking a longer view, if you picture the world you want in 25 years, what three things would you most want to see? Base: 1,220,848 (all respondents). Participants could select up to three responses.

- Participants in Costa Rica highlighted the need for better education for the Afro-descendant population.

### **Participants called on schools to improve teacher trainings, educational material and skills-development programmes.**

- In India, participants encouraged schools to counter patriarchal constraints that limit the education of girls. Participants in dialogues in middle- and low-income countries, including Botswana, Colombia, India and Tajikistan, emphasized the importance of access to education through strengthening educational services and infrastructure in rural areas, and providing early childhood education.
- Participants called on the international community to ensure equal access to education for boys, girls and children with disabilities, with the latter requiring improved facilities, such as the installation of ramps, and teacher trainings for assisting children with autism and cognitive disabilities.

*“Strengthening public libraries as key players in improving and positioning national culture and quality of life.”*

*Jorge Helmer Valencia Ayala, Colombia, mixed ages, public librarians, mostly women.*

## **Promote socio-economic inclusion**

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**Governments were encouraged to implement a universal basic income and to address economic inequalities through economic support policies and tax reform:**

- In the United States, participants called for social protection frameworks to support small and medium enterprises and the

informal sector, with community-driven reach for the most vulnerable.

- In Kenya, participants proposed to increase the minimum wage, expand income tax and make the tax code more progressive.
- Participants in South Korea proposed improving work environments, for example offering mandatory parental leave.

*“[...] introducing cash based support schemes, for example child benefits, pensions and/or basic income schemes that can improve citizens’ resilience to shocks, paying special attention to new forms of vulnerability among groups like the urban poor.”*

*Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, USA, mixed age groups, professions, mostly women.*

**Participants asked the UN to prioritize support to the communities hardest hit by COVID-19, and to under-served, rural communities.**

- In Kazakhstan, the UN was encouraged to allocate larger portions of budgets to rural and remote area programmes. In China and Mongolia, participants called for financial assistance and to ensure vulnerable or rural populations can access financial services.

## **Address the refugee and migrant crisis**

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**Dialogue participants implored governments to improve immigration policies/services:**

- Participants in multiple dialogues in the United States called for better and more humane management of refugee and migrant arrivals, and for smoother

- integration through the provision of initial support when needed, such as clothing, transport cards, housing and legal counsel.
- Some participants stressed the need for tailored support for LGBTQ asylum seekers.
  - Government migration services should address pandemic-related rising unemployment within migrant communities, extending support to self-employed migrants whose activities ceased during lockdown, for example through rehabilitation plans or employment programmes.
  - Participants called for governments around the world to open up more humanitarian and refugee visas to enable the resettlement of the millions of refugees living in camps so that they could get on with their lives and contribute to society.

#### **Participants called on the UN system and governments to improve the management of international migration flows:**

- Participants suggested re-visiting the scope of the Refugee Convention, to ensure the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and those forced to migrate due to climate or disaster.
  - Participants voiced concern about the living conditions in refugee camps, where many refugees spend their entire lives. Not only should living conditions, education, language and employment opportunities for those living in camps be improved, but governments were called on to issue more permanent resettlement opportunities for refugees.
- Participants called on the UNHCR to evaluate the risks and benefits of the use of new technologies, to assist forced migrants and refugees, and to work with NGOs and business to bolster migrant access to technology.
  - Participants called on the IOM to develop an international framework to include migrant and local perspectives to create narratives on migration to counter xenophobia and discrimination.
  - Participants in many dialogues focused on migrant youth. Some proposed holding periodical interviews with migrant youth to understand their goals and objectives, and to connect them with educational resources. They suggested partnering with higher education and vocational institutions and the private sector to promote programming, funding and to generate employment opportunities.

## MEDIA ANALYSIS<sup>2</sup>

### 48% of media coverage in 70 countries focused on identity-based inequalities, including marginalized groups and minorities, gender, race, sexual orientation and religion

This was followed by domestic economic inequalities (wage gap, poverty), at 41% of media coverage.

Access to basic services ranked second in media coverage on inequalities in Sub-Saharan Africa, and third in North America, Latin America and Caribbean and Central Asia. Access to work was also prominent.

In Europe and Northern America, media regularly covered wealth disparities, while corruption and economic and political instability featured in several lower human

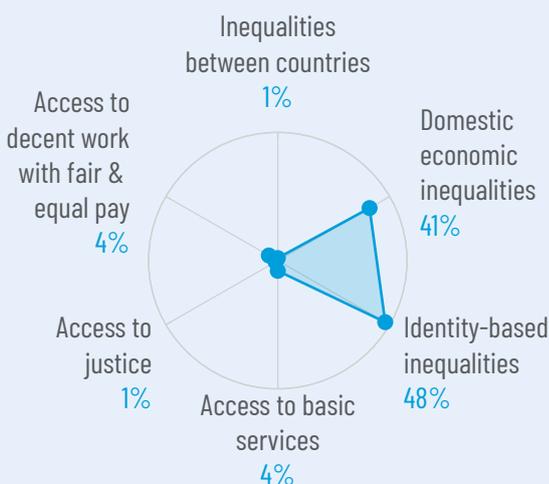
development countries. COVID-19 was cited in all regions as exacerbating current inequalities.

International media coverage tended to focus on the way identity-based inequalities can lead to human rights abuses.

In Latin America, gender inequalities related to violence, and access to services and work, were prominent. In Asia and the Middle East and North Africa, both national and global identity-based inequalities were covered, including discrimination against Muslims or against people of Asian origin during the pandemic.

Media coverage in Northern America, and at times in Sub-Saharan Africa, focused on universal health coverage in relation to government policies.

### Media in 70 countries predominantly focused on identity based inequalities, followed by domestic economic inequalities



Edelman Intelligence Discovery+ | All languages | Media review in 70 countries | Date range: May 2019 - May 2020.

### Media focused on identity based inequalities in all regions

Asia & Australia	1. Domestic economic inequalities 2. Identity-based inequalities
Europe & Central Asia	1. Identity-based inequalities 2. Access to decent work with fair pay
Latin America & Caribbean	1. Identity-based inequalities 2. Domestic economic inequalities
Middle East & North Africa	1. Inequalities between countries 2. Identity-based inequalities
North America	1. Identity-based inequalities 2. Domestic economic inequalities
Sub-Saharan Africa	1. Identity-based inequalities 2. Access to basic services

2. Edelman Intelligence analysed the global media landscape to gain insights into how megatrends are covered, including the perceived role of international cooperation and the United Nations. They analysed print, broadcast and online media, including social media, in 70 countries, covering the period May 2019 and May 2020. For the full methodology, see the UN75 report “[Shaping Our Future Together](#)”.

## RESEARCH SNAPSHOT<sup>3</sup>

### Academic publications

- Bloom, T. 2019 "[When Migration Policy Isn't about Migration: Considerations for Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration](#)" Ethics & International Affairs.
- Browne, S. 2017 [Sustainable Development Goals and UN Goal-Setting](#).
- Campagnolo, L. & Davide, M. 2019 "[Can the Paris Deal Boost Sustainable Development Goals Achievement? An assessment of climate mitigation co-benefits or side effects on poverty and inequality](#)" World Development.
- Forestier, O. & Kim, R. 2020 "[Cherry-picking the Sustainable Development Goals: Goal prioritization by national governments and implications for global governance](#)" Sustainable Development.
- Fukuda-Parr, S. 2016 "[From the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals: shifts in purpose, concept, and politics of global goal setting for development](#)" Gender & Development.
- Guan, T. & Xue, L. 2019 "[世界各国是如何执行全球可持续发展目标\(SDGs\)的?](#)" Chinese Journal of Population, Resources and Environment.
- Ignatov, A. et al. 2019 «[Подходы ведущих стран-доноров к внедрению ЦУР в национальные стратегии устойчивого развития](#)» International Organisations Research Journal.
- Kanie, N. & Biermann, F. (eds) 2017 [Governing Through Goals: Sustainable Development Goals as Governance Innovation](#).
- Lisk, F. & B. Šehović, A. 2019 "[Rethinking Global Health Governance in a Changing World Order for Achieving Sustainable Development: The Role and Potential of the 'Rising Powers'](#)" Fudan Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences.
- McArthur, J. & Rasmussen, K. 2019 "[Classifying Sustainable Development Goal trajectories: A country-level methodology for identifying which issues and people are getting left behind](#)" World Development.
- Pedrajas, M. 2017 "[La Última Milla: Los desafíos éticos de la pobreza extrema y la vulnerabilidad en la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible de Naciones Unidas](#)" Veritas.
- Pham-Truffert, M. et al. 2020 "[Interactions among Sustainable Development Goals: Knowledge for identifying multipliers and virtuous cycles](#)" Sustainable Development.

### Policy research & reports

- Africa Progress Panel 2018 [Making Progress Towards Attaining the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa](#).
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2020 "[2020 Goalkeepers Report: COVID-19 - A Global Perspective](#)".
- Fitzpatrick, S. et.al. 2020 [Destitution in the UK](#).
- Foresti, M. & Hagen-Zanker, J. (eds) 2018 "[Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)" Overseas Development Institute.

3. This research snapshot includes a selection of top cited publications identified in the broader UN75 research mapping of academic and policy research focused on multilateralism, the United Nations, and the UN's areas of work, covering the six official UN languages. The research mapping was conducted in collaboration with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. For the full methodology, see the UN75 report "[Shaping Our Future Together](#)".

- Kharas, H., McArthur, J. & Ohno, I. (eds) 2019 [Leave No One Behind: Time for Specifics on the Sustainable Development Goals](#).
- Ladd, P. & Bortolotti, E. 2020 [Protecting and Supporting Vulnerable Groups Through COVID-19 Crisis](#), UN Research Institute for Social Development.
- Sachs, J. et al. 2020 [Sustainable Development Report 2020: The Sustainable Development Goals and Covid-19](#), Sustainable Development Solutions Network & Bertelsmann Stiftung.
- Samman, E. et al. 2018 [SDG progress: fragility, crisis and leaving no one behind](#), Overseas Development Institute.
- The World in 2050 2018 [“Transformations to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”](#).
- UN 2020 [“Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General”](#).
- – 2020 [A UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19](#).
- – 2019 [The Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2019-2021](#).
- UNDP 2017 [Strong Partnerships, Stronger Impact - Working with Governments and IFIs for Development Results](#).
- –2018 [What does it mean to leave no one behind?](#)
- UN & World Bank Group 2018 [The UN-World Bank Group Strategic Partnership Framework for the 2030 Agenda](#).

## Commentaries & opinion pieces

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- Agrawal, R. 2020 [“Why we need a re-look at the global development agenda and the SDGs”](#) Eval4Action.
- Harari, Y. 2020 [“The world after coronavirus”](#) Financial Times.
- Lieberman, A. 2020 [“How off track are the SDGs, exactly? We don’t know, but it might not matter”](#) Devex.
- Oosterhof, P. 2020 [“The 2030 Agenda as Blueprint for a Post-COVID World”](#) SDG Knowledge Hub.
- Richter, C. 2020 [“SDG Reviews Reveal Inadequate Attention to Migrants, but Some Good Practice”](#) SDG Knowledge Hub.

## Data resources & tools

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- [Global Multidimensional Poverty Index](#) [UN].
- [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data](#).
- [Global SDG Indicators Database](#) [UN].
- [Human Development Index](#) [UN].
- [SDG Good Practices](#) [UN].
- [SDG Index](#).
- [SDG Lab](#).