



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 DIALOGUES¹

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.

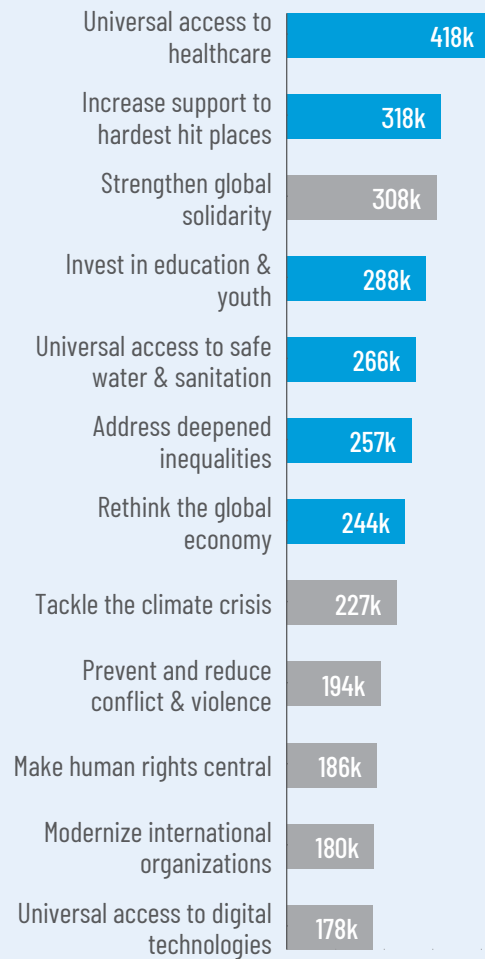
On socio-economic inequalities

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.

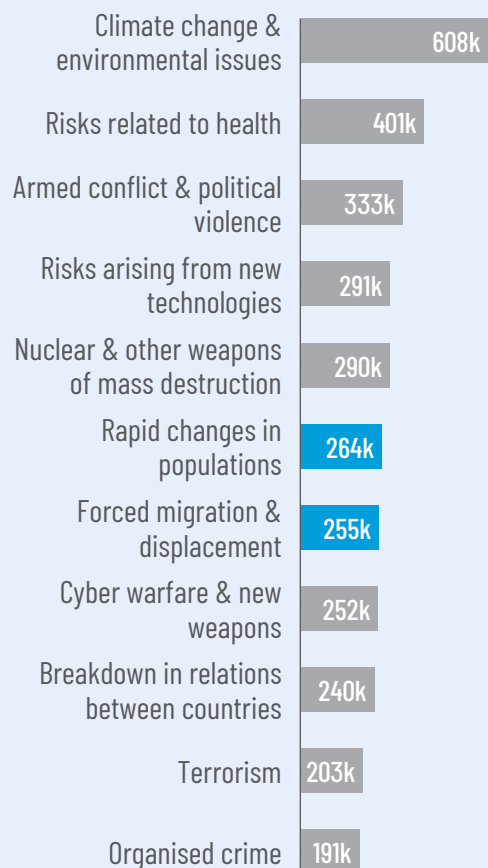
On the movement of people as an inequality pressure point

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.

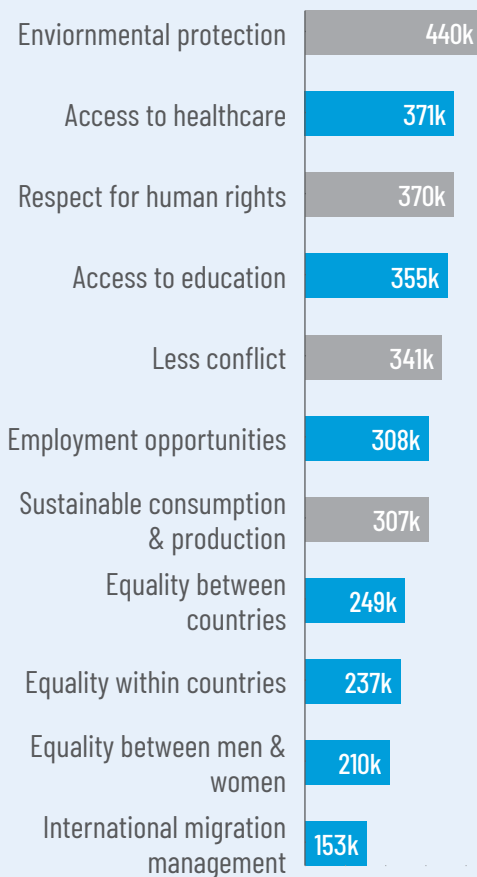
Participants called on governments to ensure that education is affordable for all income levels, and that it is universally inclusive, regardless of gender and ethnicity.

- 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

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

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 ANALYSIS²

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

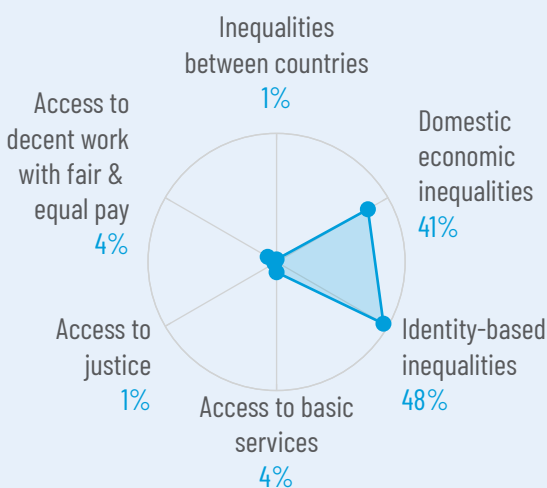
development countries. COVID-19 was cited in all regions as exacerbating current inequalities.

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 SNAPSHOT³

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

- 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

- [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](#).



WE WILL PROTECT OUR PLANET

“Without more determined action we will continue to impoverish our planet with less biodiversity and fewer natural resources. We will see more environmental threats and climate-related challenges, including natural disasters, drought, desertification, food shortages, water scarcity, wildfires, sea level rise and depletion of the oceans. The time to act is now. Many countries, not least Small Island developing states, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, are already among the most affected. We need to adapt to the circumstances and take transformative measures. We have a historic opportunity to build back better and greener. We need to immediately curb greenhouse gas emissions and achieve sustainable consumption and production patterns in line with applicable state commitments to the Paris Agreement and in line with the 2030 Agenda. This cannot wait.”

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

“As a consequence of government inaction, climate change is expected to continue worsening and to put humanity at risk by 2045 if there is no radical change in the policies of countries and industries.”

UNRWA Youth unit, Lebanon, ages 16-30s, students, mostly women.

UN75 DATA ON THIS COMMITMENT

UN75 dialogues



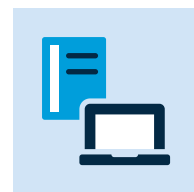
UN75 survey



Media analysis



Research snapshot



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FROM THE UN75 DIALOGUES¹

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Dialogue participants identified climate change and biodiversity loss as the most urgent crises facing humanity. With consequences far greater than those resulting from COVID-19, participants were concerned that world leaders had shifted their attention away from addressing the fundamental challenge of climate change and biodiversity loss. Participants observed that the global response to COVID-19 demonstrates what is possible if we choose to respond urgently to global crises, but participants were frustrated that leaders are not acting with the urgency needed when the future of our species, and many others, is at stake.

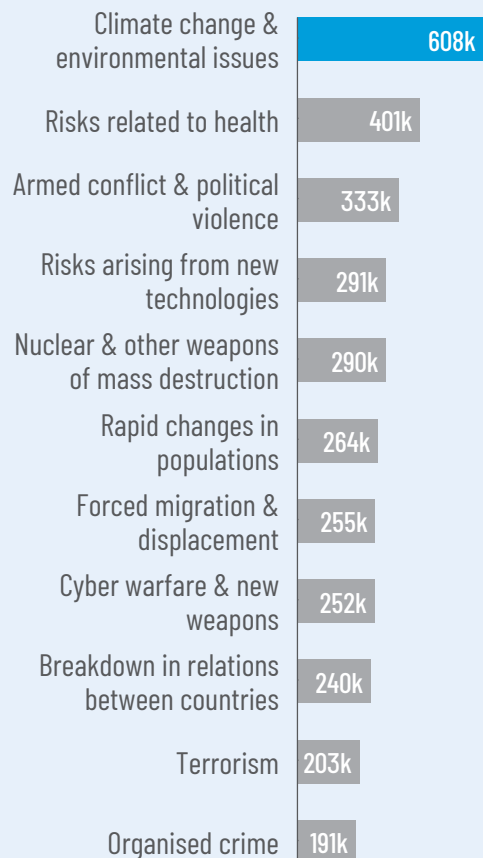
“As climate change accelerates, the atmosphere is and will be further weakened by excessive carbon emissions. Various plant and animal species will become extinct. Seasonal changes will disappear. Air pollution will worsen.”

Won Sanghyuk, Yeongwol County Youth Training Center, Republic of Korea, <15 years, students, mostly boys.

Young people felt disenfranchised and disempowered as they discussed the current age of the ‘anthropocene’, where humans shape living systems and the climate and the subsequent impact on terrestrial, marine and aquatic biodiversity, ocean health and water resources. They discussed the dire impact that air pollution, waste and plastics in the ocean and the overconsumption of natural resources is having on health and natural

amenities, biodiversity loss, more frequent, intense and wide-reaching wildfires, natural disasters and future pandemics.

UN75 Survey long-term global threats: UN75 survey respondents in all regions identified climate change and environmental issues as the top long-term threat



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.

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“In the end, we will live with primitive insecurity in a dazzling growth and cutting-edge society.”

Goriul Youth Culture House, Republic of Korea, ages 16-30s, mixed professions and genders.

Dialogue participants across age groups acknowledge that youth will pay the price for climate change more so than the today’s decision-makers, and that they must have a voice in how, as a global community, we respond to its challenge. Participants raised several essential elements of a sustainable future: an economy that fully values nature, a justice system that views environmental destruction as a crime, and a social orientation that values people and place and a more equal distribution of resources above a system that fuels poverty, inequality and environmental destruction and the concentration of wealth in the hands of the very few.

“Without better environmental protection we will have no world left for future generations... Climate change is our most urgent, important priority. All actors must be involved in climate change... we see this as an interconnected reality, not simply as an issue.”

Beth Blissman, Ph.D., UN NGO Rep. for Loretto Community & Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Dubuque, Iowa, USA, mixed ages, professions, genders.

Participants stressed that environmental destruction must be viewed as a human rights and criminal justice issue, and that the voices of poor, vulnerable, marginalized and Indigenous peoples must be central to our collective response to climate change and biodiversity loss. Participants discussed the unequal impact on vulnerable communities, such as those living in Small Island Developing States, and areas prone to natural disaster and other climate change effects.

Participants stressed the strong justice dimension, articulating that the right to a healthy environment is a human right. The vulnerable pay a heavier price for unsustainable resource use and wealth accumulation by a few. Participants want clearly defined accountability and justice mechanisms.

They also discussed the grave effects of desertification, wildfires, the depletion of oceans, air pollution, and forest loss, and the impact on human societies, particularly the most vulnerable.

“The inevitable climate change effects that will continue despite immediate action, and will disproportionately affect marginalized populations.”

UN Association, USA, San Diego, mixed ages and genders, managers and professionals.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Participants argued that fundamental and transformational change is needed to protect our planet, and that these transformations are necessary on all levels – within our social, economic and political systems, as well as in our collective and individual understanding of our place in the world – within our environment and alongside our fellow living creatures. Some participants discussed the need for a radical cultural and spiritual change to build a world based on respect, empathy and humility, and to appreciate the indivisible links and reliance we have with/on each other and our environment. Building a more sustainable world can coincide with building a more equal world.

Participants stressed that responding to environmental challenges will require all actors working in cohesion – everyone, everywhere, across sectors. Actions must be taken by governments, individuals, international organizations,

local communities, the private sector and scientists. Those 15 years old or younger called on our species to be at its best – a global family, one world, working together.

“Over the last decades, medicinal, technological and scientific progress has enabled us to open our minds and discover the world faster and better than it was ever possible before. Whilst we recognize that these advancements have bettered our lives and given us a better understanding of our world and each other, they have negatively affected the way we interact with our environments and the way those environments interact with each other.”

New College of the Humanities at Northeastern (London), UK, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

HOW WE CAN GET THERE

Participants offered a multitude of ideas for action and concrete solutions, with communities bearing the impact voicing solutions for the particular challenges they face. For example, participants from large developing country cities identified issues such as air pollution, litter and toxic contamination, while those from areas subject to loss through climate change, such as Indigenous communities from less developed states highlighted the effects on cultural loss and livelihoods.

On learning from the pandemic

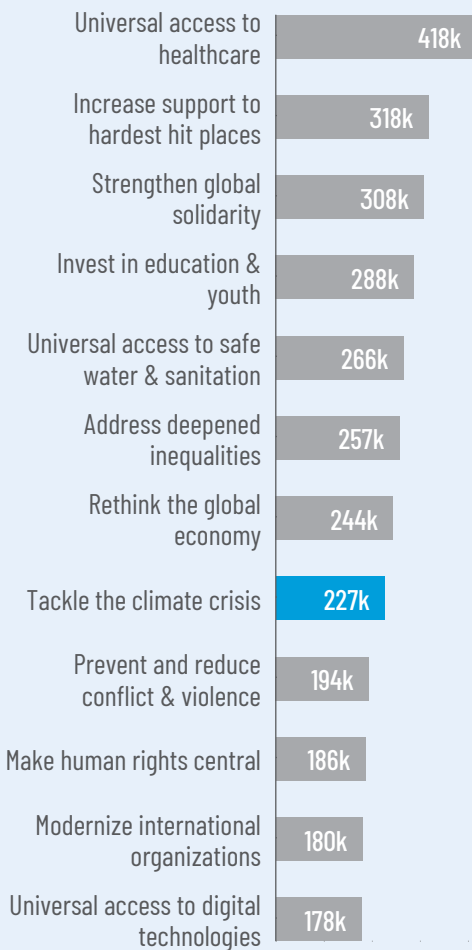
The pandemic was viewed as a wake-up call to the fragility of our species, providing lessons that can contribute to sustainability:

- Not to lose sight of the environmental crisis while addressing the pandemic. The pandemic is a small and short-term problem compared to climate change, biodiversity loss and their effects.
- The pandemic illustrates the links between habitat destruction and human health, and

that climate change makes us vulnerable to future pandemics.

- Rapid government reactions to the pandemic and the difficult things governments asked of their citizens have helped, in the short-term, reduce carbon

UN75 Survey immediate priorities to recover from the pandemic: 225,000+ respondents selected Tackle the climate crisis as a top short-term priority



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.

emissions and demonstrate that changes previously thought to be impossible are, in fact possible, and that governments must be as bold in their response to climate change.

- Despite the practical difficulties experienced by communities around the world in lockdown over the course of 2020, participants suggested a short, annual lockdown to protect the planet could remind us that adopting a lifestyle that radically reduces our environmental footprint is possible.

On building awareness and enhancing environmental education

- **Education in schools is viewed as critical** to create a generation of students who are more responsible and attentive to environmental protection. Climate literacy was deemed by some participants as mandatory in primary and secondary schooling, with primary school helping children understand the interconnectedness of natural systems, our place within the environment and to foster appreciation and curiosity for the natural world, and secondary education providing an understanding of how environmental issues can impact students’ lives.
- **Teachers need support** to understand the issues and to build climate and environment curricula. External experts and government actors can support schools through initiatives that deliver sustainability modules across schools and regions.
- **Schools of higher education** and especially those of architecture, design and engineering, can be engines of change, teaching sustainability principles and techniques.

- Informal education, the media and local and community authorities can all build greater public awareness of environmental issues.
- The arts sector can build awareness of climate change.
- Businesses can increase awareness of environmental issues among employees and consumers, encouraging greater sustainability in the products and services they offer.
- Transparent information about environmental and social costs of goods and services should be provided to consumers. All trade should be Fair trade.
- National and local authorities can support communities to be informed about the issues that affect them, such as reducing energy poverty about sustainable practice.
- Enhancing knowledge of environmental issues within vulnerable and marginalised groups can help them advocate for their interests in local, national and international discussions and forums.
- Access to digital tech can build environmental awareness, especially in remote communities.

On building sustainable systems

Building Sustainable Economies

- Participants urged governments to **stop subsidizing fossil fuels**.
- Pension funds and other investors were encouraged to only invest in ethical and sustainable funds.
- Insurance coverage should extend to climate-affected countries.

Sustainable consumption and production

Dialogue participants understood that systemic change, sector by sector, in the way we produce and consume is essential for the

UN75 Survey long-term priorities: More environmental protection top long-term priority, with 300,000+ also prioritizing more sustainable consumption and production



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.

paradigm shift needed to meet sustainability challenges. Participants voiced the need for sustainable, fair and inclusive economies and for sustainability criteria to inform financing and investments at all levels. Meeting environmental challenges was viewed as an opportunity to build more equitable, just, local and sustainable economic systems.

“We should make sure that more resources are used to incentivize citizens to make green choices in a way that is socially and economically efficient and that doesn’t require knowledge and research to make the correct choice. Misinformation is everywhere in the time of social media and the 24-hour news cycle. Think about solutions that make it easy to choose green.”

Dr. Peter Stiling and Dr. Brooke Hansen, University of South Florida, USA, ages 31-45, mixed professions and genders.

“Consumerist culture should be seen as a main driver of the environmental and socio-economic challenges we face today. It will continue to hinder the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and increase environmental and health risks.”

IUVENTA - Slovak Youth Institute, Slovakia, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

Dialogue participants called for sustainable consumption and production patterns that generate ‘green jobs’. Industry, governments, individuals, and the global community were called on to transform the following sectors and areas:

- **Sustainable diets:** Support the adoption of affordable and sustainable plant-based diets, including artificial meat to reduce forest conversion to rangelands and other habitat destruction. Reduce food waste and localise food production facilities. Invest in and promote innovative solutions such as the ‘Clear your plate’ app that offers rewards when diners upload pictures of their empty plates. Ensure decent livelihoods for food system workers.

“It is absolutely necessary to rethink our approach to food, clothes and objects, production quality and consumption.”

New College of the Humanities at Northeastern (London), UK, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

- **Sustainable fashion:** Educate consumers on the environmental and ethical cost of fast fashion so that consumers value clothes as long term, and choose functional items rather than disposable fashion items. The pricing of clothes should reflect their environmental cost and should adequately reward those who made them.

“The global environment continues to deteriorate due to a combination of increased industrialization, excessive use of non-renewable energy resources, multiplication of non-environmentally friendly production methods, and lack of decoupling of economic growth and resource use.”

Youth Initiation for Democracy. President Tamara Tartarashvili, Georgia, ages 16-30, mixed professions and genders.

- **Sustainable energy:** Governments and the private sector should invest in sustainable energy technology. Higher human development countries and energy experts can support developing countries with advice and technology. Support should be given to the biofuels, solar and wind technology industries. Research and development of sustainable aviation and shipping fuels are vital, with fossil fuel use de-incentivized and reduced.

“Successful implementation of such initiatives will help low-income households meet their energy needs in a sustainable way, contribute to the green transformation of the economy, combat climate change and create jobs.”

UN Academic Impact, global online dialogue, mixed ages, professions, genders.

- **Sustainable transport:** Hybrid vehicles could be made mandatory and governments could invest in more low carbon public transportation options. The UN can encourage safe and sustainable transport systems through global collaboration on funding, youth empowerment and capacity building.
- **Sustainability in built infrastructure and industrial design:** Governments, multilateral organizations, investment bodies and the private sector can support and incentivize research and development of sustainable materials and invest in their use. The construction sector can promote sustainable and energy efficient architecture, design and use of sustainable and local building materials.

“Urbanization trends are presently unsustainable from an economic, social and environmental point of view, and risk exacerbating inequality, vulnerability and environmental degradation by 2045.”

UNRWA Youth unit, Lebanon, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

- **Sustainable packaging:** Single use packaging, plastic bags, the consumption of plastics and other synthetic material should be phased out through government regulation and private sector innovation to promote sustainable materials.
- **Reducing built-in obsolescence:** The private sector should reduce built-in obsolescence and offer repair services, as well as take responsibility for waste, internalize the true cost of products and services they offer. Production and use of disposable products should be disincentivized.
- **Ethical waste management:** Zero waste policies should be introduced, with governments and industries supporting repair, reuse and recycling. Waste, particularly toxic waste, should not be exported to those least able to cope with it.
- **Consumerism:** Individuals should take responsibility for buying ethically and consuming less. Consumers can be informed about their choices through increased mobile phone apps that inform consumers of the environmental cost of products and services.
- **Trade in wildlife:** Wildlife should be monitored to prevent the transfer of diseases from animals to humans.

- **Research, development, policy and regulation of clean technologies:** Governments can support innovation in sustainable technologies through platforms that ease market access to small and medium clean-tech companies. Governments can develop bold policy and regulation, as well as facilitate innovation that will require sustainable production and consumption.
- **Sustainable cities:** Recognising the impact of urbanisation on people and the natural environment, dialogue participants wanted to see a rethinking of our cities as part of a sustainable paradigm shift. Governments, local authorities and the private sector were encouraged to invest in infrastructure transformation, including maintaining and creating green spaces in cities and reducing carbon footprints through nature-based solutions. Designated streets should be closed to cars, for use solely by pedestrians and cyclists to create public green spaces. Governments should invest more in public transport. Participants saw local communities within cities as an important starting point for climate action, encouraging local authorities to support small, local actions.

Climate change, cultural loss and cultural resilience

Dialogue participants recognized the links between culture and climate change, expressing concerns about what is being, and could yet be lost. Participants highlighted the risk of loss of traditions, practices and cultural heritage among communities living in areas susceptible to climate change, such as Indigenous communities and those living in Small Island Developing States. The UN can work closely with such communities to protect

their interests. Protecting the interests of communities whose cultures are affected by climate change should be viewed as the responsibility of all nations. The costs should not be borne by the communities themselves, but by national and international communities.

“This is the first time in the history of this area that we have lost the connection between the crafts, the ecology and community, society. It is very likely that we will no longer be practicing our culture and traditions. And of course, as new generations come along, it is very easy to lose language as you adopt the language of your host country.”

The Future is Unwritten, online dialogue, mixed countries, ages 46-60, managers and professionals, mixed genders.

“Member states of the United Nations need to incorporate the protection of heritage sites in low-lying areas and SIDS in all their plans.”

The Future is Unwritten, online dialogue, mixed countries, ages 46-60, managers and professionals, mixed genders.

“Preserving our public resources such as Mongolian nomadic culture, pastoralism, and pastureland is not just Mongolia’s responsibility to preserve this last nomadic culture and civilization but it must be responsibility of the UN.”

Dialogue organized by Resident Coordinator Office, Mongolia, mixed ages, professions, genders.

Ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources

“Water facilitates the interconnectedness and inter-linkages with other sectors like agriculture, industry, energy and environment. Water connects policy areas in the economic sector as well as societies. It is a tool for cooperation and trust.”

Online, global dialogue organized by UN Academic Impact, mixed ages, professions, genders.

Participants discussed many actions that can better manage ecosystems and natural resources including oceans and water resources, and called for better prevention and management of natural disasters:

- **Any further loss of forest and other ecosystems must be halted.** Recognition of the enormous scale of loss should be formalised. The diversity of species and ecosystems that remain is the most precious asset we have and must not be lost.
- Oceans: Build **multilateral, multi-sectorial partnerships to protect our oceans** and create a blue new deal. Promote cleaning the ocean. Establish a global biodiversity alliance and establish a marine police agency.

“We need to supplement academic research with policies to protect our oceans.”

International Association for Political Science, online dialogue, mixed countries and genders, ages 16-30, students.

- Water resources: **Institute sustainable solutions for water problems** via effective legislation and new water management policies and practices.
- Natural disaster management: Climate change was perceived as already causing more frequent, intense and dangerous natural disasters, with devastating impacts on vulnerable communities and further contributing to emissions. **Participants shared alarm at the 2019-2020 wildfires in the South East of Australia** that were uncharacteristically dangerous, intense and frequent. While fires occur naturally in some savanna and forest landscapes, they do not occur with the frequency or intensity seen in recent decades, and certain sensitive ecosystems, such as the Amazon, are not adapted to coping with fire. Participants encouraged policy makers to **better prevent and manage fires** in these ecosystems.

Address “forest fires and environmental risks (Amazon rainforest).”

Global Young Leader Initiative, Germany, ages 16-30, mixed professionals and genders.

- Prioritizing nature based solutions: To address climate change, biodiversity loss and disaster risk management, participants encouraged governments and the UN to **prioritize nature-based solutions** that value and protect the natural systems on which we rely and that bring multiple benefits. They can be used to mitigate emissions and adapt to climate change, and can protect and restore forests, catchments, coastal environments and peatlands, as well as greening our cities and re-wilding degraded agricultural and industrial lands.

“Strengthen judicial and other accountability mechanisms to ensure businesses, companies and countries are held accountable on the global stage for non-compliance, especially where the environment is concerned.”

Kerri Fergusson, New Zealand, mixed ages and professions, mostly women.

- **Indigenous peoples’ knowledge systems and nature-based solutions should be respected and harnessed.** Participants shared how the traditional fire knowledge of Indigenous communities, combined with modern methods of verifying the emissions savings of these practices, is being harnessed in the north of Australia to manage fire prone savanna and dry forest landscapes through early dry season burning. This is found to reduce emissions, prevent biodiversity loss, restore degraded forest landscapes, create economic opportunities for remote communities, and enhance social and health indicators, while valuing the ecological knowledge of some of the most ancient living cultures on earth.

“It’s really important that we understand that traditional ecological knowledge is just as important as western knowledge, and if we can bring those two together, to complement the work we are all trying to address in climate change, it is a win-win for everybody.”

International Savanna Fire Management Initiative, Australia and global (online), mixed ages and genders, Indigenous fire managers.

Mainstreaming the environment in cross sectoral planning

Participants emphasized the indivisibility of our environment with our health and well-being. UN agencies should have a ‘One Health’ approach when tackling health challenges, highlighting the relationship between the environment and social well-being and with cross-sectoral policy planning.

“Environment and health are directly linked and we cannot ignore climate change anymore.”

Dialogue organized by WHO, Lebanon, ages 16-30, mixed professions and genders.

Insisting on accountability

Dialogue participants from across regions demanded greater accountability for excessive resource use and environmental destruction. Environmental destruction and climate change were viewed as profiting a few at the expense of many, with calls for greater accountability. Participants called for a clean and healthy environment and intergenerational equity to be characterized as human rights issues.

“Strict rules and punishments for those who are not carbon friendly and have high carbon footprints.”

Mr. Duncan, Asker International School, Norway, <15 years, students, mixed genders.

“The cycle of climate change and capitalism threaten basic human rights.”

Goriul Youth Culture House, Republic of Korea, ages 16-30, mixed professions and genders.

Across all regions, those 30 and younger called for greater accountability of individuals, businesses and governments who are part of the problem and/or who fail to be part of the solution:

- **Human Rights:** New concepts of Human Rights and the environment should be developed, with climate change and air pollution linked to Human Rights.

“In the end, all states were urged to fulfill their human rights obligations by taking bold action to improve health, address climate change, and beat air pollution.”

Shakti Nandan - Confederation of Young Leaders, India, ages 16-30, students, mostly women.

- **Criminal justice:** Destruction of the environment warrants criminal sanctions on national and international levels. Governments and the international community should recognize, prevent and enforce action against environmental crimes.
- **Strengthening accountability in multilateralism:** The UN could create a legal mechanism to hold Member States accountable for the mitigation of climate change (e.g. the use of plastics and recycling). The UN could enforce environmental taxes in the event of “fine dust”, increased carbon emissions, and other forms of environmental pollution and destruction. Consequences should be strengthened for withdrawing from the Paris agreement. Liability for environmental damages should be strengthened, including through compensation payments for countries negatively affected by climate change.

“UN Member States are more focused on their own national interests and developments and will always place that before environmental issues and climate change. Concrete measures and agreements must be put into place to ensure joint responses. They must invoke consequences in the case of non-compliance. Withdrawals from international climate agreements, such as the U.S.A. from the Paris agreement, should be impossible.”

Jeong Jin-heyang, Republic of Korea, ages 31-45, mixed professions, mostly women.

- **Strengthening accountability in Member States.** Stricter regulations should be introduced for the management of the environment and climate, requiring industries to stay within emissions limits, and policies that compel companies to buy emissions permits, with the value of these used to aid climate vulnerable communities.

Strengthening multilateral commitments

- While the UNFCCC is voluntary, its implementation should be increased.
- All Member States should comply with the Paris Agreement, and future climate agreements and policies should be negotiated. The UN should challenge Member States who refuse to comply with the Paris Agreement.
- Strong policies addressing climate change must be established beyond the UN level.

“Strengthen the international legal framework for climate action, improve the Paris Agreement and set more binding provision for climate mitigation.”

School of international and public affairs, Jilin University, China, ages 16-30, mixed professions and genders.

The role of science in protecting our planet

Participants highlighted the rise of misinformation that has increased with the use of social media, the lack of in-depth analysis encouraged by 24-hour news cycles, and the rise of populism that encourages mistrust of expert opinion. Participants emphasized the need for scientific data and analysis to inform policy decisions aimed at transformative change.

“If the international community is not prepared to conduct more serious research on climate change and follow urgent preventive measures, we may experience the end of life on Earth.”

Masan Youth Culture House, Republic of Korea, ages 31-45, Managers and Professionals, mostly women.

Strengthen the role of the UN in protecting the planet

Participants called on the UN and its Member States to lead international climate and environmental action:

- The UN can facilitate Member States to exchange useful and effective conservation practices to prevent/mitigate climate change.

“Problems we have today are not ones that can be solved by one single person, or one single country - we need arenas where we can work together, and where everyone has a voice. When the UN is operating at its best, it provides such a space and takes the lead on solving these complex challenges.”

Beth Blissman, Ph.D., UN NGO Representative for the Loretto Community & the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Dubuque, Iowa, USA, mixed ages and professions, mostly women.

- Member States could be recognized for preventing climate change and environmental degradation.
- The UN Secretary General can provide a platform to share best practices of innovative solutions and tech advancement across the globe. He can advocate for an online monitoring mechanism to assess progress on sustainability goals and track action on both adaptation and mitigation.
- The UN can encourage Member States to adopt regional adaptation strategies.
- Bolster UNITAR trainings for the private sector and non-profits about the impact of national actions.
- Develop a UN system-wide tracking system of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities and manage resources. UNDP's Strategic Plan, which uses a results framework that allows UNDP and stakeholders to monitor outcomes, generate lessons, and hold accountability for the funds entrusted to it, could be used as a model to create a macro-level tracking system to facilitate the transfer of effective activities across countries and sectors and help manage resources.

- Incremental adaptation outcomes achieved over the past decade need to be consolidated, with new policies and practices that are grounded in development activities, for example through a UN-wide guideline outlining a common transformation adaptation strategy.
- The UN can set up dedicated climate change regional offices and appoint climate advocates, to help combat climate change.
- The UN can take further steps to include vulnerable communities in international climate negotiations.

“Like the blue helmets for UN Peacekeeping, there should be a green helmets group aimed to achieve UN climate action missions which help states/regions adapt and mitigate climate change”

Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen, Germany, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

Valuing community and individual action

Many dialogues highlighted that action is required at all levels, and that community-based and individual actions are important alongside system level responses. In particular, suggestions include:

- The macro-actions highlighted by the Paris Agreement should be complemented by the work done by local/regional groups.
- Local/regional environmental groups and organizations should be mobilized to develop stronger international networks and knowledge-sharing channels.

Strengthen the voices of young people, marginalized and climate vulnerable communities

Prioritize the voices and interests of those who have the most to lose in all policy making and decision-making processes (not just token involvement) on the environment and climate at local, national, regional and global levels. Voices of poor and vulnerable communities, and Indigenous peoples, whose lives, livelihoods, health, cultural practices and lands are at risk from climate change and biodiversity loss must be at the forefront of consideration.

Prioritize the voices of young people.

Participants from all age groups recognized that young people deserve a strong voice in decision-making that affects our planet. Young people also need support to actively participate in processes that affect them:

- Young people, who often understand and feel the urgency to act, can play a role in educating older people about the climate and environment and participate in decision-making and climate action.
- Countries can strengthen the right of youth to participate in the decision-making for international climate agreements, such as the role of youth in the Legislative Assemblies of the Brazilian federal states.

MEDIA ANALYSIS²

Climate change and its effects are the most visible environmental issues covered in the media, globally

44% of media coverage on environmental issues focused on global warming – climate change and its existing and projected effects. This is followed by biodiversity, with 38% of media coverage. Global warming was top in all regions except Europe and Central Asia, where it was second to biodiversity.

Some media discussed the potential for COVID-19 to lower pollution levels, as well as concerns that the pandemic had sidelined climate action. Solutions proposed in the media tended to look inward, focusing on domestic policies to protect biodiversity and to curb the impact of global warming, with the exception of higher human development countries in Northern America and Western Europe.

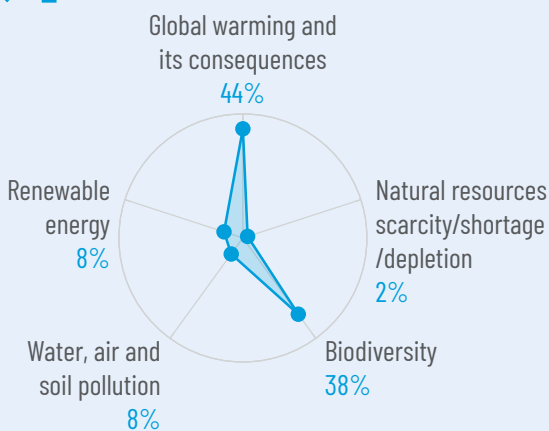
In Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, prominent media coverage was given to events such as the Australian and Amazon

fires. In Europe, media focused on local protests against government measures (e.g. in France and Hungary), as well as climate-related displacement. Media coverage of climate was generally lower and more inward-looking in Northern Africa and Western Asia.

In Northern America, the debate around the economic impact of climate change solutions was covered in the media, with young people and renewable energy emerging as stronger themes.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the media covered biodiversity, pollution, the impact of large companies and natural resource pressures, with more of a focus on solutions than other regions. In many lower human development countries, the media conveyed a sense of frustration with governments for not moving fast enough on capping corporate pollution or regulating the dumping of waste. In these countries, the UN was seen as a leader and a needed supporter, whereas in higher human development countries, the UN was viewed as a partner.

Climate change and biodiversity are most reported on, across all regions



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

Asia & Australia	1. Climate change & its effects 2. Biodiversity (wildlife/plant life)
Europe & Central Asia	1. Biodiversity (wildlife/plant life) 2. Climate change & its effects
Latin America & Caribbean	1. Climate change & its effects 2. Biodiversity (wildlife/plant life)
Middle East & North Africa	1. Climate change & its effects 2. Biodiversity (wildlife/plant life)
North America	1. Climate change & its effects 2. Biodiversity (wildlife/plant life)
Sub-Saharan Africa	1. Climate change & its effects 2. Biodiversity (wildlife/plant life)

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 SNAPSHOT³

Academic publications

- Aykut, S, Foyer, J. & Morena, E. (eds) 2017 [Globalising the Climate: COP21 and the Climatisation of Global Debates](#).
- Carattini, S., Gosnell, G. & Tavoni, A. 2020 [“How developed countries can learn from developing countries to tackle climate change”](#) World Development.
- Diaz, S. et al. 2020 [“Set ambitious goals for biodiversity and sustainability”](#) Science.
- Dunnivant, F. 2017 [Environmental Success Stories: Solving Major Ecological Problems and Confronting Climate Change](#).
- Ivanova, M. 2020 [“Coloring the UN Environmental: The Catalytic Role of the UN Environment Programme”](#) Global Governance.
- Jakob, M. et al. 2020 [“Understanding different perspectives on economic growth and climate policy”](#) WIREs Climate Change.
- Ken, C. 2015 [An Unfinished Foundation: The UN and Global Environmental Governance](#).
- Kirton, J. & Kokotsis, E. 2017 [The Global Governance of Climate Change: G7, G20, and UN Leadership](#).
- Negi, A., Pérez-Pineda, J. & Blankenbach, J. (eds) 2020 [Sustainability Standards and Global Governance: Experiences of Emerging Economies](#).
- Pasztor, J. 2016 [“The Role of UN Secretary-General in the Climate Change Process”](#) Global Policy.
- Raiser, K. et al. 2020 [“Is the Paris Agreement effective? A systematic map of the evidence”](#) Environmental Research Letters.

- Reyers, B. & Selig, E. 2020 [“Global targets that reveal the social-ecological interdependencies of sustainable development”](#) Nature, Ecology & Evolution.
- Tarko, A. 2019 [“Остановит ли Парижское соглашение глобальное потепление?”](#) Age of Globalization.
- Volger, J. 2016 [Climate Change in World Politics](#).

Policy research & reports

- Bárcena, A. et al. 2020 [La emergencia del cambio climático en América Latina y el Caribe: ¿seguimos esperando la catástrofe o pasamos a la acción?](#), UN Economic Commission, Latin America & Caribbean.
- Food & Agriculture Org. & UN Environment Prog. 2020 [The State of the World's Forests 2020](#).
- Global Commission on Adaptation 2019 [Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience](#).
- Global Commission on Economy & Climate 2018 [Unlocking Inclusive Growth Story of 21st Century: Accelerating Climate Action in Urgent Times](#).
- Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (ed) 2018 [Radical Realism for Climate Justice: A Civil Society Response to the Challenge of Limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C](#).
- Huang, B. & Yu, E. 2020 [Ways to Achieve Green Asia](#), Asian Development Bank 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”](#).

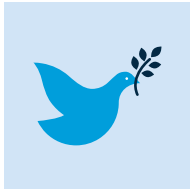
- Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services 2019 [Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#).
- International Savanna Fire Management Initiative 2015 [Global Potential of Savanna Fire Management Findings of the Regional Feasibility Assessments](#).
- Larsen, G. et al. 2018 [Toward Paris Alignment How Multilateral Development Banks Can Better Support the Paris Agreement](#), World Resources Institute.
- Sato, I. et al. 2019 [Enhancing NDCs: A Guide to Strengthening National Climate Plans](#), World Resources Institute & UN Development Programme.
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UN 2020 [Global Biodiversity Outlook 5](#).
- Swaby, G. & Sokolowski, A. 2020 [Long-term planning for climate and development: ideas from and for the Least Developed Countries](#), International Institute for Environment and Development.
- UN Environment Programme 2020 [Emissions Gap Report 2020](#).
- Viola, E. & Paz Neves, L. (eds) 2016 [The World After the Paris Climate Agreement of December 2015](#), Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais.
- World Meteorological Organization [2020 State of the Global Climate 2020 – Provisional Report](#).

Commentaries & opinion pieces

- Chestney, N. 2020 [“Fossil fuel production far exceeds climate targets, U.N. says”](#) Reuters.
- Dixit, A. 2019 [“Make-or-break decade for climate action”](#) Nepali Times.
- Editorial Board 2020 [“The UN must get its new biodiversity targets right”](#) Nature.
- Fuller, T. 2020 [“Reducing Fire, and Cutting carbon emissions, the Aboriginal Way”](#) New York Times.
- Grose, M. & Bettio, L. 2020 [“Prepare for hotter days, says the State of the Climate 2020 report for Australia”](#) The Conversation.
- Guterres, A. 2020 [“The State of the Planet”](#).
- Kumar Arora, N. & Mishra, I. 2020 [“UN SDGs 2030 & environmental sustainability: race against time”](#) Environmental Sustainability.
- Marchese, D. 2020 [“Greta Thunberg Hears Your Excuses. She Is Not Impressed.”](#) New York Times.
- Watson, J. 2020 [“Set a global target for ecosystems”](#) Nature.
- Zimmer, K. 2020 [“The world missed a critical deadline to safeguard biodiversity, UN report says”](#) National Geographic.

Data resources & tools

- [Climate Action Tracker](#).
- [OECD environmental data and indicators](#).
- [Transparency for Sustainable Economies](#) [Stockholm Environment Institute et al.].
- [UN Biodiversity Lab](#) [UN].
- [World Environment Situation Room](#) [UN].
- [World Wildlife Fund](#).



WE WILL PROMOTE PEACE AND PREVENT CONFLICTS

“The ongoing armed conflicts and threats against international peace and security must be urgently resolved through peaceful means. We reiterate the importance of abiding by the Charter, principles of international law and relevant resolutions of the Security Council. International arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament agreements and their architectures need to be upheld. The United Nations must better address all forms and domains of threats. Terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism are serious threats to international peace and security. The diplomatic toolbox of the Charter needs to be used to its full potential, including preventive diplomacy and mediation. We call upon the Secretary-General to enhance this toolbox to prevent the outbreak, escalation and recurrence of hostilities on land, at sea, in space and in cyberspace. We fully support and promote the Secretary-General’s initiative for a global ceasefire. International humanitarian law must be fully respected. To build, keep and sustain peace is now one of the main responsibilities of the United Nations.”

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

“We want a world at peace, no bloodshed, a world where a superpower can’t coerce any concessions they wish out of weaker nations, a world without proxy wars over interests like natural resources. We wish to see our country and other poor countries not shadowed any more by criminality, human trafficking, abuse of women, cybercrimes, emigration and brain drain, abuse of migrants, discrimination against religion, color, race, language, and sect, a more connected and equal world.”

Dialogue organized by UN Assistant Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), mixed ages and genders, technicians.

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 DIALOGUES¹

WHERE WE ARE NOW

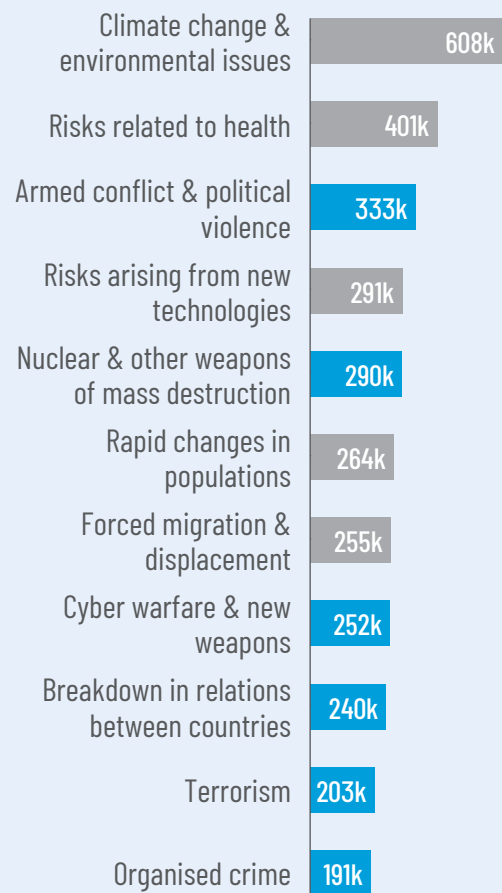
Dialogue participants raised **concerns about the rise of cyber warfare as well as the proliferation of new forms of weapons**, especially those that leverage artificial intelligence. **They denounced the worldwide increase in arms trafficking, and the rise of terrorism and violent extremism.** They described how **COVID-19 is increasing security threats globally**, increasing risk for the most vulnerable populations, particularly women and children.

Dialogue participants noted the failed attempts at addressing many root causes of conflicts, such as poverty, inequality, racism and religious intolerance. Human rights violations continue to be perpetuated and humanitarian assistance fails to be delivered in adequate quantities.

“The rising levels of new forms of violence, climate emergency, cyber warfare, disruption of artificial intelligence, appeared to be at the top of our shared threats, which precondition cross country cooperation, and coordinated solutions.”

UN Association, Albania ages 16-30, mixed professions and genders.

UN75 Survey long-term global threats: Hundreds of thousands of respondents selected conflict, weapons, terrorism and crime as top long-term 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.

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”](#).

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Participants in dialogues across the world, and especially young participants, envisioned **living in a world that ensures peace and security for all, and in which every country upholds treaties to maintain peace and security through nonviolent means.**

Participants advocated for a world where countries ensure the protection and safety of all people, regardless of race, age, gender or economic status.

Dialogue participants wanted to see **a world where the UN plays a central role in the peaceful resolution of international conflicts,** the efficient and fair delivery of humanitarian assistance and the promotion of disarmament and arms control.

HOW WE CAN GET THERE

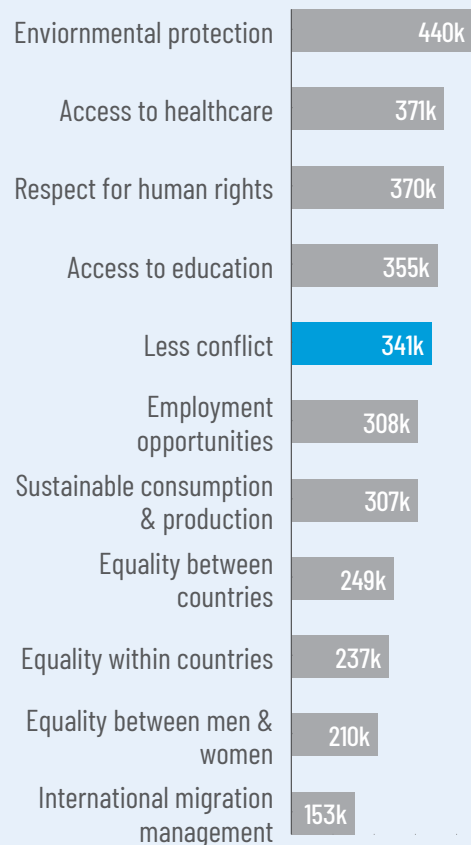
Participants across the world proposed strategies for individuals, civil society organizations, national governments and the UN system to embark on to build a more peaceful and secure planet for all.

Foster a culture of peaceful coexistence

“Foster a culture of peaceful coexistence, say no to violence, racism, xenophobia, and radicalism. Raise voice, advocate for the rights of the victims, fight for a common cause for humanity.”

Dialogue organized by UNAMA, Afghanistan, mixed ages and professions.

UN75 Survey long-term priorities: Less conflict was one of the top long-term priorities for 340,000 respondents



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 advocated for individuals and civil society to foster a culture of peaceful coexistence, to sensitize others to respect the principles of non-violence, and to develop an understanding of the role of individuals and civil society in promoting peace and ending conflict.

Higher education institutions and civil society organizations were encouraged to engage in more peace education activities to raise awareness about international conflicts.

"[...] peace education should not be restricted by political, economic or cultural boundaries and peace as a universal concept should be embedded in the way we think."

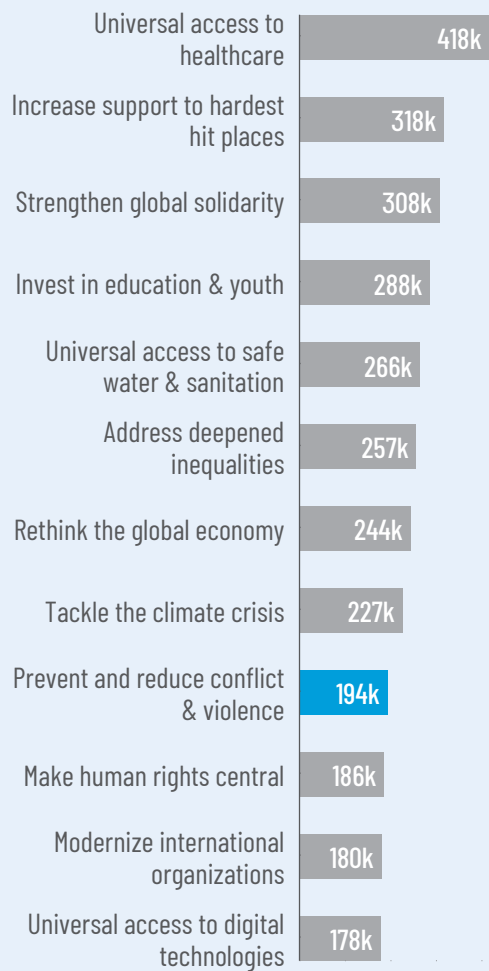
Online dialogue organized by UN Academic Impact, mixed ages, professions and genders.

Improve conflict management and humanitarian assistance

Many participants, including in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Syria, called on the UN to improve conflict management and humanitarian assistance. The importance of the "protection and promotion of human rights and implementation of transitional justice in post-conflict countries" was highlighted (UNAMA in Kunduz, Afghanistan, mixed ages and professions), as was implementing "a strategy that curbs civilian casualties and prioritizes human life above all in an armed conflict" (UN office in Baku, Azerbaijan, 31-45, managers and professionals). In Azerbaijan, participants stressed the need to penalize states that fail to comply with the Geneva Conventions on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War. Participants in Syria called for the removal of sanctions, which they said were hurting citizens, including young people.

Participants in the United States and in the Republic of Korea called for reparations and compensation for select groups. In the US, participants called for reparations for Indigenous populations and descendants of slaves, while in the Republic of Korea,

UN75 Survey immediate priorities to recover from the pandemic: Nearly 200,000 respondents prioritized preventing and reducing conflict/violence in the short-term



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.

participants considered reparations and compensations for the victims of World War II necessary.

“What the group most wants to see in the future, especially the future in Syria, is safety. They want to see a safe world and country where they do not need to stress over the air they breathe (pollution or pandemic), over the food they eat (poverty and hunger), over the water they drink (access to clean water). The participants want to live in a country full of love and peace, not hate and war. They want to feel safe in their homes, they want to feel safe walking under the open sky and not being hit by a shell, and they want to be able to feel safe sleeping at night, knowing they will be alive the next morning. The participants want to see a peaceful Syria in the year 2045.”

Junior Chamber International, Syria, ages 16-30, mixed professions and genders.

Promote disarmament and arms control

Dialogue participants called for governments and the UN Secretary General to work on disarmament and arms control. In Canada, participants prioritized disarmament and arms control, while in Guinea, participants advocated to limit the manufacturing of weapons and regularize their trade, especially during periods of unrest and war. In Afghanistan, participants affirmed that the UN should continue to prevent the development and use of unconventional weapons and

weapons, which cause large scale destruction, for example the Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB).

Participants in all regions called on governments to act against the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

They proposed that Member States renew disarmament agreements to include nuclear weapons. Participants from a dialogue in Nigeria were concerned about the COVID-19-related delay of the 2020 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). They stressed its importance for reaffirming Member State commitments. University students in the United Kingdom proposed the NPT Review Conferences should place greater emphasis on State Party national reporting to reinvigorate trust through verification.

Participants in the United Kingdom encouraged the UN to work in closer collaboration with nuclear weapons experts from different fields to enrich the discussion about reducing nuclear threats and mitigating their effects.

Participants proposed including experts offering a gender-lens, as well as individuals involved in the technical aspects of disarmament.

Many young people and local government actors advocated for a global ban of nuclear weapons.

“UN Member States should position the abolition of nuclear weapons as a goal in the vision for the world in 2045, which will be the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the UN and the A-bombings.”

Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan, mixed ages, professions and genders.

Enhance conflict resolution through diplomacy and mediation

Participants in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Nigeria, Georgia, and the Republic of Korea called on the UN Secretary General to increase his focus on the mediation of international conflicts and enhance the UN's role as mediator. Participants proposed organizing more dialogues in conflict settings and at the local and national levels to enhance local cooperation and understanding of international mediation efforts. Participants in Azerbaijan additionally advocated for the enforcement of the resolutions adopted during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Participants in Nigeria asked governments **to update the UN charter to include intra-state conflicts:**

"The UN charter regulates that the UN is responsible for mediation of conflicts between states. Which is extremely necessary as we speak. But the same charter lacks a part stating they have the same responsibility in intra-state conflicts, such as in Myanmar."

Smith Nwokocha - Voice of the Vulnerable, Nigeria, mixed ages, managers and professionals.

Revise peace-keeping and peace-building interventions

Dialogues in both developed and developing countries asked governments and the UN Secretary General to **improve peace-keeping mandates interventions, especially re-examining the role of peacekeepers.** Students in the United Kingdom affirmed the importance to "prevent and redress crimes by peacekeepers" (LondonMet MUN, United

Kingdom, ages 16-30, students). Participants in Canada highlighted the importance of developing more effective and transparent vetting programmes during the selection of UN Peacekeeping Forces.

In an online dialogue, participants called on **UN Organizations, and especially UNESCO, to help rebuild peace and social restoration through the preservation of the cultural and architectural heritage and the restoration of historical sites destroyed during warfare.** Proposed actions included hiring a working team for historic preservation, peace-building and social restoration education, and informing local communities on the importance of historic preservation on social restoration.

"We must adapt to the new realities of the world and the United Nations must modernize and refine its approach. We need stronger mandates for peacekeeping interventions."

Dialogue organized by UN Information Centre, Senegal, mixed ages and genders, students.

Take action against terrorism

Participants in Egypt, Nigeria and India advocated for governments to increase counterterrorism efforts. Participants proposed:

"Agreeing on a comprehensive and comprehensive definition [sic] of terrorism in all its forms and specifying clear mechanisms for dealing with it from institutions, individuals and governments."

Sustainable World Peace, Egypt, ages 31-45, mixed professions.

They also called for more coordinated counterterrorism efforts, leveraging existing legal frameworks. In Nigeria, participants asked for support from the UN for training and capacity building of African security personnel as part of counter-terrorism efforts. Participants also called on governments to provide more support to victims of terrorism, including health, financial and psychological support when required, through legislation that protects victims, and policies that support them.

Protect vulnerable groups in conflict settings

Participants from around the world called on the UN to protect vulnerable groups in conflict and post-conflict settings, in particular women and children. In one online dialogue, participants proposed more comprehensive training on conflict issues related to gender and the protection of children and civilians. Participants referred to training conducted by the Military Gender and Protection Adviser at the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), which delivered basic training to 11,000+ military personnel in the mission.

Dialogues in Afghanistan and India encouraged the UN to fight against human trafficking, particularly the trafficking of children and women. They called on governments to ensure the provision of basic services, rehabilitation programmes, and counseling facilities for trafficked victims.

Continue to advocate for a global ceasefire during COVID-19

Participants in all regions called on the UN Secretary-General to continue to advocate for a global ceasefire amid COVID-19 and for cuts in military spending that would allow more resources to be directed towards the fight against COVID-19. Participants in the United Kingdom and the United States suggested a resolution to require a global ceasefire.

Governments were encouraged to redirect military spending to social and educational programmes to support vulnerable populations hit hardest by the pandemic. In Nigeria, participants emphasized **the need to act against rising crime and abuse brought about by worsening economic opportunities amid COVID-19.** They proposed establishing community policing to deter crime, and for WHO to produce a periodic report outlining the causes and effects of pandemic-induced violence.

MEDIA ANALYSIS²

Civil unrest and violence against women are the topics most reported on in the media, followed by political violence

Conflict and violence was the leading issue covered by media in all regions. Coverage of political violence was also frequently tied to reports of human rights abuses.

Media in the 70 countries analyzed largely focused on national or regional reporting of conflict and violence, except for reports on political violence & major power relations.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the media reported on a lack of access to ICTs and cybercrime. In Europe, media focused extensively on increased domestic violence due to the pandemic lockdown.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, political femicide was prominent, as well as government policies in relation to sexual violence. In Sub-Saharan Africa, trafficking was a key theme.

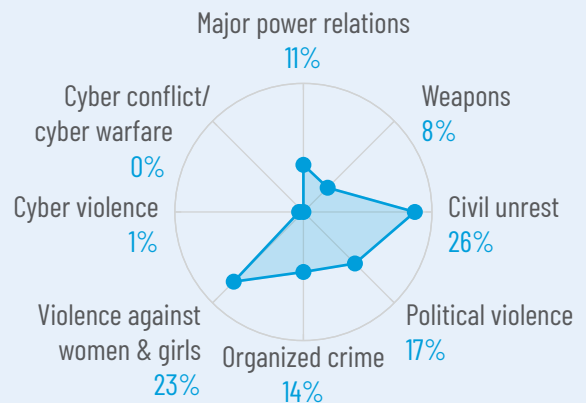
Anti-government protests, demonstrations against social inequities and social or political change were key stories throughout the year, with unrest most visible in Asia, North America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Organized crime appeared frequently in media reports in Latin America, while political violence and terrorism were prominent in Middle Eastern and Sub-Saharan African media. In Asia, there was future-focused coverage of weapons technology and military planning. Cyber-violence and warfare received some attention in North America, Europe, Central Asia and Asia.

Major power relations were a top driver

of media coverage in North America, and prominent in other regions in relation to specific situations, such as US-China relations, Israel-Palestine issues, and Libya.

Media in 70 countries predominantly reported on civil unrest, violence against women and girls, and political violence



Asia & Australia
 1. Civil unrest
 2. Violence against women/girls

Europe & Central Asia
 1. Violence against women/girls
 2. Civil unrest

Latin America & Caribbean
 1. Violence against women/girls
 2. Organized crime

Middle East & North Africa
 1. Violence against women/girls
 2. Political violence

North America
 1. Civil unrest
 2. Political violence

Sub-Saharan Africa
 1. Civil unrest
 2. Violence against women/girls

Source: Edelman Intelligence Discovery+ | Global | Media coverage in 70 countries, all languages | Date range: May 2019 – May 2020.

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](#)”.

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- High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations [UN] 2015 [Uniting Our Strengths for Peace: Politics, Partnership and People](#).
- Independent Expert Group of African Union Peace & Security Council 2020 [A Study on the Roles and Contributions of Youth to Peace & Security in Africa](#).
- Pantuliano, S., Metcalfe-Hough, V. & McKechnie, A. 2018 [The capacity of UN agencies, funds and programmes to sustain peace: an independent review](#), Overseas Development Institute.
- Security Council Report 2020 [Prioritisation & Sequencing of Council Mandates: Walking the Walk?](#).

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](#)".

- Singh, P. 2016 [A fractured way forward for a Global Peace and Security Agenda](#), African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes.
- Smit, T. & Tidblad-Lundholm, K. 2018 [Trends in Women's Participation in UN, EU & OSCE Peace Operations](#), Stockholm Int. Peace Research Inst.
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- – 2020 [Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General](#).
- –2020 [Youth and peace and security: Report of the Secretary-General](#).
- – 2018 [Security our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament](#).
- UN Development Programme 2016 [Preventing Violent Extremism through Promoting Inclusive Development, Tolerance and Respect for Diversity](#).
- UN & World Bank 2018 [Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict](#).
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- Hennebelle, I. 2020 «[Les manifestations du changement climatique s'intensifient, leur impact sur les Etats et les sociétés aussi](#)» Le Monde.
- Ponzio, R. 2018 "[The UN's new "Sustaining Peace" Agenda: A Policy Breakthrough in the Making](#)" Stimson Center.

Commentaries & opinion pieces

- Arthur, P., Monnier, C. & Zamore, L. 2020 "[The New Secretary-General Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: Prevention Back on the Agenda](#)" NYU Center on International Cooperation.

Data resources & tools

- [SanctionsApp](#)
- Cil, D. et al. 2020 "[Mapping blue helmets: Introducing the Geocoded Peacekeeping Operations \(Geo-PKO\) dataset](#)" Journal of Peace Research.
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- [Fragile States Index](#).
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WE WILL ABIDE BY INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ENSURE JUSTICE

“The purposes and principles of the Charter and international law remain timeless, universal and an indispensable foundation for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. We will abide by the international agreements we have entered into and the commitments we have made. We will continue to promote respect for democracy and human rights and to enhance democratic governance and the rule of law by strengthening transparent and accountable governance and independent judicial institutions.”

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

“If the most powerful countries can violate human rights, then what does that say to other states for what they can and cannot do?”

University of Essex Model UN, United Kingdom, ages 16–30, students, mostly men.

UN75 DATA ON THIS COMMITMENT

UN75 dialogues



UN75 survey



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 DIALOGUES¹

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Participants from across regions and age groups raised concerns about new and intensified risks to democratic governance and multilateralism emerging around the world. They referred to an increasing number of nationalistic and undemocratic leaders threatening human rights, undermining multilateralism and hindering progress towards global peace and security, including by legitimizing existing authoritarian regimes. Participants in Central, Eastern and South-eastern Asia observed that these forms of radicalism and isolationism are a threat to cooperation and peaceful relations among countries, and pose challenges to the promotion of world trade and the creation of a truly open global economy.

“COVID-19 has notoriously impacted compliance with human rights standards and violations of human rights became more frequent.”

Dialogue organized by the UN Office in Baku, Azerbaijan, ages 16-30, mixed professions and genders.

Many participants, particularly from Asia, highlighted the lack of regulation and oversight over the digital transformation that was threatening democratic governance, and worsening human rights abuses and inequalities. **They referred to the way technological developments risk enabling systemic dis- and miss-information, increasing governments’ surveillance powers, and reinforcing existing inequalities and vulnerabilities.**

Corruption and inequitable fiscal policies are viewed widely as an obstacle to development. Participants in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Northern Africa and Western Asia cited government corruption as one of the most common causes of concern about the ability of the international community to achieve sustainable development and be better off by 2045. Inequality of wealth and assets has increased as a result of illicit financial flows and inequitable fiscal policies, leading to systemic underinvestment in health, education and social protection systems, and sowing distrust in governments and institutions.

“Inequitable tax regimes and illicit financial flows from corruption and tax evasion are virulent drivers of political grievances, while constraining the resources that are available to support equal opportunity and better outcomes for the poor.”

Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, USA, mixed ages and professions, mostly women.

Widespread gaps in the enjoyment of human rights have been exacerbated by COVID-19. Many respondents in Northern Africa, Western Asia, and Central and Southern Asia noted that freedom of speech continues to be stifled in many countries, where journalists bear the brunt of repressive laws and harassment campaigns. Participants noted that COVID-19 has exacerbated threats to human rights, offering many governments an excuse to restrict civil and political liberties in the name

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”](#).

of extensive public health responses and surveillance. The health crisis itself has had a negative impact on the attainment of other basic rights, including the rights to food, health, education, and work.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Leveraging digital technology in support of the rule of law and democracy. Some participants want to see a future where digital technology is leveraged by governments to protect human rights and to strengthen the rule of law, for example by using digital tools to support the administration of justice in remote areas or to facilitate the submission of complaints about human rights violations.

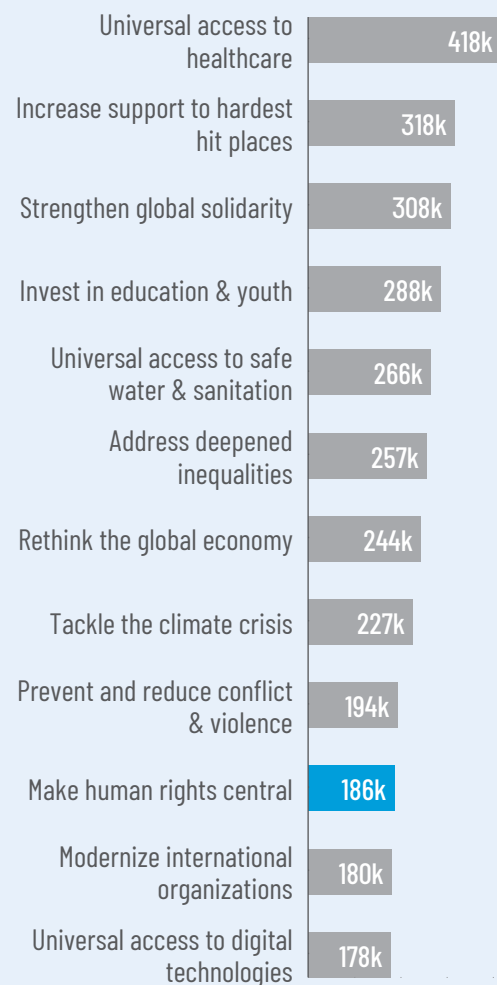
A world of social justice and respect for human rights. Participants from across the world want to live in just societies that are free of discrimination and racism, where human rights are protected, and the UN is given greater powers to address violations and abuses at the national level. Many dialogues held by students envisioned a future of greater social justice and solidarity in 2045, thanks to a mix of individual responsibility, strong civic engagement, electoral participation by young people, fairer policies and increased government accountability.

A world free of corruption, illicit financial flows and tax evasion. Participants from many low- and middle-income countries emphasized the importance of a future where corruption in government has been eradicated, where there is a strong accountability framework for illicit financial flows and international tax evasion. A number of dialogues would like to see a new fiscal compact for progressive economic taxation, and the use of fiscal policy to rebalance decades of under-investments in health, education and social protection systems.

“We must foster a culture of peaceful coexistence, say no to violence racism, xenophobia, and radicalism.”

Dialogue organized by UNAMA, Afghanistan, mixed ages and genders, technicians.

UN75 Survey immediate priorities to recover from the pandemic: Making human rights central to recovery was a top short-term priority for 185,000+ respondents



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.

HOW WE CAN GET THERE

Democratic governance, rule of law and democracy

Fostering civic engagement and democratic participation. Students across the world called for the Secretary-General and governments to advocate for civic engagement and voting as key democratic pillars through which citizens can drive concrete change.

Strengthen international law and treaties

Updating international law to reflect new challenges. Participants in dialogues across the world, called on governments to review obsolete treaties to make sure they adequately address emerging challenges, including lethal autonomous weapons, artificial intelligence, antimicrobial resistance, space protection, social media dis- and miss-information, biotechnology, data collection/use.

Participants called on UN Member States to increase ambitions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, including by strengthening the latter through the provision of more binding obligations.

Participants in many dialogues encouraged governments to consider updating the UN Charter to ensure it better reflects global challenges in the 21st century, with an emphasis on the climate crisis. They asked the Secretary-General to assertively push governments to fulfill their existing international obligations.

Human rights and social justice

Strengthening efforts towards reconciliation and decolonization. Participants called on governments and the Secretary-General to address the power structures that continue to prevent self-determination and complete decolonization. They proposed increasing investment in and promotion of reconciliation work and develop adequate redress mechanisms for affected populations.

Community groups in Bolivia and Papua New Guinea, among others, asked governments and the UN to expand access to basic services in Indigenous communities, while simultaneously respecting traditional practices and ways of life, for example, by prioritising technical assistance to local craftspeople and farmers instead of simply focusing on cash-transfer schemes and handouts.

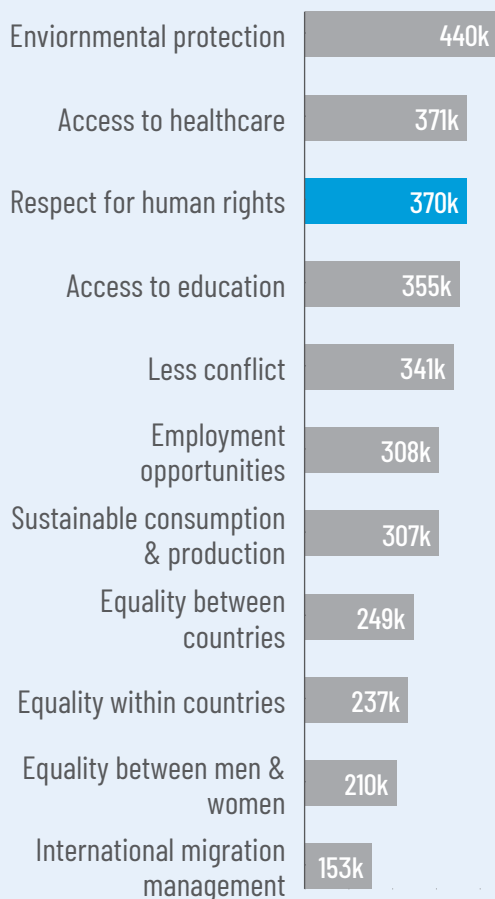
Participants stressed, as a justice priority, the need to uphold the human rights and interests of Indigenous peoples, including the protection and promotion of Indigenous and traditional knowledge.

Reinforcing human rights instruments.

A number of participants suggested governments update and strengthen human rights instruments to better address topics such as systemic racism, corporate accountability for human rights violations, and protection of Indigenous practices and worldviews. Governments could strengthen the powers of the Human Rights Council to ensure compliance.

Ensuring equal rights for women and LGBTQI+ people. Many participants urged national governments to ensure equal rights for women and LGBTQI+ people, by reducing the gender pay gap, addressing domestic violence, and banning all forms of harassment and discrimination.

UN75 Survey long-term priorities: More respect for human rights ranked third among respondents long-term priorities



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.

Corruption and fiscal policy

Fighting illicit capital flows, corruption and tax evasion. Participants across the world called on the Secretary-General to advocate for stronger international action against corruption, illicit capital flows, and international tax evasion. Participants in several dialogues emphasized the need for governments to ensure global transparency of offshore assets to prevent tax evasion and the acceleration of beneficiary ownership measures. They asked governments to enact strong anti-corruption policies.

Governments should agree on a multilateral response to illicit capital flows and tax evasion and close the legal loopholes that enable them. Participants in Northern America called on national governments to consider policies to combat tax evasion or unfair tax liabilities, such as:

- Temporary or specific-purpose wealth taxes, such as solidarity taxes for post-COVID-19 recovery.
- Fair corporate taxation that avoids profit shifting and tax avoidance, including through publishing/reducing tax exemptions, and exploring withholding taxes on turnover, as well as denying state assistance to companies using tax havens.
- Surtaxes on sectors making excessive profit, including digital taxes.
- New norms on budgeting processes to study evidence-based impact on inequality, including through greater inclusion of marginalized groups in participatory budget setting processes.

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2. 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](#)".

- Meron, T. 2018 "[Closing the Accountability Gap: Concrete Steps Toward Ending Impunity for Atrocity Crimes](#)" American Journal of International Law.
- Pijnenburg, A. 2020 "[Containment Instead of Refoulement: Shifting State Responsibility in the Age of Cooperative Migration Control?](#)" Human Rights Law Review.
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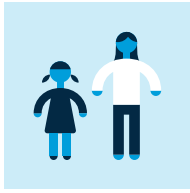
Policy research & reports

- Commonwealth Secretariat & Universal Rights Group 2018 [The global human rights implementation agenda: the role of national parliaments](#).
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- García-Sayán, D. 2020 [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers](#), United Nations.
- International Development Law Organization 2020 [Policy Brief: Rule of Law and COVID-19](#).
- Kofi Annan Commission on Elections and Democracy in the Digital Age 2020 [Protecting Electoral Integrity in the Digital Age](#).
- Security Council Report 2019 [The Rule of Law: Retreat from Accountability](#).

- United Nations Development Programme 2016 [A Transparent and Accountable Judiciary to Deliver Justice for All](#).

Commentaries & opinion pieces

- Adams, S. 2020 "[Rohingya Symposium: The UN Security Council, the Rohingya Genocide and the Future of International Justice](#)" OpinioJuris.
- Achume E. T. 2020 "[Black Lives Matter and the UN Human Rights System: Reflections on the Human Rights Council Urgent Debate](#)" EJILTalk!
- Hererra M. C. 2020 "[Is the UN Violating International Labor Standards](#)" EJILTalk!
- Trahan, J. 2020 "[UNSC Veto Power Symposium: New Perspective for Tackling a Core Challenge to the UN System on the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations](#)" OpinioJuris.
- Wintour, P. 2020 "[What is the future of the UN in the age of impunity?](#)" The Guardian.



WE WILL PLACE WOMEN AND GIRLS AT THE CENTRE

“Conflicts will not be resolved, and sustainable development not occur, without the equal and active participation of women at all levels. Human rights can never be fully upheld unless they are enjoyed by all women and girls. Persistent gender inequalities and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence, have deprived us of a more just and better world. We will accelerate action to achieve gender equality, women’s participation and the empowerment of women and girls in all domains.”

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

“The group as a whole wanted to see gender equality around the world. This includes equal access to education, equal access to finance, digital inclusion, gender balance in leadership, gender balance in family care, representation in the media, shifts in behavior and attitudes toward women, and ultimately a transformation of the current patriarchal structures that govern the global community today. Gender inequality starts even before birth - with the stories we tell in our communities, and our societal perceptions of women. By 2045, we hope to see full equality of opportunity, access, policy and outcomes for all women everywhere.”

Globesight, United Arab Emirates, ages 31-45, mixed professions, mostly women.

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 DIALOGUES¹

WHERE WE ARE NOW

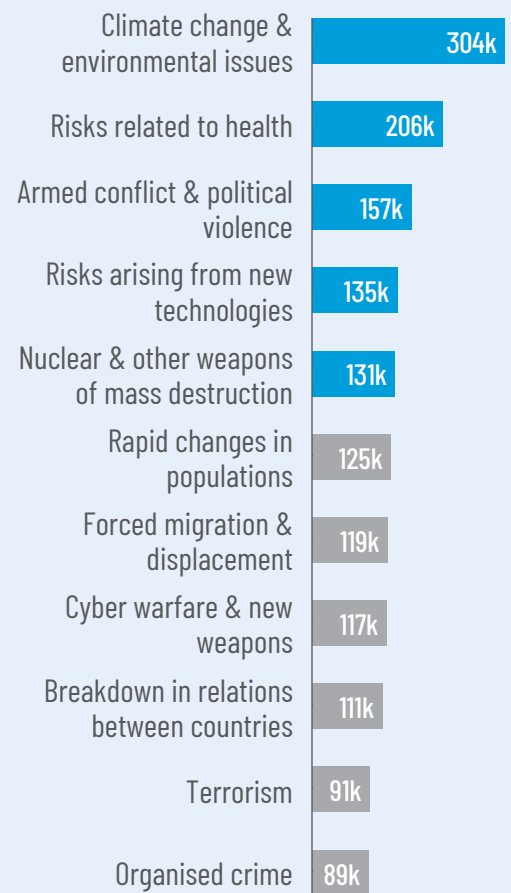
Participants from around the world stressed that without the equal status of women and girls across social and economic dimensions, and across the world, global inequality will persist. Many expressed concern that women are marginalized socially and economically, but that women are no longer prepared to be marginalized. They described how COVID-19 is further exacerbating gender inequalities and patriarchal structures, noting the dramatic influence that COVID-19 is having on women’s caregiving burdens at home, and that lockdowns have triggered a rise in domestic abuse and the demand for help through dedicated helplines.

Participants in Azerbaijan, Canada, Djibouti, Mexico, Nigeria and the United States conveyed outrage at the rise in gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, and the lack of response or policy action from politicians and governments.

Participants expressed concern that patriarchal structures are still commonly accepted throughout society, with women often unaware of their rights and career potential. Participants called for structural changes to ensure that women’s voices are better heard.

Participants across regions highlighted the insufficient consideration of gender dimensions in development policies and projects by governments and international organizations, including for education, labour market participation, and political representation and leadership. Participants stressed the need for more gender-responsive peacekeeping operations, as women are often excluded from peace and security discussions.

UN75 Survey women respondents’ perceived long-term global threats: Climate change, health risks, conflict and violence, risks arising from new tech and weapons of mass destruction



UN75 Survey Question: Which of these global trends do you think will most affect our future? Base: 580,489 (all female respondents). 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](#)”.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Participants across the world advocated for a world where gender equality is guaranteed across all levels of society. They wanted to see a world where women are safe, educated, included in the labour force and well-represented in leadership positions.

Elimination of gender-based violence.

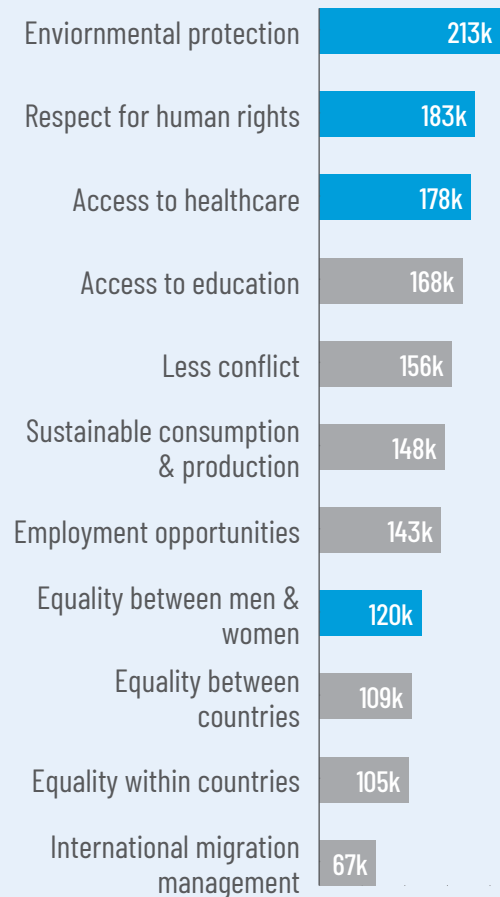
Participants across regions advocated for a world without gender-based violence, where governments and institutions are informed about domestic violence trends and take appropriate action, and where women and

UN75 Survey global long-term priorities: More than 200,000 respondents selected "Greater equality between men and women" among their top priorities



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.

Disaggregated UN75 survey data: Women respondents' long-term priorities include environmental protection, human rights and health. Greater equality between men and women a higher priority for women than the global survey population.



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: 580,489 (all female respondents). Participants could select up to three responses.

girls can have safe access to resources to condemn their abusers.

“[We want to see] an upgraded education system that would encompass courses on gender equity, family ethics, human rights, and women rights.”

Dialogue organized by the UN office in Baku, Azerbaijan, ages 31-45, Heads of Women Resource Centers, mostly women.

Building an inclusive educational system.

Participants in Azerbaijan, India, Nigeria and the United States advocated for a more inclusive educational system, which responds to the needs of women and girls. They stressed that this should include safeguarding the education of girls, ensuring reproductive health rights and preventing child marriage.

Gender-inclusive labour markets and political systems.

Participants from across regions stressed that equal access to employment opportunities for women is not only a human right, but that it also contributes to poverty reduction and the construction of more just societies. Equal participation of women in the labour force was viewed as essential to foster women’s economic empowerment and agency. They also highlighted the importance of closing the gender pay gap.

Participants envisioned a world where women have more access to leadership positions.

When looking at the gender-disaggregated UN75 survey data, top long-term priorities for women vary across regions. For women in six of eight regions, the top long-term priority is more environmental protection, (compared to the top priority in five regions for all respondents in the full survey data²).

More environmental protection ranked second among women respondents in Sub-Saharan Africa, compared to third in the full survey data for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Overall, women respondents prioritized more respect for human rights higher (second) than did all respondents (the latter ranked it third, after better access to healthcare). In line with the global survey data, more respect for human rights ranked as the top priority among women in Northern Africa and Western Asia, second among women in Northern America and Europe and third among women respondents in Eastern and South-eastern Asia and Oceania and Antarctica.

Better access to healthcare ranked first among women respondents in Sub-Saharan Africa and second among women respondents in Central and Southern Asia, and Oceania and Antarctica (compared to first among all respondents for Oceania and Antarctica). It ranked third among women in Northern America and Europe (above sustainable consumption and production, which ranked third among all respondents in Europe).

Women respondents in Sub-Saharan Africa ranked more employment opportunities second, and less conflict as the third top long-term priority, in line with the global survey data. Less conflict also ranked third in Northern Africa and Western Asia (after more respect for human rights, compared to second in the full survey data for that region), and second in Eastern and South-eastern Asia.

2. See page 49 of the UN75 report, [“Shaping our Future Together: Listening to people’s priorities for the future and their ideas for action”](#) for the analysis of all respondents’ long-term priorities, by region.

When looking at the gender-disaggregated UN75 survey data, top long-term priorities for women vary across regions

PRIORITY RANKING	Global women	Central & Southern Asia	Eastern & South-eastern Asia	Europe	Latin America & Caribbean	Northern Africa & Western Asia	Northern America	Oceania & Antarctica	Sub-Saharan Africa
Environmental protection	37%	30%	46%	48%	50%	34%	46%	40%	28%
Respect for human rights	32	24	36	39	36	44	43	36	27
Access to healthcare	31	28	25	33	25	27	37	40	36
Access to education	29	25	27	25	43	31	28	35	30
Less conflict	27	17	39	30	18	34	29	25	30
Sustainable consumption & production	25	19	27	32	36	17	35	27	24
Employment opportunities	25	23	18	20	20	29	11	32	33
Equality between men & women	21	18	26	20	24	20	22	20	20
Equality between countries	19	16	21	17	15	23	13	15	22
Equality within countries	18	15	17	14	17	18	15	14	24
International migration management	11	9	8	11	7	9	9	10	18

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: 580,489 (all female respondents). Participants could select up to three responses. Central & Southern Asia (142,599), Eastern & South-eastern Asia (64,122), Europe (83,291), Latin America & Caribbean (53,273), Northern Africa & Western Asia (35,291), Northern America (23,343), Oceania & Antarctica (10,239), Sub-Saharan Africa (165,824), Other (2,507).

HOW WE CAN GET THERE

Participants advocated for immediate action to ensure respect for women's rights and their inclusion in societies and economic systems.

Fight against gender-based violence

Dialogue participants requested that the UN system and the Secretary-General prioritize the eradication of gender-based violence globally. They called for more attention and resources to be dedicated to existing initiatives, such as the joint UN-EU Spotlight Initiative on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls.

The UN was called on to encourage greater adoption of the Istanbul Convention – the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence. Participants suggested that the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) leverage their analytics tools to generate evidence about emerging trends in gender-based violence to inform policy-making.

Participants called on governments to reform the criminal justice system and strengthen mechanisms against gender-based crimes. In Azerbaijan, participants proposed enhancing the funding of facilities dedicated to victims of gender-based violence.

Gender-inclusive labour market and equal pay for all

Participants in China, Lebanon and Norway called on governments and businesses to reduce the gender pay gap. They advocated for equal pay for women who have the same work experience and perform the same type of work as men.

Every “nation has to strengthen economic and social policies to generate decent jobs, learning and development opportunities in emerging growth sectors. Both women and men can equally contribute to and benefit peacefully both socially and economically. We need action from all, at our respective levels, to quicken the change”.

Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners, India, mixed ages and professions, mostly women.

Numerous participants, particularly in India, called on governments to develop more inclusive employment and labour market policies. Governments were asked to acknowledge that women have suffered disproportionately during the pandemic, adding to their pre-existing vulnerabilities. Their proposals to ensure better participation of women in the labour-force included:

- Governments can expand policies that support the activity of women entrepreneurs, offering women competitive loans, such as the existing example of Startup India.
- **Improve vocational training**, particularly in rural areas. Participants in India referred to the positive example of the Santhwanam initiative, a collaborative effort between Kudumbashree (a community organization for women's empowerment), Health Action by People (HAP), and the State Bank of India (SBI). This initiative provides women with a week of intensive technical and personal development training to enable them to become nurses and enter the job market.

- Governments were encouraged to adopt **national financial inclusion strategies**, and to put in place policies to **value and compensate unpaid care work** of women.
- Local **UN offices were asked to leverage their digital platforms and local networks to provide mentoring programmes to women and girls**, as well as to ensure wider access to UN resources and to offer networking and career opportunities to women.

Dialogue participants called on higher education institutions to promote and support the professional talent and leadership development of women, to create awareness among decision makers, support professional career flexibility, seek greater transparency in professional pathways and salary structure, promote better work-life balance, and engage in mentoring activities to identify and prepare future women leaders. Participants pointed to a best practice example in Japan, where the Nagaoka University of Technology established a committee for the promotion of gender equality, allocated funds for female researchers, and promoted the implementation of projects to increase the interest of girls in science and technology.

We need “new educational paradigms that recognize the role of women as agents of change, which in turn will help identify and eliminate the barriers to political and economic participation that still maintain the old schemes of class, race and gender subordination.”

Online mixed dialogue organized by UNDP, ages 46-60, managers & professionals, mostly women.

Ensure equal participation in politics and leadership

“The UN should empower a new cadre of activists by identifying and reaching out to different people, making space for new and marginalized voices, players, and activists, and including representatives from diverse fields in society in future conversations around the needs of women and girls.”

Columbia University, USA, ages 30 and younger, students, mixed genders.

Dialogue participants called on national governments to include more women in political and leadership positions. In India, participants proposed the introduction of electoral and party policy reforms and reservations systems in parliament. In Sierra Leone, participants advocated to increase women in local leadership positions through engagement with authorities at local and regional levels.

Participants called for the UN Secretary-General and Member States to empower the female leadership of the future and to ensure local grassroots organizations are represented in policy discussions. They also called for increased outreach activities in developing and least developed countries to inform women about UN leadership resources and to highlight their specific needs.

Building an inclusive educational system

Participants in Azerbaijan, India and Nigeria advocated for governments and schools to develop new policies and strategies to address the gender gap in education:

- Incorporate gender equality trainings and hire 50% women in staff positions.
- Form village education committees and mother-teacher associations to encourage and monitor girls' participation in school.
- Sensitize teachers and educational administrators to ensure they are more responsive to the constraints faced by girls.
- Conduct a gender review of curriculum/ textbooks and monitor girls' participation/ achievement.
- Provide scholarships and merit awards for girls and for villages with high rates of female enrolment.

Participants called for greater awareness of menstrual health and hygiene through school dialogues, particularly in rural areas, to **eliminate the menstruation taboo** that can stop girls attending school. They also suggested this could include increasing broader awareness among the public, increased research on the topic, policy-making and cultural discussions; and improving access to sanitary hygiene products and safe, private, clean toilets for women and girls in schools and public/community spaces.

Participants in Nigeria and India stressed the need for governments to guarantee the foundation for increased education opportunities for women and girls, including through policies of compulsory education and to ensure reproductive health rights.

They called on governments to enact policies that prevent child marriage to ensure girls can complete their education and pursue their economic independence.

Participants urged the UN Secretary-General to advocate for social policies that promote a holistic approach to the educational system,

including advocating for gender-balanced burden sharing of household duties and to encourage women to enhance their career goals. Participants encouraged the UN to organize professional trainings and seminars for women's career advancement, and to organize courses in schools to sensitize children about gender equality and women's rights.

Elimination of gender stereotypes

Participants in many dialogues suggested that individuals can take steps towards eliminating gender stereotypes in their everyday lives, for example by using gender-neutral language, sharing care responsibilities at home, learning from women role models, mentoring and supporting other women, and discussing with children what gender equality means.

Participants called on governments to develop awareness and education campaigns about gender equality, particularly in rural areas. In Sierra Leone, participants proposed holding dialogues with men to advance the gender equality agenda. In Kiribati, participants advocated for greater inclusion of women in sports, through including more women in sports commissions and enhancing their participation in cultural activities such as art performances, dances and traditional games.

Participants encouraged the UN Secretary-General and governments to ensure that gender equality is central to all policies. In Eswatini, participants suggested that the UN collaborate with big corporations to eliminate advertising that promotes and reinforces gender stereotypes.

Gender-sensitive policy design

Dialogue participants called on governments to ensure gender-sensitive policy design.

Participants proposed strengthening data and statistics on women-related issues, introducing gender impact assessments of policies and budgetary planning, and allocating larger portions of budgets to women's interests and needs. Emphasis was placed on the need to provide legal aid and access to justice for women, particularly those living in vulnerable conditions.

Participants called on the UN Secretary-General and leadership throughout the UN system to ensure the inclusion of women in senior staff positions within the UN and other international organizations. They proposed expanding and multiplying existing projects, platforms and tools that focus on women's empowerment and the improvement of their representation in society, such as the International Gender Champions network. They proposed the creation of new platforms to allow women to highlight their needs.

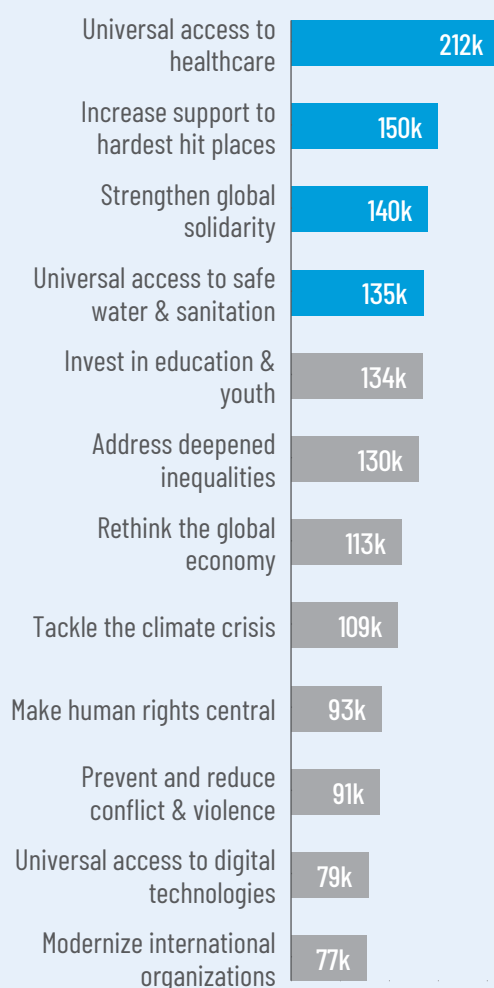
Participants also encouraged governments to include gender impact assessments in the development of their budgets and post-COVID-19 recovery plans.

Promote the role of women in peacekeeping operations

"The localization of Peace-building programs must involve the participation of women at every level and be supplemented by a comprehensive security plan to protect women and girls in the aftermath of a conflict."

Dialogue organized by UN Women, Cameroon, ages 31-45, mixed professions, mostly women.

UN75 Survey women respondents' immediate priorities to recover from the pandemic: healthcare, solidarity and support to hardest hit places and safe water and sanitation top immediate priorities



UN75 Survey Question: What should the international community prioritize to recover better from the pandemic? Base: 539,693 (all female respondents as from 22 April 2020, when this question was added). Participants could select up to three responses.

Participants in Azerbaijan and Cameroon highlighted the **need to engage women in peace and security discussions and to promote gender-inclusive peacekeeping strategies.**

Participants advocated for enhanced representation of women in peacekeeping operations and for developing gender-inclusive strategies to control Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). They called on the UN to:

- Facilitate the exchange of cross-regional learning for women to expand their role in small arms control and disarmament efforts.
- Provide training and education for security and defense force personnel to ensure they develop gender-responsive strategies for small arms control.
- Acknowledging that there is limited data on arms control in connection to gender, invest in best practices for data collection (particularly through innovation and social media), and develop ethical standards for their use.
- Create a sub-group within the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) community to focus on disarmament and arms control.
- Recognize the role of women's local civil society organizations and peace and security forums as important mechanisms to achieve enhanced representation of women in peacekeeping.

When looking at the gender-disaggregated UN75 survey data, we again see variation among women respondents' immediate priorities to recover from the pandemic at the regional level. While the top three immediate priorities among all women respondents align with the top three priorities for all respondents, women respondents

prioritized access to safe water and sanitation above more investment in education and youth programmes.

At the regional level, universal access to healthcare ranked as the number one immediate priority among women respondents in all eight regions, compared to the top priority in six of eight regions among all respondents.

In Eastern and South-eastern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, women respondents' prioritized universal access to healthcare as the top immediate priority, while all respondents in those two regions prioritized strengthening global solidarity and increased support to the hardest hit places, respectively.

While increased support to the hardest hit countries and communities ranked second among women respondents in Oceania and Antarctica, Northern Africa and Western Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia, strengthened solidarity between people and nations ranked second in Eastern and South-eastern Asia and third in Central and Southern Asia. Universal access to safe water and sanitation ranked first among women respondents in Northern America, and second in Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania and Antarctica.

In Europe, women respondents prioritized tackling the climate crisis, after healthcare (ranking it higher than all respondents in Europe), followed by rethinking the global economy (ranking this priority lower than all respondents in Europe).

Addressing inequalities that have deepened as a result of COVID-19 ranked second among women respondents in Latin America and the Caribbean and third in Eastern and South-eastern Asia, in line with the immediate priorities of all respondents in those regions. Greater investment in education and youth

programmes ranked third among women respondents in Sub-Saharan Africa and Northern Africa and Western Asia, a higher ranking of this priority than among all

respondents in those regions, who ranked strengthening solidarity between people and nations higher.

➤ The gender-disaggregated UN75 survey data shows variation among women respondents' immediate priorities to recover from the pandemic at the regional level

PRIORITY RANKING	Global women	Central & Southern Asia	Eastern & South-eastern Asia	Europe	Latin America & Caribbean	Northern Africa & Western Asia	Northern America	Oceania & Antarctica	Sub-Saharan Africa
		1st 2nd 3rd							
Universal access to healthcare	39%	35%	40%	46%	51%	50%	50%	50%	32%
Increase support to hardest hit places	28	24	26	25	28	32	25	34	32
Strengthen global solidarity	26	21	33	27	23	25	22	23	28
Universal access to safe water & sanitation	25	21	30	27	31	25	32	30	23
Invest in education & youth	25	21	24	23	25	27	19	26	30
Address deepened inequalities	24	17	33	22	31	22	30	25	26
Rethink the global economy	21	13	18	30	25	19	20	18	24
Tackle the climate crisis	20	15	22	31	23	15	31	21	18
Make human rights central	17	13	14	23	20	20	23	16	18
Prevent and reduce conflict & violence	17	13	20	16	12	19	17	20	20
Universal access to digital technologies	15	14	14	7	11	13	8	14	21
Modernize international organizations	14	12	12	9	7	12	9	15	22

UN75 Survey Question: What should the international community prioritize to recover better from the pandemic? Base: 539,693 (all female respondents as from 22 April, when this question was added). Participants could select up to three responses. Central & Southern Asia (138,297), Eastern & South-eastern Asia (60,462), Europe (71,531), Latin America & Caribbean (46,391), Northern Africa & Western Asia (31,568), Northern America (18,838), Oceania & Antarctica (9,550), Sub-Saharan Africa (160,556), Other (2,500).

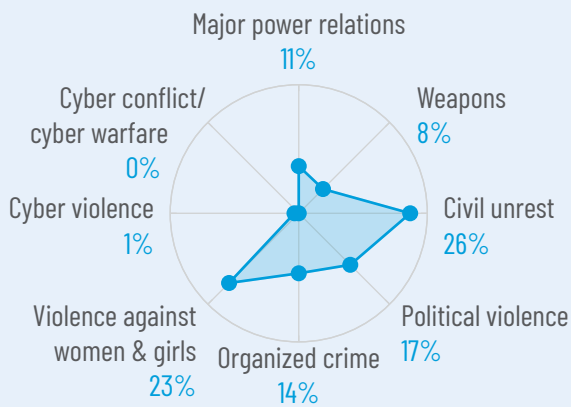
MEDIA ANALYSIS³

Violence against women was the second most reported issue in the media

In Europe, media focused extensively on increased domestic violence due to the pandemic lockdowns. In Latin America and the Caribbean, political femicide was prominent,

as well as government policies in relation to sexual violence. In Sub-Saharan Africa, human trafficking was a key theme.

Violence against women and girls was the second most reported issue globally



Source: Edelman Intelligence Discovery+ | Global | Media coverage in 70 countries, all languages | Date range: May 2019 – May 2020.

Asia & Australia	1. Civil unrest 2. Violence against women/girls
Europe & Central Asia	1. Violence against women/girls 2. Civil unrest
Latin America & Caribbean	1. Violence against women/girls 2. Organized crime
Middle East & North Africa	1. Violence against women/girls 2. Political violence
North America	1. Civil unrest 2. Political violence
Sub-Saharan Africa	1. Civil unrest 2. Violence against women/girls

3. 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 SNAPSHOT⁴

Academic publications

- Azcona, G. & Bhatt, A. 2020 "[Inequality, gender, and sustainable development: measuring feminist progress](#)" Gender & Development.
- Basu, S. 2016 "[Gender as national interest at the UN Security Council](#)" International Affairs.
- Gilleri, G. 2020 "[How are you actually doing, ladies? Indicators of gender equality through the lens of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#)" International Journal of Human Rights.
- Iyer, L. & Mani, A. 2019 "[The road not taken: Gender gaps along paths to political power](#)" World Development.
- Li, Y. 2020 "[加速实施妇女、和平与安全议程——对近五年中国落实“妇女与武装冲突”战略目标的评估](#)" Journal of Shandong Women's University.
- McQuigg, R. 2018 "[Is it time for a UN treaty on violence against women?](#)" International Journal of Human Rights.
- O'Rourke, C. & Swaine, A. 2018 "[CEDAW and the Security Council: Enhancing Women's Rights in Conflict](#)" International & Comparative Law Quarterly.
- Sandler, J. & Goetz, A. M. 2020 "[Can the United Nations deliver a feminist future?](#)" Gender & Development.
- Sepúlveda Soto, D. & Rivas-Pardo, P. 2019 "[La Resolución 1325: Mujeres, Paz y Seguridad en las Operaciones de Mantenimiento de la Paz](#)" Entramado.
- Shepherd, L. 2017 [Gender, UN Peacebuilding, and the Politics of Space: Locating Legitimacy](#).
- Shinbrot, X. et al. 2019 "[Unlocking women's sustainability leadership potential: Perceptions of contributions and challenges for women in sustainable development](#)" World Development.
- True, J. & Wiener, A. 2019 "[Everyone wants \(a\) peace: the dynamics of rhetoric and practice on 'Women, Peace and Security'](#)" International Affairs.

Policy research & reports

- Akdoğan, I. 2019 [Women's Participation in High-Level Decision Making](#), Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation.
- Gonzalez, A. & Jansen, M. (eds) 2019 [Women Shaping Global Economic Governance](#), Centre for Economic Policy Research, European University Institute & International Trade Centre.
- Kim, K. & Salazar, D. 2018 [Toward Gender-Focused Governance Reform in Asia](#), Asian Development Bank Institute.
- Martinez-Restrepo, S. & Ramos-Jaimes, L. (eds) 2018 [Measuring women's economic empowerment: Critical lessons from South America](#), Fundación para la Educación Superior y el Desarrollo.

4. 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](#)".

- Security Council Report 2020 [Women, Peace and Security: The Agenda at 20](#).
- United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment 2017 [Leave No One Behind: Taking Action for Transformational Change on Women's Economic Empowerment](#).
- United Nations Environment Programme et al. 2020 [Gender, Climate and Security](#).
- UN Women & United Nations Development Programme 2019 [Gender Equality as an Accelerator for Achieving the SDGs](#).
- UN Women, Women Count & United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2020 [Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2020](#).
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars 2018 [Roadmap to 50x50: Power and Parity in Women's Leadership](#).
- World Bank 2020 [Women, Business and the Law 2020](#).
- World Economic Forum 2019 [Global Gender Gap Report 2020](#).

Commentaries & opinion pieces

- Bossoutrot, S. 2020 "[Gender Equality: Why it Matters, Especially in a Time of Crisis](#)" World Bank.
- Horowitz, J. & Fetterolf, J. 2020 "[Worldwide Optimism About Future of Gender Equality, Even as Many See Advantages for Men](#)" Pew Research Center.
- Lieberman, A. 2020 "[25 years after Beijing, what's changed on gender equality? Not enough, experts say.](#)" Devex.
- UN Women 2020 "[On the 25th anniversary of landmark Beijing Declaration on women's rights, UN Women calls for accelerating its unfinished business](#)".

Data resources & tools

- [International Parliamentary Union Parline](#).
- Khurma, M. et al. 2020 [Ready to Lead: Understanding Women's Public Leadership in the Middle East and North Africa](#) [Middle East Women Leaders Index] Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.
- UN Women, Women's Count, [Women's Empowerment Index](#)
- [UNICEF Data: Gender and Education](#).
- [Women Count Data Hub](#) [United Nations].



WE WILL BUILD TRUST

“Growing inequality within and among countries is jeopardizing our efforts to ensure the future we want. Inequality leads to mistrust between countries and to people’s mistrust in institutions of governance. It contributes to acts of xenophobia, racism, intolerance, hate speech and disinformation. We condemn all such acts. We will address the root causes of inequalities, including violence, human rights abuses, corruption, marginalization, discrimination in all its forms, poverty and exclusion, as well as lack of education and employment. It is our responsibility.”

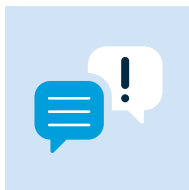
United Nations General Assembly, “[UN75 Declaration](#)”, September 2020, A/RES/75/1.

“Regain the trust of the people, address misinformation, hold drives, conferences, fundraisers to provide funds for solutions that will be introduced to address these problems. Create a better picture of the UN in the eyes of the world.”

India’s International Movement to UN, ages 16–30, mixed professions and genders.

UN75 DATA ON THIS COMMITMENT

UN75 dialogues



UN75 survey



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 DIALOGUES¹

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Participants from around the world discussed the cumulative challenges they are experiencing that are leading to deep pessimism about our ability to address climate change and conflicts, and intensifying frustration at rising disparities in wealth and inequality, exacerbated during the pandemic. They talked about a crisis of trust in both governing institutions and among people within society. Trust was viewed as crucial to maintain social cohesion and advance development, as well as to secure the willingness of citizens to contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Participants around the world **identified a growing breakdown of trust between individuals and governments and international institutions**. The failure of both national and international actors to deliver fast and positive change, the rise of corruption, widespread tax evasion, the diffusion of authoritarianism and extremism, and lack of accountability of government actors were identified as key factors undermining trust in governing bodies. Young people emphasized that insufficient accountability triggers the

loss of interest and engagement by young people in politics, which is consequently seen as either boring and not relevant to their present lives, or, at best, not something over which they have influence.

Participants in all regions discussed **the fast spread of fake news, attacks on cybersecurity, and other threats to the privacy of governments and individuals**. They raised particular concerns about disinformation during election cycles.

Numerous dialogues held with young students in China, South Korea, and Norway raised the issue of technological advancements and mechanization. They expressed concern that new machines and artificial intelligence will replace the workforce of the future, in particular the jobs of low-wage workers. They expressed uncertainty about the future of the job market and workers' adaptability to the newly required skills. Many students saw technology as a major threat for future job markets, while others were confident that the younger generation would innovate to overcome future challenges.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Dialogue participants advocated for a world where they can trust their governing institutions, leaders, and media channels. They want governments to be held

accountable for their actions, to receive safe and clear communication from the media, and to have a stronger UN in the eyes of world citizens.

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](#)".

Participants in numerous dialogues, particularly young people from higher human development countries, called for a world in which their **governments stop operating solely in their national interest and start acting in the interests of international development**. They stressed that strengthening government institutions, transparency, democratic processes and accountability of leaders will be key for building sustainable solutions at the national and international levels.

Participants called for **a world with job creation, social protection, and worker rights, and where the wealthy are unable to exploit those creating value on their behalf**.

Workers and others demanded a world in which taxation is enforced, is fair, and from which equality is fostered.

Dialogues across regions emphasized **the need to fight misinformation and fake news, as well as to prevent violations against national, institutional, and individual security and privacy**. They underlined the importance of freedom of national media as a critical pillar of building trust.

“Today, we are living in a period of rapid changes, these changes will directly affect the future world of work. Innovation is one of the core driving forces of change. These changes will bring opportunities and challenges at the same time.”

Dialogue organized by UN, China, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

HOW WE CAN GET THERE

In addition to the proposals relating to building trust identified in other Commitment summaries, participants proposed the following specific solutions for rebuilding trust at country levels and international levels.

Build accountability for the SDGs

Participants called on the UN and Member States to address international tensions driven by national economic, financial, and military interests, and to hold their leaders accountable in acting for global interests. In South Korea, participants advocated for the end of the US-China trade war, which was seen as exacerbating other international tensions in East Asia.

Participants asked governments to **tackle corruption and tax evasion:**

- The fight against tax-avoidance was underlined in relation to major actors in technology. Participants in Egypt proposed modernizing anti-trust policies to fight monopolies in e-commerce, IT and artificial intelligence.
- In the United States, participants advocated for a “new fiscal compact” to fight inequitable tax regimes and illicit financial flows from corruption and tax evasion.

- Other proposals included the introduction of wealth taxes, surtaxes on sectors making disproportionate profits, taxation of digital enterprises, and the promotion of fair corporate taxation that avoids profit shifting and tax avoidance.

Address misinformation and protect media freedom

Participants urged national governments, the media and UN organizations to **design laws to fight misinformation and disinformation in social media, especially during elections.** They also proposed introducing training on internet navigation and how to distinguish accurate internet sources, and exploring international standards and mechanisms for fact-checking online information. Young people in China suggested tech-driven innovations using big data to fight against fake news.

“Misinformation must be addressed at all levels and in all nations, and cyber-security precautions adopted, in order to maintain trust and to reduce the potential for belief in misinformation.”

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland, ages 16–30, mixed professions, mostly women.

In Tajikistan, participants called on the **UN and non-governmental organizations to enforce laws that protect freedom of information,** including the protection of journalists from censorship and limitations applied by some governments. In one online dialogue, participants from around the world discussed the unbalanced media coverage of post-conflict settings, affirming that:

“the media does not cover post-conflict phases very well, which makes it hard to convey what peacekeeping missions are trying to do and the success they bring.”

Online dialogue organized by UN Academic Impact, mixed ages and professions.

Apart from addressing structural governance issues threatening freedom of information, research that shows best practice for journalists can inform policy-making to ensure freedom of information. Participants also called for increased investments in education of journalism, including scholarships to support studies in critical journalism.

Build trust in the UN through increased outreach and communication about its work

Participants from around the world, and especially in Europe, stressed the need for the Secretary-General and the entire UN system to **improve the United Nations’ communications by expanding public media outreach and ensuring impartial reporting across countries.**

Participants in numerous dialogues, including young participants, **encouraged the UN to improve its self-representation in traditional and new media.** Beyond serving only as a public relations exercise, this will serve to educate communities around the world about the importance of being responsible global citizens, and to keep youth and local actors updated on the UN’s activities, and the impact of its work across sectors and regions. In Georgia, one participant suggested that:

“the UN Secretary-General should be more present in the media and more often talk directly to the press.”

*NGO Youth Initiative for Democracy,
Georgia, ages 16-30, mixed professions.*

One participant in Mongolia affirmed:

“The UN needs to increase and expand its public relation work by communicating and delivering its well-recognized and respected achievements.”

*Dialogue organized by UN Mongolia, ages
46-60, managers and professionals.*

Young people stressed the need to increase the UN’s presence on social media, where young social media users engage, and encourage them to participate in international policy processes and to do what they can in their communities to achieve common global goals and to address common global challenges.

Participants called on people working on diverse projects throughout the **United Nations system to collaborate more with local media to increase local engagement on global issues**. In Mongolia, participants proposed developing partnerships with specialized journalists and correspondents working on important global challenges, investing in scientific documentaries on sustainable development, and encouraging journalists to participate in the United Nation Volunteer programme to visit fragile areas to learn about and report on local aid efforts. In the United States, participants encouraged the UN Association to create a stronger base of online support through a website or database with easily accessible and digestible information about its activities.

RESEARCH SNAPSHOT²

Academic publications

- Boon & Mégret, eds (Europe) 2019 “[Special Issue: The Accountability of International Organizations](#)” International Organizations Law Review.
- Dellmuth, Scholte & Tallberg (Europe) 2019 “[Institutional sources of legitimacy for international organisations: Beyond procedure versus performance](#)” Review of International Studies.
- Hooghe, Lenz and Marks (Europe) 2018 “[Contested world order: The deligitimation of international governance](#)” The Review of International Organizations.
- Omrani (Northern Africa and Western Asia) 2016 “[The Responsibility of the UN for the Actions of its Employees](#)” al-Haqīqah Journal [Arabic].
- Tallberg, Bäckstrand & Scholte, eds (Europe) 2018 [Legitimacy in Global Governance: Sources, Processes, and Consequences](#).
- Von Billerbeck (Europe) 2019 “[Mirror, Mirror On the Wall: Self-Legitimation by International Organizations](#)” International Studies Quarterly.

Policy research & reports

- Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (Europe) 2020 [The Art of Leadership in the UN: Framing What's Blue](#).
- Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (Europe) 2020 [The UN: A Champion for Youth?](#)
- Security Council Report (Northern America) 2019 [The Rule of Law: Retreat from Accountability](#).

- Chicago Council on Global Affairs (Northern America) 2019 [Leading Change in UN Organizations](#).
- T20 Argentina (Latin America & Caribbean) 2020 [Innovating Global Governance: bottom-up, the inductive approach](#).

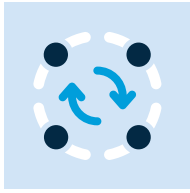
Commentaries & opinion pieces

- The Hill 2020 “[UN peacekeeping has a sexual abuse problem](#)”.
- OpinioJuris 2019 “[International Organizations Accountability Symposium: Reputation and Accountability](#)”.
- Pew Research Center 2019 “[UN gets mostly positive marks from people around the world](#)”.

Data resources & tools

- Affolder 2017 [An Accountable UN Development System for the 21st Century](#) (Study commissioned by the UN Economic and Social Council).
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2020 [World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a Rapidly Changing World](#).
- UN Joint Inspection Unit 2020 [Review of the state of the investigation function: progress made in the UN system organizations in strengthening the investigation function](#).
- UN Secretary-General 2020 “[Tackling the Inequality Pandemic: A New Social Contract for a New Era](#)” (Mandela Lecture).

2. 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](#)”.



WE WILL IMPROVE DIGITAL COOPERATION

“Digital technologies have profoundly transformed society. They offer unprecedented opportunities and new challenges. When improperly or maliciously used, they can fuel divisions within and between countries, increase insecurity, undermine human rights and exacerbate inequality. Shaping a shared vision on digital cooperation and a digital future that show the full potential for beneficial technology usage, and addressing digital trust and security, must continue to be a priority as our world is now more than ever relying on digital tools for connectivity and socioeconomic prosperity. Digital technologies have a potential to accelerate the realization of the 2030 Agenda. We must ensure safe and affordable digital access for all. The United Nations can provide a platform for all stakeholders to participate in such deliberations.”

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

“Advances in digital technology can support and accelerate the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals [...]. Technology, on the other hand, can threaten privacy, weaken security and add to inequality [...] Like previous generations, our governments, businesses, and individuals can choose how to leverage and manage new technologies.”

Republic of Korea, students, mixed genders.

UN75 DATA ON THIS COMMITMENT

UN75 dialogues



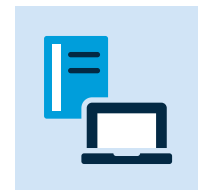
UN75 survey



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 DIALOGUES¹

WHERE WE ARE NOW

The positive and negative impact of digital technology on the economy and society.

Most dialogue participants were convinced that digital technology has greatly supported increased communication across countries and improved international cooperation.

They emphasized the role digital technology can play in creating a transparent and participatory platform for global citizens to connect and influence policies, and that the accelerating development of artificial intelligence will make our lives easier.

Participants in India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Republic of Korea referred to examples of the beneficial use of technology:

- Precision medicine techniques and use of artificial intelligence in the healthcare sector to equip specialists and doctors to diagnose diseases at early stages.
- Use of digital tools and technologies to improve agricultural practices and increase food production while reducing environmental footprints.
- The role of virtual learning environments in supplementing traditional education during COVID-19 and making education more interactive and results oriented.
- The potential of digital technology to enable urban sustainability and smart cities.
- The application of digital technology to social welfare administration, for example the provision of digital third-party surveys, SMART Identity Cards and SMART Licenses,

MIS and GIS mapping, digital modes of transactions, government-to-people cash transfers, digitally sound web-portals for tracking and ensuring transparency, e-governance initiatives, among others.

- The use of technology in the administration of justice and as a tool to support the activities of civil society organisations working in conflict-prone areas, and the role mobile phones can play as a tool to document and share human rights abuses in real time, supporting advocacy efforts.

“COVID-19 is an unprecedented public health crisis that has devastated the world economies and changed our social relations. If every crisis is an opportunity, this crisis may be an opportunity to bring about significant urban technological change. Smart technology is an important way to realize sustainable urban development. In this public health crisis, innovative technologies and applications, such as IoT, 5G, artificial intelligence, big data and cloud computing, have become the ‘new foundation’ for the ‘urban immune system.’”

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, China, dialogue with students, ages 16-30.

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”](#).

Many dialogues were concerned that our increased dependence on digital tools is leading to a growing unethical use of technology by governments and hackers, offering unprecedented opportunities for systemic surveillance and human rights infringements.

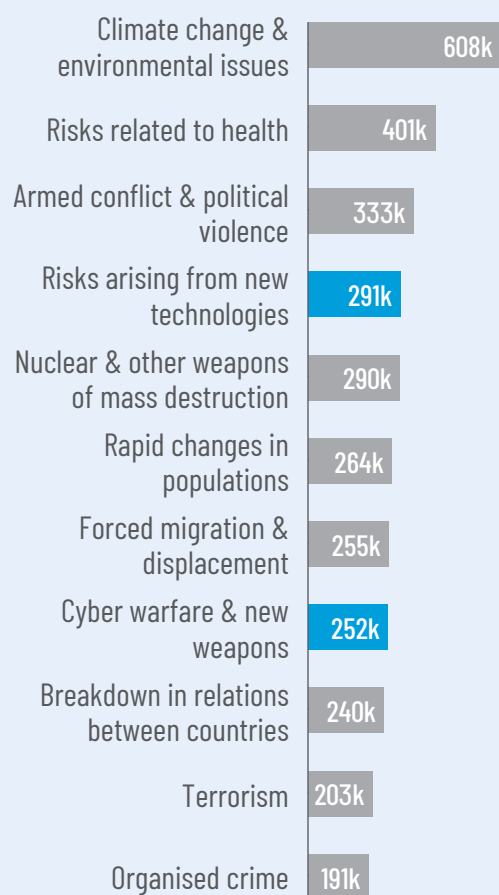
In East Asia, participants raised concerns that while the internet exposes children and young people to benefits and opportunities, it creates new risks, including exposure to harmful content, sexual exploitation and abuse, cyber-bullying and misuse of personal information.

“The COVID-19 outbreak potentially exacerbates the risks faced by children and young people online, as they are spending longer periods of time on the internet than usual. We need to listen to young people, who are a key partner in advancing the 2030 Agenda. It’s important to both expand their access to the best digital technology has to offer, protect them from harm online, and empower them to know how to protect themselves.”

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, China, dialogue with students, ages 16-30.

The impact of COVID-19 and the role of the digital divide. According to participants from across the world, digital technology has been a vital tool during the COVID-19 pandemic in areas including online education, telemedicine, and remote working. The organizations and businesses that displayed high levels of digital readiness at the beginning of the crisis have been more resilient and have even enjoyed significant opportunities for growth. For the same reasons, however,

UN75 Survey long-term global threats: Risks arising from new tech was UN75 respondents’ fourth top long-term threat, with cyber warfare also a high priority for many



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.

problems related to the digital divide, digital poverty, digital inequality, persist and, participants stressed, are getting worse.

Most dialogues cautioned that the inter-linkage of the pandemic and the digital divide risks exacerbating socio-economic inequality if equitable access to technology is not promoted and ICT infrastructure developed equally in all countries. This is especially true for remote areas in several countries, as rural communities often did not have the basic digital infrastructure necessary for online education and working platforms during COVID-19.

The impact of digital technology on the future of work. Participants across the world discussed the rapid transformations of digital technologies, including risks of disruption to job markets and the wider society, with the takeover of an increasing number of tasks currently performed by humans potentially leading to vast unemployment and a negative social impact.

“The lack of internet providers in rural regions, or the complete absence of the internet entirely, prevents residents from accessing essential information, especially during the current pandemic. Without a reliable connection, they are unable to share news, information, and take advantage of online education.”

UN Office in Baku, Azerbaijan, ages 31-45, dialogue with managers and professionals.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

A world of open access to knowledge and technology. Participants in several dialogues hosted in East Asia envisioned a future based on open access to, and free transboundary movement of knowledge and technology. Some participants would like to see all vulnerable communities and disabled individuals gain access to technology, to ensure their participation and inclusion in society.

In Colombia, participants called for universal, free access to the internet, as a human right, which is regulated as a common good to promote sustainable development.

Participants from Kenya would like digital technologies to be aligned with the 2030 Agenda and utilized by governments to generate research solutions and innovations that will eradicate inequalities.

Preparing for a just transition to the impact of technology in the future of work. Participants from across the world want to see their countries move to automation with minimal disruptions, thanks to adequate regulatory mechanisms that ensure that new technologies promote rather than hinder human well-being, that they respect human rights, that they don't lead to mass

unemployment, and they are based on shared ethical principles.

Bridging the digital divide. Participants across the world envisioned a future where all citizens benefit from digital technology, without digital divides within and across countries.

A future of quality online education and digital literacy. Most participants believed that even after COVID-19, online or hybrid learning will remain necessary in providing education to students. They want to see the international community improve the quality of online education for all countries, including those where the digital divide is particularly pronounced, and believe that there should

be a focus on matching the level of online education to that provided by traditional education. Student participants from China called for a shift from adult-dominated approaches that emphasize ‘protection and control’ in digital environments to approaches that enable adolescents to foster better internet literacy through digital education and readiness.

Participants want to see **inclusive AI systems** that do not discriminate against minorities and people with disabilities (for example, through facial recognition or other identity verification systems), and a general removal of digital barriers that prevent equal access to technology.

HOW WE CAN GET THERE

Digital governance

Promoting open access to knowledge and technology, while addressing risks. In the Republic of Korea, participants called on governments to reform intellectual property rights in WTO conventions, to improve government support to R&D, free movement of R&D resources, and promote equal treatment of foreign research institutions and researchers.

In Mongolia, participants called on governments to establish a monitoring and assessment mechanism to review regularly developments in digital technology, to assess their respect of minimum criteria of environmental sustainability and respect of human rights. In Egypt, participants urged governments to agree on modern antitrust policies to fight monopolies in e-commerce, IT and artificial intelligence.

Improving ICT infrastructure

Ensuring universal internet access and equal access to technology. In Panama, participants called on the Secretary-General to advocate for the universalization of internet access as a way of closing the digital gap, and the investment in equal access to technological equipment and the internet. Participants in the United States invited national governments and the UN to **provide access to consistent and affordable internet connectivity to people in vulnerable situations, for example asylum seekers and those living in refugee camps and settlements.**

In Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Central and Southern Asia, participants called on national governments to bridge the digital divide through substantial investments in infrastructure. Participants from Mongolia and India urged the UN,

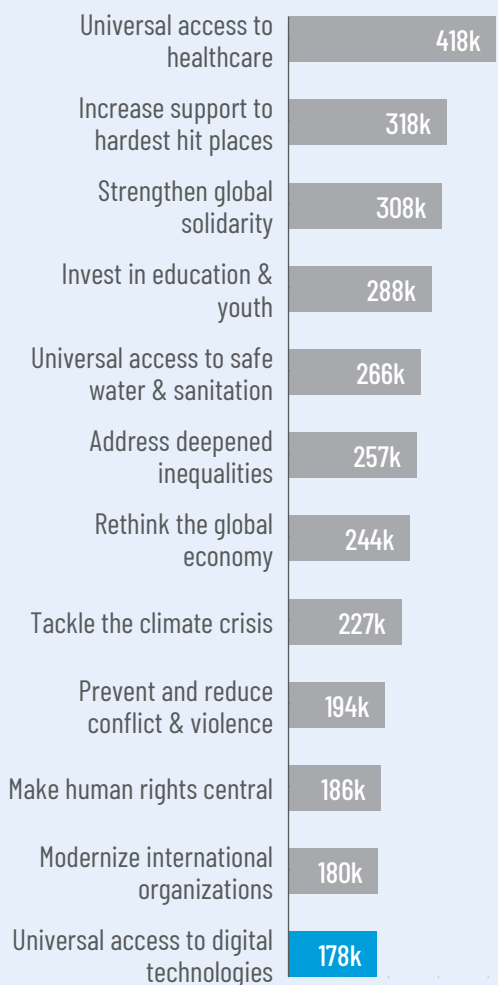
including UNCTAD, UNIDO and the ITC, to prioritise the introduction of new technologies in low- and middle-income countries, promoting effective technology transfer, and launching collaborations with national governments to bring the internet to remote regions. Participants from Tajikistan called on the UN to ensure that the application, and choice of, specific digital technologies and solutions is tailored to local needs and contexts, for example by partnering with programs developed by local ICT specialists.

Tech for the SDGs & future of work

Fostering digital readiness and literacy, with a focus on just transition. Participants across the world asked governments to develop strong programs and actions towards closing the digital divide faced by young people in low and middle income countries, including by improving internet access, facilitating the purchase of smartphones and computer equipment, and investing in digital skills development.

In the UK, participants urged governments to invest in bridging the digital gap faced by older generations, stimulating peer learning, reverse-mentoring by youth, and re-training educators and public servants to ensure that the potential of digital tools is fully harnessed. In the Republic of Korean, participants asked governments to offer digital courses tailored to different needs, providing assistance to those who need help, and ensuring that services that are available online remain equally available offline for those without an internet connection or the necessary skills.

UN75 Survey immediate priorities to recover from the pandemic: 178,000+ respondents prioritized universal access to digital technology in the short-term



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.

In the context of preparing for the just transition of the workforce, participants from a number of dialogues invited governments to **offer protections to those who may lose out from automation and technological change**, including through active labour market policies and facilitating new economic opportunities and training.

Ensuring protection of personal data:

- Students in India implored social media platforms to ensure the confidentiality of people's personal data, especially children and young people. Participants in Korea wanted governments to agree on stronger privacy laws and accountability frameworks to limit the use and abuse of such data by companies.
- In Egypt, participants said governments must protect privacy when accessing and using data for research and public interest purposes.
- Participants in the United States called for safeguards and firewalls in all activities that entail the use and management of personal data of migrants and refugees (for example, the data protection policy used by the UN Refugee Agency), as well as robust guidelines for evaluating the risks and benefits of using new technologies to assist them.
- Participants from China noted that the UN and the business and industry community should agree on a shared commitment to a safe and positive online experience for all children, as illustrated by the 2017 UNICEF/ Tencent partnership on the 'Child Online Protection Project'.

"We need to listen to young people, who are a key partner in advancing the 2030 Agenda. It's important to both expand their access to the best digital technology has to offer, protect them from harm online, and empower them to know how to protect themselves."

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, China, dialogue with students, ages 16-30.

Aligning digital technologies with the SDGs and human rights.

- Participants in the USA called for an updated version of the SDGs, to include emerging issues such as cyber security and cyber espionage. They also invited the UN to leverage the use of information technology to improve the responsiveness, effectiveness and transparency of UN peacekeeping operations, including by facilitating feedback into response efforts and crowdsourcing data to provide early warning mechanisms.
- In Estonia, participants asked governments to review international human rights instruments to bring them in line with the digital transformation.

MEDIA ANALYSIS²

Amid the pandemic, digital tech has captured the attention of media outlets across regions, with cyberrime, misinformation, emerging tech and access to ICTs most reported on

During the period reviewed, editorial coverage was often driven by discussions on current health challenges and the impact of emerging technologies on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In Northern Africa and the Middle East, the media reported on the role that technology has played to help countries improve their situation in sectors such as health and education. Coverage of digital technology was particularly positive in Sub-Saharan Africa, although lack of access to ICTS and cyberrime are prominent.

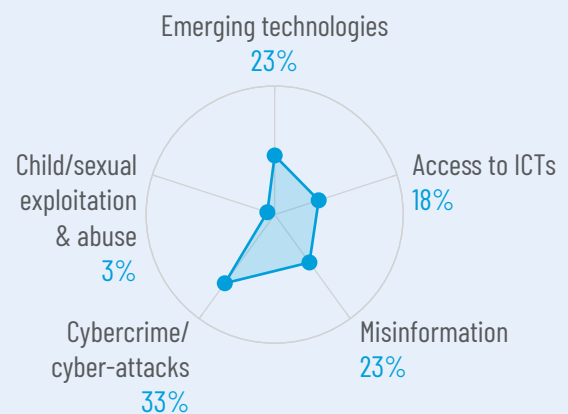
In Latin America and the Caribbean, news coverage is more negative, with misinformation, 'fake news' and inequalities due to lack of access to technology emerging as strong themes. In Europe and Asia, news outlets focused on access to information, underlining the importance of access to technology and ICTs for remote learning and working.

In lower human development countries, news outlets discussed the highly unequal access to technology often limited by lower financial resources. They reported on the plight of entire segments of populations being cut off during the pandemic and not being able to work or study.

Misinformation, particularly in relation to COVID-19, is causing negative visibility in the media across all regions, and especially in Europe and the United States. Cyber-attacks and online sexual abuses were discussed across all regions. There has been a spike in reports of phishing attacks, Malspams and ransomware attacks during COVID-19.

There is some discussion about the geopolitical aspects of technology in the media in China, Russia, the United States and in some countries in Europe and Asia. Countries where the UN is most mentioned in relation to technology are Afghanistan, Angola and the Netherlands, but it was largely otherwise absent in media reporting on digital technologies.

Cybercrime, emerging tech, misinformation and access to ICTs most reported on in media coverage of digital technologies.



Asia & Australia	1. Cybercrime/cyber-attacks 2. Emerging technologies
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Europe & Central Asia	1. Cybercrime/cyber-attacks 2. Misinformation
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Latin America & Caribbean	1. Misinformation 2. Access to ICTs
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Middle East & North Africa	1. Emerging technologies 2. Access to ICTs
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North America	1. Misinformation 2. Cybercrime/cyber-attacks
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Sub-Saharan Africa	1. Cybercrime/cyber-attacks 2. Access to ICTs
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Edelman Intelligence Discovery+ | All languages | Media review in 70 countries | Date range: May 2019 - May 2020.

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 SNAPSHOT³

Academic publications

- Cihon, P. & Maas, M. 2020 "[Fragmentation and the Future: Investigating Architectures for International AI Governance](#)" Global Policy.
- Ma, S. & Wen, G. 2020 "[数字经济时代的全球经济治理: 影响解构、特征刻画与取向选择](#)" Reform.
- Nagelhus Schia, N. 2018 "[The cyber frontier and digital pitfalls in the Global South](#)" Third World Quarterly.
- Pan, X. 2020 "[国际数字经济竞争新态势与中国的应对](#)" Research on International Issues.
- Pollitzer, E. 2018 "[Creating a better future: Four scenarios for how digital technologies could change the world](#)" Journal of International Affairs.
- Risse, M. 2019 "[Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence: An Urgently Needed Agenda](#)" Human Rights Quarterly.
- Snower, D., Twomey, P. & Farrell, M. 2020 "[Revisiting digital governance](#)" Social Macroeconomics Working Paper Series [University of Oxford].
- Vila Seoane, M. 2018 "[Digitalización, automatización y empresas transnacionales de seguridad privada en áreas con capacidad estatal limitada](#)" Revista de Relaciones Internacionales, Estrategia y Seguridad.

Policy research & reports

- African Union 2020 [The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa \(2020-2030\)](#).
- Azmeh, S. & Foster, C. 2018 [Bridging the digital divide and supporting increased digital trade: Scoping study](#), South African Institute for International Affairs.
- Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development 2020 [Global Goal of Universal Connectivity Manifesto](#).
- Center for China and Globalization 2019 [中国如何把握国内外的数字贸易机会](#).
- De Bastion, G. & Mukku, S. 2020 [Data and the Global South: Key Issues for Inclusive Digital Development](#), Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung.
- Digital Future Society 2019 [Measuring the margins: Improving global digital inclusion metrics](#).
- Global Commission on Internet Governance 2016 [One Internet](#).
- Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace 2019 [Advancing Cyberstability](#).
- G20 Saudi Arabia 2020 [G20 Digital Economy Ministers Meeting: Ministerial Declaration](#).
- Hernandez, K. & Roberts, T. 2018 [Leaving No One Behind in a Digital World](#), Institute of Development Studies.
- International Telecommunications Union 2020 [Connecting Humanity](#).
- Pathways for Prosperity Commission on Technology and Inclusive Development 2020 [The Digital Roadmap: How Developing Countries Can Get Ahead](#).

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](#)".

- The World in 2050 (ed) 2019 [The Digital Revolution and Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges](#).
- UN 2020 [Roadmap for digital cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation: Report of the Secretary-General](#).
- UN Human Rights Council 2019 [New and emerging digital technologies and human rights](#) [A/HRC/RES/41/11].
- UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation 2019 [The Age of Digital Interdependence](#).
- UN Secretary-General's Task Force on Digital Financing of the Sustainable Development Goals 2020 [People's Money: Harnessing Digitalization to Finance a Sustainable Future](#).
- World Leadership Alliance - Club de Madrid 2020 Digital Cooperation and a Better Global Future .
- World Wide Web Foundation 2020 [Women's Rights Online](#).
- Filer, T. & Weiss, A. 2020 "[Digital minilaterals are the future of international cooperation](#)" Brookings TechStream.
- Girard, M. 2019 "[Global Standards for Digital Cooperation](#)" Centre for International Governance Innovation.
- Gupta, S. 2019 "[How digitalization is supporting sustainable development](#)" GlobalDev.
- Kleinwächter, W. 2020 "[UN Secretary General's Roadmap on Digital Cooperation: Creative Navigating in Stormy Cyberwaters](#)" CircleID.
- Kurbalija, J. 2020 "[Digital Roadmap: The realistic acceleration of digital cooperation](#)" DiploFoundation.
- Leuthard, D. 2018 "[It's time to strengthen global digital cooperation](#)" World Economic Forum.
- Njoroge, P. & Pazarbasioglu, C. 2020 "[Bridging the Digital Divide to Scale Up COVID-19 Recovery](#)" IMFBlog.
- Venis, J. 2020 "[Digital transformation and human rights](#)" International Bar Association.
- Zolli, A. 2020 "[Humanity and AI: Cooperation, Conflict, Co-Evolution](#)" Rockefeller Foundation.

Commentaries & opinion pieces

- Bachelet, M. 2019 "[Human rights in the digital age](#)", Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Buchser, M. & Mandal, R. 2020 "[Can the UN Roadmap on Digital Cooperation Improve our Digital Future?](#)" Chatham House.

Data resources & tools

- [Geneva Digital Atlas](#)
- International Telecommunications Union 2020 [Digital Skills Insights](#).



WE WILL UPGRADE THE UNITED NATIONS

“The world of today is very different from what it was when the United Nations was created 75 years ago. There are more countries, more people, more challenges but more solutions. Our working methods need to keep pace and adapt. We support the ongoing reforms by the Secretary-General. They are creating a more agile, effective and accountable organization that can deliver better in the field and adapt to global challenges. We reiterate our call for reforms of three of the principal organs of the United Nations. We commit to instill new life in the discussions on the reform of the Security Council and continue the work to revitalize the General Assembly and strengthen the Economic and Social Council. The review of peacebuilding architecture has our full support.”

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

“Recognizing that the UN Charter is 75 years-old, we discussed the need for new structures to ensure continued progress. Even though the role of the UN in securing peace might have grown, much remains to be addressed, especially issues that depend on inter-state collaboration.”

Dialogues organized by UNA-USA, San Francisco, mixed ages, professions, genders.

UN75 DATA ON THIS COMMITMENT

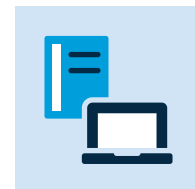
UN75 dialogues



UN75 survey



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 DIALOGUES¹

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Many participants, particularly those in lower and middle human development countries, highlighted the limited, and at times shrinking opportunities for inclusion of civil society (especially for women and minority groups) and other stakeholders in the UN's decision-making and consultation processes.

Participants called for the Security Council to be more representative, particularly with increased representation from the African continent. Discussing the current unequal power balance in the Security Council, with five permanent members enjoying veto rights, participants questioned the impartiality of the UN. Others recalled the collapse of the League of Nations, and the need to ensure big powers remain at the table to avoid large-scale, interstate wars. These latter participants focused more on the need for increased geographic and regional representation in the Security Council.

Participants noted difficulty in accessing information to help them fully understand the UN and its work. They called for greater communication, transparency and accountability across the Organization, including on financial information.

“The UN and other development agencies conduct community engagement poorly. Sometimes they are extractive and do not provide communities with any demonstration of where information has gone.”

Ernest Gibson, Fiji, ages 16–30, mixed professions, mostly women.

Many were concerned about a lack of implementation of international agreements at country levels, particularly for development and conflict. They also emphasized insufficient monitoring and evaluation of UN programmes. Many stated that the organization often fails to effectively keep the peace.

“The whole system crumbles down if the recommendations given by the UN are ignored and disregarded and, consequently, public distrust becomes an issue. Escalation of a conflict does not need to happen for proper actions to be taken.”

Dialogue organized by UN Office in Baku, Azerbaijan, ages 31–45, managers and professionals, mixed genders.

A number of participants from low- and middle-income countries raised concerns about at times insufficient community engagement in the UN's implementation work, which was seen to potentially hinder support of local stakeholders and undermine effectiveness. Some participants were concerned that project implementation sometimes lacked respect of local cultures, practices and worldviews.

“[...] unless we, at the local level, come forward to engage in the system and take forward our rights in action, these goals just remain on paper.”

Confederation of Young Leaders, India, ages 16–30, students, mixed genders.

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”](#).

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Participants looked forward to a UN that has stronger involvement of minority stakeholders in policy processes. In Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Southern Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, many participants urged more participation from Indigenous communities, women, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees, and youth across the Organization’s work.

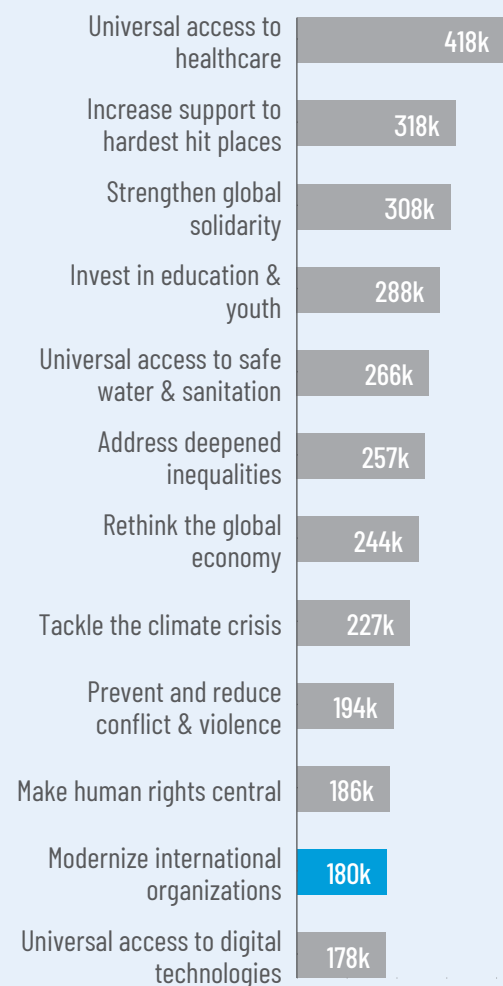
Participants from around the world wished for a more representative and balanced Security Council, that better represents the views of all Member States, and that develops a stronger equilibrium among all nations.

Participants wanted to see a more proactive, impartial and influential organization. They called for the UN to be stronger in holding Member States accountable for violations of international law and standards they have agreed to uphold.

Participants highlighted the value of strong local partnerships for implementation and to shift from a government-focused to people- and community-focused vision. They urged the UN to prioritize the concerns and needs of communities and to focus on localized solutions. They envisioned a future where the UN reduces its reliance on national governments and expands partnerships with local civil society organizations and community groups to promote more effective implementation.

Participants in all regions would like to see greater transparency and accountability, with further reforms of internal processes, including the UN’s complaints procedures and whistleblower protections, protection of staff and constituents from abuses, including sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation, among other forms of abuse.

UN75 Survey immediate priorities to recover from the pandemic: More than 180,000 respondents chose modernize international organizations in the short-term



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.

Although they see the UN Charter as the foundation of global peace and multilateralism, many participants would like to [see the UN Charter revised to remove spent provisions](#)

[and introduce provisions referring to the new issues that the international community faces today, such as climate change, new technologies, and modern warfare.](#)

HOW WE CAN GET THERE

Participants offered many suggestions to help create the UN they want, ranging from improving the moral leadership of the UN, concrete steps to reform the Security Council, other institutional reforms and management and leadership reforms.

Moral leadership of the UN

[On defending multilateralism and avoiding the politicization of the UN.](#) Many participants called on the UN Secretary-General to advocate and champion multilateralism more and to call upon countries to respect their international obligations and their commitments under the 2030 Agenda. They also urged the Secretary-General to defend the UN's impartiality, to increase its autonomy and to mitigate the negative effects of tensions and disagreements between powerful countries and the withdrawal of funding by some Member States.

[On leading by example.](#) Participants urged the Secretary-General to ensure that the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund improves its reporting on Environmental, Social and Governance impacts and accelerates its efforts to divest from fossil fuels. Participants in several dialogues encouraged the UN Secretariat and the Secretary-General to introduce fair compensation for all UN interns. Participants in the United States and Sub-Saharan Africa suggested that the UN undertake an UN-wide effort to review all internal processes and governing documents to ensure that

they do not perpetuate ideologies on racial hierarchy, poverty stigmatization and gender discrimination.

UN Security Council Reform

[On increasing representation in the UN Security Council.](#) Participants from across the world, and especially those from Sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, urged governments to expand representation of the Security Council, particularly from the African Continent. Students from Switzerland suggested assigning the status of permanent member to continents, rather than countries, with specific Member States from each region rotating in holding the permanent seats and the related 'veto power'. They also proposed that governments affected by a specific issue being discussed in the UN Security Council (for example, due to being parties in a conflict) be recused from voting.

[“The UNSC must allow a more inclusive and equitable representation from African nations; not represented at the level of permanent members on the Security Council and under-represented in the non-permanent member category of the Security Council.”](#)

Dialogue organized by UN Information Centre Bujumbura, Burundi, ages 31-45, mixed professions and genders.

Some participants dreamed of a more representative body to replace the UN Security Council, such as a global parliamentary assembly open to the participation of all Member States.

“The UN’s legitimacy is largely based on representation and thus the Security Council should be expanded, the use of veto should be banned, and the proportion and formation of the Permanent Members should be adjusted.”

Kexin Yu, China, ages 16–30, students, mixed genders.

On changing the UN Charter rules on veto power. Participants in Afghanistan proposed granting more countries veto power under Article 27 of the UN Charter. In Slovenia, participants suggested changing the veto rules to require a minimum of two vetoes from permanent Security Council members, to block substantive resolutions, rather than one. Participants in several dialogues from across the world, and particularly young participants, suggested that the veto power of permanent members be abolished altogether so that all Security Council members have equal voting rights.

Others reflected on the collapse of the League of Nations when large powers began to walk away, and discussed the need to keep some incentives for larger powers to remain committed to the UN (such as the veto power of permanent Security Council members). These latter participants focused on the question of whom should enjoy the right to use the veto in an expanded and more representative Security Council, and whether two vetoes should be required to block resolutions, rather than only one.

In India, participants suggested replacing the veto with weighted voting, apportioned based on a country’s population. Other participants in an online dialogue proposed a review of the issues areas for which the veto can be used.

On revising peace-keeping and peace-building interventions

Dialogues in both developed and developing countries asked governments and the UN Secretary General to **improve peace-keeping interventions, especially by re-examining the role of peacekeepers.** Students in the United Kingdom affirmed the importance to :

“prevent and redress crimes by peacekeepers”

LondonMet Model UN, United Kingdom, ages 16–30, students.

Participants in Canada highlighted the importance of developing more effective and transparent vetting programmes during the selection of UN Peacekeeping Forces.

“Peace is about building bridges, communication and integration which cannot be put in practice if everyone is not included in the conversation.”

Sillamäe Society for Child Welfare, Peace Child International, and We Love Sousse, Estonia, mixed ages, professions, genders.

For more recommendations from UN75 dialogues on how the UN can upgrade to better promote peace and prevent conflicts, see Commitment three, Promoting Peace and Preventing Conflicts.

Other institutional reforms

On updating the UN Charter. Participants across the world urged governments to update the UN Charter to include addressing new global challenges, especially climate change and other environmental issues. Participants in the United Kingdom asked governments to reconsider the UN Charter's 'spent provisions', for example removing the Trusteeship Council.

On the role of Intergovernmental negotiations on a new UN structure. In Italy, participants encouraged governments to convene a global intergovernmental conference to reformulate key aspects and mechanisms of global governance and collaboration, in the light of the geopolitical, economic and technological developments of the last 75 years. Participants from several dialogues in Sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia suggested governments develop a governance model in which regions, rather than countries, constitute the basic unit of decision-making at the UN.

On strengthening existing institutions and establishing new ones. In Italy, participants called on governments to democratize the UN through reforms that do not need amendments to the UN Charter, including: (a) establishing a UN parliamentary assembly as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly under article 22 of the Charter; and (b) introducing a 'citizen proposal initiative' to the UN General Assembly or another permanent consultation tool.

Many participants also discussed the need to strengthen existing UN specialized agencies, bodies and offices or to establish new ones. In China, participants called on governments to strengthen the status and resources of the UN Environment Programme, for example by transforming it into a UN specialized agency. In Afghanistan, participants urged

governments and the UN Secretariat to strengthen the UN's capacity to monitor global inequality, by setting up a specialized body tasked with exploring the dynamics of unequal growth and extreme wealth accumulation and recommending changes to the General Assembly.

Many participants across the world called on the Secretary-General to create a formal follow up process on the results of the UN75 initiative and to implement its recommendations.

Management and leadership reform

On reforming hiring practices. In addition to their calls for the Secretary-General to introduce fair remuneration for interns, many participants urged the UN to establish more inclusive and effective hiring practices:

- Conducting a comprehensive analysis of its hiring processes and identifying negative impacts on upper- and middle-level management diversity and inclusion.
- Setting targets for proportional upper- and middle-level representation by persons from developing countries.
- Recruiting more independent experts from host countries and civil society organizations.
- Prioritizing local knowledge of issues, in addition to formal skills, including offering more opportunities to members of underprivileged communities who may not come from educational or professional backgrounds that traditionally feed into the UN system, yet who have specific insights on, and proximity to, local problems and solutions.

“Elitism in hiring practices can create echo chambers and reinforce mind-sets in policy-making that see the people we serve as victims who must be helped, rather than partners for sustainable development with valuable insights and contributions.”

Dialogue organized by UN Volunteers, UN75 initiative, Office of the President of the 74th General Assembly, I Am Your Protector and International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, USA, ages 31-45, mixed professions and genders.

On increasing transparency and accountability in UN operations.

Participants in China proposed introducing stringent targets and criteria for evaluating transparency in management operations, seeking inputs from Member States, other international organizations, and civil society.

To strengthen transparency and accountability of donations, including those from civil society, foundations and businesses, participants urged more transparent reporting, tracking the allocation of specific funds and linking it/evaluating it to specific projects and outcomes. Other proposals included enhancing the transparency of UN budgets and operations, including through the disclosure and publication of relevant reports.

Participants also suggested that governments could commit themselves to matching external funds, to ensure continued public funding of the organization. See Commitment nine, Ensuring Sustainable Financing, for further proposals on UN financing from UN75 dialogues.

Improved understanding of the work of the UN

On improving the organization’s communications and public relations efforts.

Many participants from across the world called on actors across the UN system to improve and enhance their communications and public outreach efforts so that citizens around the world are more aware of the UN’s mission, goals, projects, programmes and operations. As highlighted in Commitments six, We Will Build Trust, and Commitment 10, We Will Boost Partnerships, participants called for stronger partnerships with the culture and arts sectors and better communications of how UN funded projects lead to real-world change.

An inclusive and participatory UN system

On citizen and local communities’ participation in policy processes.

Participants across all regions called on actors throughout the UN system to improve participation of citizens, local communities and all stakeholders in UN processes, from negotiation and decision-making processes, to policy formation, programme implementation and monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects (also see Commitment 10, We Will Boost Partnerships).

Students in Chile highlighted the importance of:

“democratiz[ing] international organizations to obtain better and more legitimate results.”

2030 Agenda Ambassadors Program: Red Kimlu, región de la Araucanía, Chile, mixed ages, students.

Participants in several dialogues held in Bolivia, India, Turkey and the United States also stressed the need for a decentralized approach to decision-making, involving local communities, civil society, NGOs and other stakeholders in policy-making and implementation, to ensure the development of tailor-made solutions for different local realities.

“We strongly support a more democratic model for global governance, empowering individuals, in the aggregate form of civil society, to have a meaningful say over issues affecting their existence. They could do so in participating in negotiations, having a dialogue (or being represented) within global institutions. Ultimately be part of a new “omni-lateral” vision of international relations. Such a model would better pursue the goal of reducing inequality and fostering inclusiveness and gender equality.”

Susanna Cafaro and Supranational Democracy Research Team at University of Salento, Italy, mixed ages, professions, genders.

In Tuvalu, participants highlighted the need to promote the inclusion of Small Island Developing States in UN policy formulation processes. Participants in several dialogues stressed the need to engage regional organizations more in the UN’s decision-making, policy formation and implementation processes.

Participants described online platforms and ongoing dialogues as useful tools to

enhance citizens’ participation. In the United States, participants proposed creating a “Parliamentary Assembly”, proportionally representative of humanity’s diversity, to serve as a citizens’ advisory body to the General Assembly. Similarly, students proposed enhancing the representation of citizens and youth through the establishment of a “Global People’s Parliament”, namely a consultative parliamentary assembly directly elected by the people, which would allow all people’s voices to be heard.

On improving the participation of women, Indigenous groups and other minorities.

Numerous dialogues stressed the need for more inclusion of Indigenous groups, minorities, women, youth and people with disabilities in UN processes. To enhance the inclusion of Indigenous groups, participants proposed establishing formal observer status for Indigenous peoples to the UN General Assembly, as well as increasing their representation in UN meetings, and a resolution that will ensure their voices are heard in decision-making. In Cameroon, participants requested more attention to the inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

“The youth/next generation needs to have designated spaces to exist and participate in handling the existing and/or next emergencies and problems. Peace is about building bridges, communication and integration which cannot be put in practice if everyone is not included in the conversation.”

Sillamäe Society for Child Welfare - Peace Child International - We Love Sousse, Estonia, mixed ages, professions, genders.

Participants highlighted the need to boost gender equality and inclusion of women in decision-making at the UN. Participants proposed to leverage COVID-19 to permit more remote and flexible working arrangements, and longer maternity and paternity leave. They further recommended gender-balanced interview panels, gender performance evaluations, and training programmes to prevent and recognize sexual assault and abuse.

“Participants wish to see a United Nations that could support young and mid-level staff, in particular women, on a UN career path that is challenging, fulfilling and viable. [...] They wanted improved flexible working arrangements to attain gender equality, onsite childcare, longer maternity and paternity leave. [...] Despite excellent progress on gender parity at the top levels of the organization, it had not trickled down.”

Young UN, online, ages 31-45, managers and professionals, mostly women.

See Commitments five, nine and eleven for more recommendations on Placing Women and Girls at the Centre, Boosting Partnerships, and Listening to and Working with Youth, respectively.

Improving implementation, monitoring and evaluation

On involving local communities, civil society, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to strengthen implementation.

Many participants, particularly from Fiji, Georgia, Mongolia and the United States, encouraged the UN to work in closer cooperation with local actors and vulnerable communities for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects.

Students in the United States proposed that the IOM, UNHCR, UN Women and UNODC establish a joint “Survivor Migrant/Refugee Advisory Committee”, with the objective of including migrants, refugees, and survivors of human trafficking and related civil society organizations in the drafting and implementation of policies.

“Include a wide range of local stakeholders in policy formulation processes and emphasize first listening to community needs and prioritizing utilizing localized solutions. Increasing the participation of local stakeholders and leaders with UN efforts through inclusive multi stakeholder partnerships will increase local ownership of development agendas, augmenting implementation efforts.”

UN75, UN Volunteers, Office of the President of the 74th General Assembly, I Am Your Protector and International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, United States of America, ages 31-45, mixed professions and genders.

In Mongolia participants recommended that the performance of UN initiatives should be assessed by independent institutions. In Fiji, participants proposed upgrading evaluation processes to include an assessment of community engagement. Students in Lebanon asked for greater oversight of UN health projects implemented at the country level, to avoid corruption and mismanagement.

On overseeing and promoting the implementation of international agreements

Participants in numerous dialogues urged the UN Secretary General to hold Member States accountable for the implementation of international agreements at the sub-national and local level.

Many participants stressed the need to develop an action plan for the implementation of the results of the UN75 initiative.

“The UN policies, conventions, and treaties are well formulated at top level but their implementation is lacking at grass root or sub-national level [...] Therefore, the UN needs more attention on enforcement and implementation at these sub-national levels.”

Dialogue organized by UN Mongolia, Office of the Resident Coordinator, ages 16-30, with organizations supporting and protecting the rights of youth and children, mixed genders.

RESEARCH SNAPSHOT²

Academic publications

- Biersteker, T. 2020 [Kofi Annan's Legacy of UN Reform](#). Caribbean Journal of International Relations.
- Browne, S. 2019 [UN Reform: 75 years of Challenge and Change](#).
- Donini, A. 2020 [“Crashing Waves and Rising Tides: The Case for UN 2.0”](#) Global Governance.
- Harrington, J. 2017 [“The Working Methods of the UN Security Council: Maintaining the Implementation of Change”](#) International & Comparative Law Quarterly.
- Jeangène Vilmer, J. 2018 [“The Responsibility Not to Veto: A Genealogy”](#) Global Governance.
- Malone, D. & Day, A. 2020 [“Taking Measure of the UN's Legacy at Seventy-Five”](#) Ethics & International Affairs.
- Mao, R. 2020 [“古特雷斯联合国改革议程与中国的建设性角”](#) Global Review.
- Mustafa, S. 2019 [“ظل تزايد الازمات الدولية”](#) Academic Journal of Nawroz University.
- Nadin, P. 2018 [UN Security Council Reform](#).
- Nolan, A., Freedman, R. & Murphy, T. (eds) 2017 [The UN Special Procedures System](#).

2. 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”](#).

- Williams, P. 2020 "[The Security Council's peacekeeping trilemma](#)" International Affairs.
- Winther, B. 2020 "[A Review of the Academic Debate about UN Security Council Reform](#)" Chinese Journal of Global Governance.

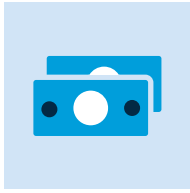
Policy research & reports

- Beishem, M. 2018 [UN Reforms for the 2030 Agenda: Are the HLPF's Working Methods and Practices "Fit for Purpose"?](#), German Institute for International and Security Affairs.
- Bertini, C. 2019 [Leading Change in UN Organizations](#), Chicago Council on Global Affairs.
- Deardorff Miller, S. 2019 [The Global Refugee Regime and UN System-wide Reforms](#), World Refugee Council/Centre for International Governance Innovation.
- Independent Commission on Multilateralism 2017 [Humanitarian Engagements](#).
- Khalil, M. 2020 [Reforming the UN Security Council](#), Together First.
- Morán Blanco, S. 2017 [Naciones Unidas en la sociedad internacional. Entre el deseo de reforma y la ausencia de voluntad política](#), Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos.
- Security Council Report 2018 [The Penholder System](#).

- Together First 2020 [Stepping Stones for a Better Future: 10 Ideas for World Leaders Who are Serious about Building Back Better](#).
- UN 2017 Shifting the management paradigm in the UN: ensuring a better future for all: Report of the Secretary-General .
- UN Sustainable Development Group 2020 [Innovating and Transforming the UN Development System for the 2030 Agenda: The Delivering Together Facility in 2019](#).

Commentaries & opinion pieces

- Azam, S. 2020 "[Reform of the UN Organization](#)" Inter Press Service.
- Deo, N. 2019 "[Failing to reform the UN](#)" Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations.
- Heen, C. et al. [Council of Councils] 2020 "[The UN Turns Seventy-Five. Here's How to Make it Relevant Again.](#)" Council on Foreign Relations.
- Le Monde & AFP 2020 «[Les membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies sur la sellette](#)» Le Monde.
- Ramcharan, B. 2017 "[Four Easy Steps to Reform the UN Human Rights Council](#)" PassBlue.



WE WILL ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

“Realizing our aspirations will require sustainable and predictable funding of the organization. We will pay our assessed contributions in full and on time. Measures to better ensure this should be explored. We will further enhance transparency, accountability and efficient use of resources. The full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa action agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development is key for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Joint public-private financing plays a central role in our efforts to make the United Nations deliver better on its purposes.”

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

“The UN has become quite dependent on a few donors. For example, their dominance over decisions being taken at WHO might cause the voices of other small countries to fade.”

Dialogue organized by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, Mongolia, ages 61 and above, organizations supporting elderly and people with disabilities, mixed genders.

UN75 DATA ON THIS COMMITMENT

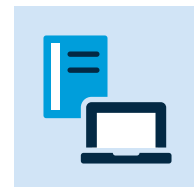
UN75 dialogues



UN75 survey



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 DIALOGUES¹

WHERE WE ARE NOW

COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on development assistance. Participants from across the world noted that COVID-19 has already reduced the allocation of resources to foreign aid budgets, especially in high human development countries. Many suggested that the pandemic had exposed poor solidarity towards middle- and low-income countries, with wide disparities in political will to finance pandemic recovery across the globe.

“Usually, if the state found itself in a situation akin to one it faces now it could rely on foreign aid. However, due to the truly global nature of the pandemic and with no end in sight, foreign states have resorted to reducing any resource allocation that was being used as aid, leaving Afghanistan to deal with the crisis at home on its own for the first time in the 21st century.”

The Dais, Mandate Project, Rana University and Jami University, Afghanistan, ages 16-30s, students, mixed genders.

Many participants voiced concern that the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda was under threat** as many low- and middle-human development countries are left without sufficient financial assistance to mitigate the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 and invest in recovery.

Many participants across the world lamented the serious impact of **uneven distribution of ICT infrastructure** on the digital divide, reinforcing structural inequalities across and within countries, and limiting the potential of the digital transformation to drive economic development.

Many participants called for an increase in the UN's core budget, with increased diversification of financing sources. Most dialogues expressed concern about the limited, core budget available to the UN, limiting its ability to fulfill its mandate. Many participants were particularly concerned that the UN and specialized agencies rely too heavily on a small number of powerful donors, who often only finance narrowly focused projects in select countries. According to participants in several dialogues, the lack of diversification in sources of financing potentially creates biases within the UN and exposes the organization to sudden financing shortfalls, particularly in the context of an extremely politicized landscape of international relations.

“Not one big power or big donors, but every member country and beneficiary can have equal access to the collective funding of the United Nations [...] UN agencies should never have to compete among themselves to get access to funding opportunities.”

Dialogue organized by the office of the UN Resident Coordinator, Mongolia, ages 61 and above, Organizations supporting elderly and people with disabilities, mixed genders.

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](#)”.

Some dialogue participants were concerned about the **lack of financial literacy and inclusion for small and medium enterprises**, farmers and start-ups, all key sectors in the global agenda on financing for development. Participants in Papua New Guinea, Mongolia and Azerbaijan highlighted that young people,

farmers, artisans and small and medium entrepreneurs living in rural areas often suffer from financial exclusion and difficulties in access to markets, and as a result they are unable to effectively contribute to the economy.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

“Mobilizing private capital and engaging different nations to support global health financing is needed to steer the change that will lead to achieving SDG 3 and other Sustainable Development Goals impacted by health.”

Columbia University in the City of New York, United States, mixed ages and genders, students.

Participants highlighted the importance of financing priorities for COVID-19 recovery.

Many participants from low- and middle-human development countries want high human development countries to fulfill their commitments on financing for development, while avoiding that domestic COVID-19 necessities would impact on their foreign aid budgets. Participants in several dialogues stressed that economic recovery and the strengthening of health systems in low- and middle-human development countries be prioritized.

In the United States, participants suggested debt relief for countries in need of recovery support. In the United States, India, Eswatini and Lebanon, participants called for increased focus on sectors that have been hard-hit by the pandemic, including culture and tourism. These are strategic economic sectors in many low- and middle-human development countries.

Participants, globally, stressed the need for internet connectivity and ICT infrastructure to be high on the financing for development agenda, leveraging technology for health, education and job creation.

Participants called for increased financing of the UN and diversification of financing sources.

Participants from across the world envisioned a future where the UN system's budget was increased through greater diversity of donors and mobilization of private capital, and where governments are held accountable when they fail to meet their financial commitments to the organization. They called for an end to the politicization of financing, as was recently seen in the budget of the World Health Organisation.

Many participants from low- and middle-human development countries would like to see a **more transparent, effective disbursement of UN funds to local development projects**. Participants in several dialogues called for the decentralization of the allocation of resources, with greater transparency of and accountability for the use of allocated funds. Participants from the United States emphasized the need for clear storytelling that illustrates the real-world impacts that have been made possible by funding the work of the UN.

Participants wanted stronger support for Small and Mid-size Enterprises (SMEs) and innovators. Several participants, including in Central and Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, called for national and regional enabling environments for SMEs and young innovators, with improved access to funding,

business development services, and training programmes. Several participants emphasized the need for adequate social protection schemes for SMEs and young innovators, who are often vulnerable to shocks and crises, as well as for workers in the informal sector.

HOW WE CAN GET THERE

“We need additional investment in areas such as sustainable, renewable, and climate-smart technologies, as well as more solutions for digital and sustainable modes of living in urban areas that notably benefit the most vulnerable and poorest segments of the population.”

Young UN, Online, mixed ages, professions, genders.

Financing for development

Investing in green technologies, circular economy and research and development.

Participants across the world encouraged governments to scale up investment in green technologies in developing countries, promote research and development in sustainability-related fields, and finance the transition to a circular economy. Students and young professionals called on the UN to encourage investment in green technologies through public-private partnerships and dialogue with the private sector.

Many participants in Sub-Saharan Africa called on governments to prioritize infrastructure development, including ICT and internet connectivity, in low- and middle-human development countries.

Greening the investments of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund.

As part of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda’s commitments to promote corporate sustainability, participants in one online dialogue encouraged the Secretary-General to ensure the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund improves its reporting on Environmental, Social and Governance impacts and accelerates its efforts to divest from fossil fuels.

Mobilise new financing sources for civil society organisations.

Many participants across the world noted that a key action for improving the effectiveness of current financing for development strategies would consist in mobilizing new financing sources for civil society organizations. In the United Arab Emirates, participants proposed the UN create a formal platform or system to match local and community organizations to global donors, empowering thousands of groups around the world to make meaningful and more efficient contributions to the implementation of the SDGs.

Financing the UN

Increasing the budget of the UN and diversifying financing. Participants in many dialogues around the world urged governments to increase their UN system financing and to meet their existing assessed and voluntary financial contributions. At the same time, they called for the UN to diversify its sources of financing and to reduce its reliance on a small number of powerful actors, to increase organizational resilience and avoid potential biases. Governments were asked to consider levying a global tax on short-term financial transactions to support the UN and its development work.

It was also suggested that there should be further scrutiny of the effects produced by different types of UN financing on power, control and accountability within the organization, especially as regards private sector financing. Another suggestion was to examine the different types of activities worked on with different financing sources, and explore whether certain types of financing might divert the Organization away from fulfilling its mandate.

Transparency and accountability in the use of resources. Many participants from low- and middle-human development countries urged the UN to decentralize its allocation procedures for resources for development projects. In particular, they encouraged the UN to partner more closely with local civil society organizations for implementation, increasing transparency and limiting corruption.

Participants in the United States suggested the Secretary-General develop clear and consistent communications of the impact on advancing the SDG as a result of UN projects, using storytelling and UN Goodwill Ambassadors to communicate the long-term value of such investment to societies and businesses.

Support to small businesses and entrepreneurship

Investing in SMEs and youth-led innovation. Participants in the Cameroon, Mongolia, Lebanon, Azerbaijan called on governments and the UN to invest in programs to financially support SMEs and youth-led start-ups and provide business resources, professional mentoring, financial training and basic management tools. In particular, they encouraged the UN to increase its own support to innovators, for example by creating UN-hosted start-up incubators.

RESEARCH SNAPSHOT²

Academic publications

- Coleman, K. 2017 "[Extending UN Peacekeeping Financing Beyond UN Peacekeeping Operations? Prospects & Challenges of Reform](#)" Global Gov.
- Daugirdas, K. & Burci, G 2019 "[Financing the World Health Organization: What Lessons for Multilateralism?](#)" IO Law Review.
- Eichenauer, V. & Reinsberg, B. 2017 "[What determines earmarked funding to international development organizations? Evidence from the new multi-bi aid data](#)" Review of IOs.
- Graham, E. & Serdaru, A. 2020 "[Power, Control, and the Logic of Substitution in Institutional Design: The Case of International Climate Finance](#)" International Organization.
- – 2017 "[Follow the Money: How Trends in Financing Are Changing Governance at Int. Orgs.](#)" Global Policy.
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WE WILL BOOST PARTNERSHIPS

“Today’s challenges require cooperation not only across borders but across the whole of society. We have to make the United Nations more inclusive and engage with all relevant stakeholders, including regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia and parliamentarians to ensure an effective response to our common challenges.”

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

“Democracy at the global level is both a human right in itself and a way to promote a sense of world citizenship. If we all participate in decision-making, we develop a sense of having a stake in the decisions.”

Citizens for Global Solutions, USA, mixed ages and genders, managers and professionals.

UN75 DATA ON THIS COMMITMENT

UN75 dialogues



UN75 survey



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 DIALOGUES¹

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Dialogue participants observed a lack of effective partnerships in support of small and medium enterprises. Many participants from Central and Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa noted that small and medium enterprises in low- and middle-income countries, including youth-led start-ups, are often not adequately supported by governments and are facing severe challenges in accessing global markets. These entrepreneurs and innovators are not engaged by the UN to a sufficient extent.

Civil society participation in intergovernmental processes is perceived as lagging behind. Participants from across the world highlighted that a state-centric model of international cooperation, excessively restrictive criteria for access to intergovernmental processes, and lack of equitable access to technologies during COVID-19 have hindered civil society participation in negotiations and global discussions on sustainable development. For example, some participants observed that the UN and national governments are failing to engage adequately with the culture and arts sectors.

Even when civil society or other stakeholders are allowed to formally participate in international policy processes, participants highlighted the difficulties faced by representatives from lower human development countries. They discussed the cost of traveling to the UN or other international organization headquarters and

visa restrictions as factors that hinder truly global participation, and create disadvantages and biased representation from stakeholders from higher human development countries.

Participants in numerous dialogues held in Northern America suggested that the culture and creative industries have lagged behind during COVID-19, despite their centrality to human well-being and the economy of many countries. Participants warned that lack of effective partnerships with the culture and arts sectors, exacerbated by the pandemic, may undermine these sectors' potential to support and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“Culture can help strengthen support for inter-civilizational dialogue and multilateralism, as the world faces the risk of ever greater divisions arising in the international community throughout this pandemic, with repercussions that may be felt for many years to come, including up to the UN’s centenary in 2045.”

UN Chamber Music Society of the UN Staff Recreation Council, USA, mixed ages, professions, genders.

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](#)”.

The importance of consultations with local communities is perceived as being neglected by governments. Several dialogues hosted by UN Country Offices with local community groups (in Papua New Guinea, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Venezuela, among others) highlighted a widespread perception that governments often do not know the concerns and issues of people living in rural communities.

“New forms of non-official cooperation are worth developing and hopefully will become the backbone force for creating a community with a shared future for mankind.”

School of Public Affairs, Zhejiang University, China, mixed ages and genders, university faculty members.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Participants viewed multi-stakeholder partnerships as complementing the work of governments and international organizations.

Participants from across the world would like to see multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, drive prosperity, mobilize investments and ensure better lives for all, complementing the efforts of governments and international organizations in achieving global agendas.

Participants encouraged greater engagement with local communities, civil society organizations and cultural sectors in the global sustainable development agenda. Most participants from low- and middle-income countries envisioned a future of greater inclusion of local communities living in rural areas, achieved through support provided to civil society organizations. Participants in several dialogues hosted in North America and Central and Southern Asia would like to see the engagement of the culture and arts sectors in support of global sustainability agendas being leveraged at all levels of governance.

Participants urged that public consultation be considered as a norm of global governance, harnessing digital technology to ensure global representation. Participants in

dialogues hailing from all regions emphasized that participation of civil society and NGOs in governance processes at both national and international levels should become the norm, especially through the establishment of permanent fora and digital consultation platforms.

A future of greater engagement of local authorities in global governance and SDG implementation was sought. Participants from across the world want to see greater cooperation between cities, departments, regions and central governments to achieve the SDGs, and a territorialization of the global goals at the local level.

“There are no active community groups to voice the concerns of people living in the rural areas and there are no community consultations or forums to inform governments. There is no data collection, therefore there are no statistics to properly inform the government on what to do to address local needs.”

Food and Agricultural Organization, Papua New Guinea, ages 31-45, community groups, mixed genders.

Harnessing the role of academia and scientific diplomacy was viewed as an important goal. Participants in several dialogues hosted by students and academic institutions in Northern Africa and Eastern and Southern Asia envisioned a future of greater cultural and scientific exchanges with

academic and educational institutions. These informal networks of actors can complement formal intergovernmental negotiations in supporting greater international cooperation and promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes.

HOW WE CAN GET THERE

Dialogue participants offered suggestions for the UN to be more inclusive of the diversity of actors in the 21st century, boosting partnerships with civil society, women, youth, vulnerable groups, businesses, the research community, cities and local authorities, regional organizations and other international organizations. They urged the UN and Member states to value public consultations and multi-stakeholder platforms, promote intersectoral collaboration and public private partnerships, a greater role for local communities and local authorities, and cooperation with and within the academic sector.

Civil society and other stakeholder inclusion and engagement

Formalizing the role of civil society in international monitoring and accountability processes. Students in South Africa and Switzerland asked governments (with the encouragement of the UN Secretary-General) to formalize avenues for greater involvement of civil society in monitoring and accountability processes at the international level. For example, independent groups of experts or general citizens could be involved in external monitoring systems that could provide for systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of international agreements, with respect to UN General

Assembly resolutions, to the monitoring of progress in the achievement of the SDGs and other agreements administered by the UN.

In Ghana and Mongolia, participants urged UN Member States to adopt less restrictive policies for civil society participation in intergovernmental conferences and to ensure participation of civil society is globally representative.

Avenues to promote greater engagement of the culture and arts sectors. To promote greater engagement of the culture and arts sectors, the UN can:

- Create a UN Arts Envoy Office to help share the work of the UN within the arts community and encourage artists to promote greater knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Organize more communications campaigns that use culture, music, film and visual arts to reach people, for example by partnering strategically with documentary production companies to tell more detailed stories about the UN's work and impact.

Partnering with, and supporting, civil society organisations at the national level:

- Participants from across the world asked the UN to provide greater support to civil society organizations and community service groups that are mitigating the

impacts of COVID-19 and other crises, while often receiving very limited financial and technical assistance.

- Participants in the Philippines and Tajikistan called for open data policies and access to information legislation to increase transparency.

Public consultations and multi-stakeholder platforms

“The UN places such a heavy emphasis on working with Member States. However, it should put more work into developing stronger relationships with citizens from those countries [...] The UN should shift to become a platform to provide a voice for people who don’t have a voice.”

*World University Service of Canada,
University of Alberta Local Committee,
ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.*

Expanding the role of international public consultations

To encourage greater awareness about the UN and support a more active role of citizens, civil society, women, youth, vulnerable groups, businesses, the research community, cities and local authorities, regional organizations and other international organizations in global governance and international policy processes, the Secretary-General and actors across the UN can:

- Promote ongoing dialogues and surveys (like the UN75 initiative), to gather views and proposals from all stakeholders and from all countries.

- Explore the creation of citizen advisory committees/panels that can provide regular inputs and feedback on the activities of the UN through their countries’ ambassadors to the UN.
- Harness technology to maximize truly global participation (including geographic, sectoral and social representation), while minimizing the need to travel.

Participants globally invited governments to create platforms for civil society participation in national decision-making to ensure country actions are adapted to local needs.

“We need to move away from the state-centric model of international governance towards a more citizen-oriented model.”

*Dialogue organized by UN Women, Cameroon,
ages 31-45, mixed professions, mainly women.*

Inter-sectoral collaboration and public-private partnerships

A leading role of the UN in establishing partnerships. Many dialogues want actors across the UN system to continue to establish partnerships with public and private sector actors, whenever this is necessary to complement the efforts of governments and international organizations or to increase corporate sustainability and accountability. For example:

- The UN can harnesses the contribution of philanthropic organizations and businesses towards increased research and development on sustainability problems, including in the context of COVID-19 vaccines.

- The contribution of start-ups, many of which are youth-led, should be leveraged through the organization of more contests and innovation-prizes.

In Mongolia, participants suggested that the UN could train local governments officials and civil servants to more effectively address challenges faced by farmers, artisans and small and medium enterprises in developing countries, including access to markets, information about supply chain and market requirements, enabling business environments, technology and marketing advice, and start-up financing.

Involvement of local communities and local authorities

Leveraging the role of local authorities and communities in solving sustainable development challenges. Participants asked the Secretary-General to formalize the role of cities in global governance, through a formal UN coalition of mayors, or through deepened collaboration with the United Cities and Local Government network and the Global Parliament of Mayors. In Europe, participants emphasized the role of local authorities in localizing Agenda 2030 for mapping local challenges and actions against the SDG framework.

Participants in several dialogues, including in Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Central and Southern Asia, and Oceania, encouraged the UN and governments to support decentralized approaches to challenges and to work more closely with local level governments, provinces, districts,

and community-based groups. Participants in Central and Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa asked the UN to deliver local development projects and programs in more local languages and to pay greater attention to communities' norms, values, and cultural beliefs, out of respect for enhanced engagement and connection.

Participants in Northern Africa asked higher education institutions to engage more with local communities, for example by supporting bottom-up participatory research on poverty, livelihoods and skills to give resource-constrained households a voice.

Cooperation with, and within, the academic sector

Science diplomacy for implementing the 2030 Agenda. Participants from Northern Africa and Eastern and Southeastern Asia urged higher education institutions and the UN to establish closer links between the scientific community and decision-makers across countries, to find innovative solutions to global challenges, and to make use of the latest scientific and technological development. They also called for more opportunities for informal cooperation and scientific/cultural exchange within the academic sector.

For further recommendations from UN75 dialogues on engaging regional organizations in peacebuilding, and for engaging youth, women and girls, see Commitments three (Promote Peace and Prevent Conflicts), five (Place Women and Girls at the Centre) and eleven (Listen to and Work with Youth).

RESEARCH SNAPSHOT²

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Policy research & reports

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2. 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](#)”.

- Forti, D. & Singh, P. 2019 [Toward a More Effective UN-AU Partnership on Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management](#), International Peace Institute.
- Global Commission on the Economy and Climate 2015 [Seizing the Global Opportunity: Partnerships for Better Growth and a Better Climate](#).
- Hartley, K. 2019 [Global Goals, Global Cities: Achieving the SDGs through Collective Local Action](#), Chicago Council on Global Affairs.
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- [Sustainable Development Goals Partnerships Platform](#) [UN].
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WE WILL LISTEN TO AND WORK WITH YOUTH

“Youth is the missing piece for peace and development. As we benefited from the foresight of the founders of the United Nations, young people today will have to live with the consequences of our action and inaction. For too long, the voices of youth have been sidelined in discussions about their future. This has to change now through meaningful engagement with youth.”

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

“We are not only the future but the present of this planet, and we want to be heard! That inclusion must comprise all youth: rural, refugees, migrants, and youth with special needs.”

*Dialogue organized by UN Resident Coordinator Office
Djibouti, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.*

UN75 DATA ON THIS COMMITMENT

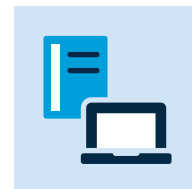
UN75 dialogues



UN75 survey



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 DIALOGUES¹

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Young people engaged in dialogues with clarity of insight, idealism, assertiveness and hope, together with pessimism, anger and concern for the fate of the planet and the future of young people. The youth among us believe in the capacity of the human species to act with compassion and empathy for each other and the planet, and to work together as a global family to build a world that is fair and just.

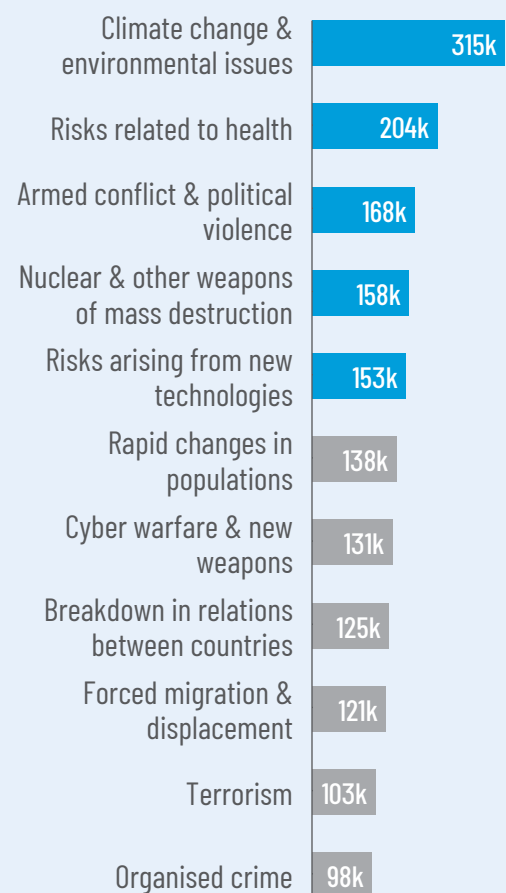
Youth from higher human development countries expressed concern about disadvantaged groups, and young people living in lower human development countries and in conflict situations also raised concern for others living in difficulty and for the health of the planet.

Young participants expressed concern that older generations have not thought about youth's interests in protecting the planet. They have little faith that we are working hard enough or fast enough to create the change required. They feel disenfranchised and demand a meaningful (not token) role in decision-making, especially on issues that affect them. They demand to be recognized as "agents of change". They also discussed their particular needs and vulnerabilities and the responsibility that those in leadership and positions of power have to safeguard them.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Young participants have an eye on the future. They want to assist leaders achieve what is necessary to protect the planet. They want to build a world based on empathy, compassion, solidarity and a willingness to work together.

UN75 Survey young people's perceived long-term global threats: Climate change, health risks, conflict and violence



UN75 Survey Question: Which of these global trends do you think will most affect our future? Base: 620,770 (all respondents 30 years or younger). Participants could select up to three responses.

They want to live in peace, without fear. They want the global community to be prepared for emerging future risks, and the big opportunities made possible by scientific and technical advances.

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](#)".

“We need to include youth in discussions and respond to their aspirations, and give them the opportunity to play the role that youth must play, as effective actors of change.”

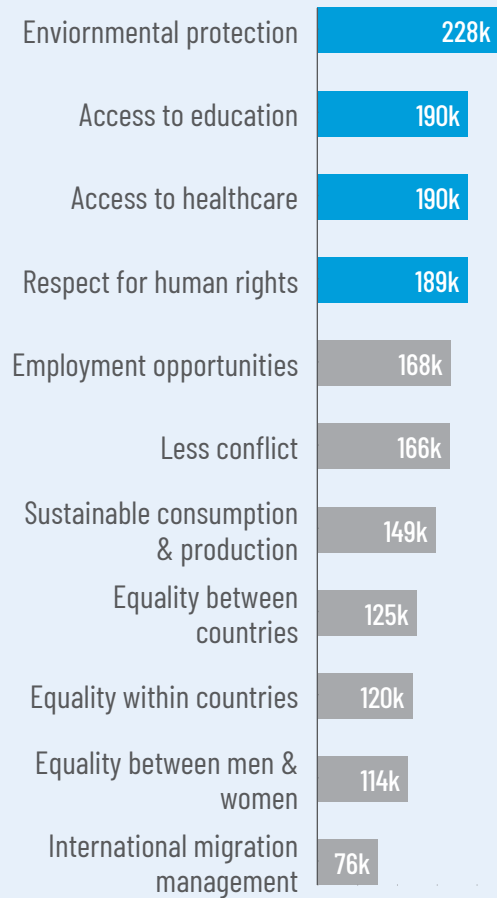
Dialogue organized by UNRCO Djibouti, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

When looking at the age-disaggregated UN75 survey data, long-term priorities of young people (aged 30 and younger) vary across regions. More environmental protection is the number one priority among young people in five regions: Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Northern America, Eastern and South-eastern Asia and Central and Southern Asia.

Young people in Oceania and Antarctica and Sub-Saharan Africa prioritized better access to health care and more employment opportunities above more environmental protection. Those in Sub-Saharan Africa additionally prioritized less conflict and better access to education higher than more environmental protection (with the ranked order of those two priorities inversed vis-à-vis the ranked order of priorities for all respondents in that region), demonstrating their desire and need for more access to basic services, opportunities and peace.

Human rights also ranked high among young people in five regions: first among young people in Northern Africa and Western Asia, second among young people in Northern America and Europe, and third in Eastern and South-eastern Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. In Latin America and the Caribbean, young people ranked human rights higher than all respondents in that region, with the latter ranking sustainable consumption and production as the third long-term priority.

UN75 Survey long-term priorities of young people: Environmental protection, education, healthcare and human rights



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: 620,770 (all respondents 30 years or younger). Participants could select up to three responses.

➔ The age-disaggregated UN75 survey data shows that the long-term priorities of young people vary across regions

PRIORITY RANKING 1st 2nd 3rd	Global youth	Central & Southern Asia	Eastern & South-eastern Asia	Europe	Latin America & Caribbean	Northern Africa & Western Asia	Northern America	Oceania & Antarctica	Sub-Saharan Africa
		Environmental protection	37%	36%	42%	49%	53%	34%	47%
Access to education	31	29	29	26	43	31	30	38	30
Access to healthcare	31	29	25	30	23	24	35	41	36
Respect for human rights	30	25	34	37	34	44	41	35	27
Employment opportunities	27	25	20	22	21	30	14	39	33
Less conflict	27	17	37	29	19	33	27	24	31
Sustainable consumption & production	24	21	26	30	33	16	34	22	23
Equality between countries	20	18	23	19	16	25	15	15	22
Equality within countries	19	16	19	15	18	19	18	14	24
Equality between men & women	18	16	24	20	23	17	18	16	18
International migration management	12	9	9	11	7	10	9	11	18

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: 620,770 (all respondents 30 years or younger). Participants could select up to three responses. Central & Southern Asia (169,143), Eastern & South-eastern Asia (67,704), Europe (62,164), Latin America & Caribbean (42,570), Northern Africa & Western Asia (43,794), Northern America (14,944), Oceania & Antarctica (11,886), Sub-Saharan Africa (205,739), Other (2,826).

HOW WE CAN GET THERE

Education – universal, free and digital

Young people from across regions emphasized that education is key to everything, including their capacity to participate in debates that shape their future. They called for education to be universally

available and free/affordable for all. Young people viewed digital access as essential for ensuring equality in education and access to opportunities, including in remote locations. Students in India proposed laptop banks or libraries to ensure young people can access education during the pandemic.

“It would be very important though that the content is really authentic and does not lean towards something that looks like paid advertising. The young generation is able to spot such deceptive campaigns easily and there is a big risk to do more harm than good.”

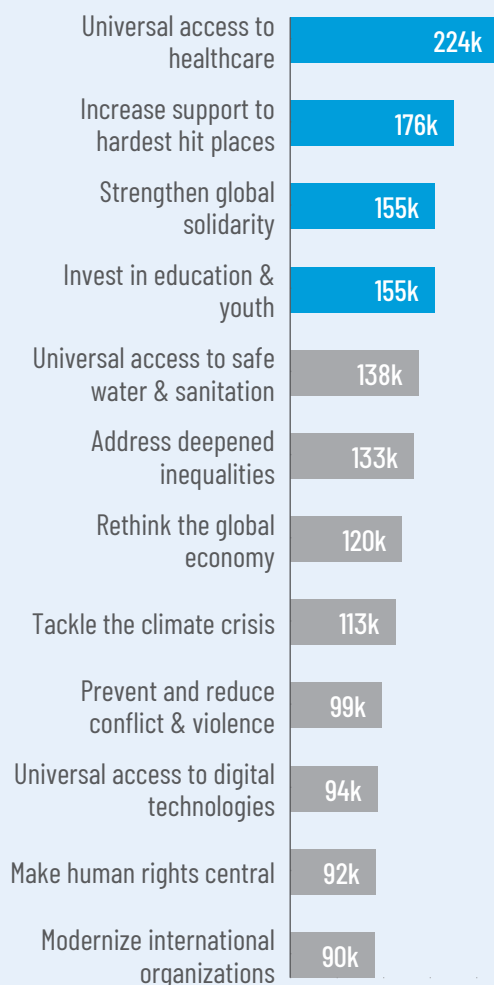
UN Association Switzerland / ETH Model United Nations, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

The UN can support young people to build awareness/understanding of the issues that affect them:

- The UN, governments and NGOs can provide concrete actions and strategies for young people to take so that they can contribute to achieving global goals.
- Youth and organizations supporting their rights can carry out research and analysis on the current socio-economic conditions of young people, to inform UN and other policy makers.
- Schools can play a vital role in education about sustainability and the SDGs, and can provide forums for young people to discuss their concerns, perspectives and ideas for change.
- To engage children, UN ambassadors and volunteers can visit schools, and use role-play games to teach students about the UN’s work.
- The UN can work with celebrities and social media influencers to engage a wider youth audience.
- The UN can organize and fund educational and exchange programs to increase knowledge/skills.
- Engagement processes must be authentic, including when creating partnerships with social media influencers, educational

institutions and student associations. If authentic, they can become channels through which the UN can disseminate information about the UN’s work and encourage young people to participate in political and international processes.

UN75 Survey immediate priorities of young people for pandemic recovery: Healthcare, global solidarity and support, education and youth programmes



UN75 Survey Question: What should the international community prioritize to recover better from the pandemic? Base: 579,199 (all respondents 30 years or younger as from 22 April 2020, when this question was added). Participants could select up to three responses.

Protecting young people in conflict situations and supporting their recovery

Young people in conflict and post-conflict situations are uniquely vulnerable. They expressed a need to be able to sleep at night without the fear that they will be killed in their beds, to walk to school without the fear that they will be killed by bomb blasts or snipers, to play in the street without worry, to enjoy their right to education, to rebuild the future of their countries, or to be welcomed and to enjoy safety in another country. They expressed the need for the UN to ensure their safety, their basic needs, and their hope of a future. In Syria, young people called for international actors to be aware of the impact of sanctions on young people and their education, health and aspirations, and to take the needs of young people into account in decision-making.

The participants “want to see a safe world and country where they do not need to stress over the air they breathe (pollution or pandemic), over the food they eat (poverty and hunger), over the water they drink (access to clean water). The participants want to live in a country full of love and peace, not hate and war. They want to feel safe in their homes, they want to feel safe walking under the open sky and not being hit by a shell, and they want to be able to feel safe sleeping at night, knowing they will be alive the next morning. The participants want to see a peaceful Syria in year 2045.”

Junior Chamber International, Syria, ages 16–30, mixed professions and genders.

Protecting and supporting young people at home

Young people are vulnerable to violence in their own homes. Participants observed that the pandemic has exposed the dangers of child neglect, abuse and exploitation when the village is unable to monitor child welfare. Participants stressed that ensuring their protection is a responsibility of all.

When looking at the age-disaggregated UN75 survey data, universal access to healthcare tops immediate priorities for young people 30 and under across regions, while the second and third priorities vary across regions

While the top three immediate priorities among young respondents align with the top three priorities for all respondents, young respondents prioritized access to safe water and sanitation above more investment in education and youth programmes.

At the regional level, universal access to healthcare ranked as the number one immediate priority among young respondents in all eight regions, compared to the top priority in six of eight regions among all respondents. In Eastern and South-eastern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, young respondents prioritized universal access to healthcare as the top immediate priority, while all respondents in those two regions prioritized strengthening global solidarity and increased support to the hardest hit places as the highest priority, respectively.

Increased support to the hardest hit places and communities ranked second in Oceania and Antarctica, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Central and

Southern Asia. Universal access to safe water and sanitation ranked second in Northern America (compared to third among all respondents in Northern America) and third in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania and Antarctica.

Tackling the climate crisis with greater urgency ranked second among young people in Europe (compared to third among all respondents in Europe) and third among young people in Northern America (compared to second among all respondents in Northern

➔ Universal access to healthcare tops immediate priorities for young people 30 and under, with second and third priorities varying across regions

PRIORITY RANKING 1st 2nd 3rd	Global youth	Central & Southern Asia	Eastern & South-eastern Asia	Europe	Latin America & Caribbean	Northern Africa & Western Asia	Northern America	Oceania & Antarctica	Sub-Saharan Africa
		Universal access to healthcare	39%	39%	39%	44%	50%	47%	50%
Increase support to the hardest hit places	30	28	27	27	31	33	29	36	33
Strengthen global solidarity	27	23	33	25	23	26	20	23	29
Invest in education & youth	27	24	25	25	27	29	21	27	30
Universal access to safe water & sanitation	24	21	28	27	29	24	32	28	22
Address deepened inequalities	23	17	31	21	28	21	26	24	25
Rethink the global economy	21	15	19	29	25	19	20	17	24
Tackle the climate crisis	19	17	19	32	25	15	32	19	18
Prevent and reduce conflict & violence	17	14	20	15	12	18	16	20	20
Universal access to digital technologies	16	16	16	8	11	14	9	16	21
Make human rights central	16	13	14	21	18	19	21	15	17
Modernize international organizations	16	13	13	10	9	13	10	18	22

UN75 Survey Question: What should the international community prioritize to recover better from the pandemic? Base: 579,199 (all respondents 30 years or younger as from 22 April 2020, when this question was added). Participants could select up to three responses. Central & Southern Asia (162,406), Eastern & South-eastern Asia (63,697), Europe (52,686), Latin America & Caribbean (36,560), Northern Africa & Western Asia (39,396), Northern America (12,253), Oceania & Antarctica (11,413), Sub-Saharan Africa (197,970), Other (2,818).

America). More investment in education and youth programmes ranked third among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa, Northern Africa and Western Asia and Central and Southern Asia (above strengthening global solidarity that ranked third among all respondents in those regions).

The pandemic has caused stress and economic desperation for families and caregivers.

In supporting children, participants called on governments to ensure that welfare systems put the economic and social wellbeing of children first, above politicization or strategies aimed to reduce welfare dependency. They stressed that the wellbeing of children relies on support for parents and caregivers. Participants discussed the need to ensure children's health and safety, as future citizens who will contribute to their communities. They asked governments to undertake child and youth impact assessments.

Participants called for governments and local authorities to prioritize child growth programs, particularly supporting the early years. Children suffering from pandemic-related stress and other mental health issues need support from national health systems, including mental health support.

Supporting opportunity – young people and work

Young people want to live full, prosperous lives. Many young participants, particularly from low human development countries and in rural locations, felt that this is currently out of reach. They called for greater awareness and respect for the rights and interests of young people in the workplace, and to end the exploitation of young people economically, such as in precarious and underpaid jobs and in the gig economy.

“To capture, the demographic dividend, Cameroon should focus its investments on a number of core areas, with a priority on health, education and training.”

AfriYAN Cameroun, ages 31-45, mixed professions, mostly men.

Young people asked for those in positions of power to build opportunities for their employment. They stressed that engaging and employing youth can bring positive economic and political changes and new creative approaches:

- Governments and local actors should create more opportunities for youth to get involved in local social work aimed at ensuring health, human rights and eliminating terrorism, and labour and sex trafficking.
- Governments and industries can create more work opportunities for young people in rural settings to alleviate population congestion in cities.
- The UN can work with policy makers and businesses/employers to encourage hiring young people by reducing lengthy “work experience” often required by workplaces. Employers can invest more in trainings of young people to ensure they are equipped with the necessary skills for the job.
- Governments and local authorities can support existing and new youth initiatives that provide up-skilling, capacity building, youth empowerment, mentorship programs, mental health support, and peer-to-peer support.

“Sustainable agricultural practices are a cornerstone of the achievement of the SDGs, with youth being an important driving force in this process. With about 500 million young people living in rural areas, a significant proportion of this block live in China who face challenges in attaining the right skills, opportunities, and capital.”

UN Resident Coordinator Office, China, ages 16–30, mixed professions and genders.

Young people in rural locations proposed the following support:

- Organizations, such as the International Agricultural Development Fund, can continue to support the needs of young people in rural environments and economies and harness their energy towards the SDGs, e.g. through IFAD’s 2019–2020 action plan for rural development, which includes young people as a development priority in investment projects and encourages governments to formulate policies that support young people, enable youth empowerment and capacity building. Participants discussed IFAD’s work in the Chinese provinces of Yunnan and Hunan, including entrepreneurship training and internships for young people, the facilitation of land transfer to young people and a fund for youth development.
- In China, students proposed two-way communication between urban and rural young people through research trips and labor education, enhancing understanding of rural, agricultural and technology developments and opportunities.
- Governments and institutions can involve young people in rural revitalization strategies, through training programmes,

awareness raising, financing and the development of targeted policies.

- Governments and institutions can realize the full potential of young people by investing in skill development programs in remote areas and by creating the digital connectivity needed for young people to enjoy education.

Across regions, young people were concerned about the impact of artificial intelligence and robots on future jobs and livelihoods. They called for all sectors and policy-makers to address this.

“Robots will storm the world leaving millions of people with no jobs and bad pay.”

Ole Anders Røsand, Norway, under 15 years of age, mixed genders, students.

Respecting difference and protecting fundamental rights

Young people demanded respect and protection of differences, including relating to gender, sexuality, women and girls. Specifically:

- Respect for and protection from violence for non-traditional gender or sexual orientations. Many young people called for legally recognized rights to love who they want.

“LGBTQ people should be able to love who they want, without being judged by everyone else. They should be able to marry who they want. There should be gender equality and trans peoples should not be judged.”

Asker International School, Norway, under 15 years of age, students, mixed gender.

- Young people, particularly from low human development countries, asked for access to sex education, reproductive rights and period equity – the free provision of sanitary items and social attitudes that allow menstruating women to fully participate in education and society.

There is a “rising need for proper sex education in Indian schools, the lack of which is leading to several issues with teenagers and young adults.”

Confederation of Young Leaders, India, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

- Young people across regions asked for strengthened respect and enforcement of children’s rights. They asked the UN to translate relevant official texts into additional local languages, and to increase awareness among organizations supporting young people and children about conventions and treaties relating to human and child rights. They called for intergenerational equity and the right to a healthy planet.

“The Convention on the Rights of the Child needs to be taught at kindergarten and high school... The UN needs to make drastic effort by pushing its agencies and government on mobilizing more translators in respect to meeting the wider public demand of sharing the relevant international conventions and treaties in native languages. For instance, there are about 22-23 recommendations released by the Committee on the Rights of the Child but only 5-10 of them are translated.”

UN Resident Coordinator Office, Mongolia, dialogue with organizations working with children and youth, ages 16-30, mixed genders.

- Young people and others asked the UN, governments and communities to take stronger action against child abuse – to outlaw it and to actively prevent child labour and child marriage.

Supporting the health of young people

Alongside education, young people called for free and universal access to health care.

They also called for specific initiatives that combat the effects of sedentary lifestyles and poor and processed diets. For example, participants in Kiribati noted that society at large would benefit from sports programs that support healthy and productive young people. National Sports Federations and other sports associations should be financed to improve the health of young people through sport.

Capitalizing on the creativity and innovation of youth

Young people viewed their technological skills, creativity and propensity to innovate as an untapped resource, especially for the SDGs.

All actors can better tap into this potential by providing opportunities for young people to share their ideas and to actively innovate. One example mentioned was the “Apps 4 Digital Peace” contest jointly launched by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and Cyber-security Tech Accord, as a recent example of how contests targeting young innovators can support digital innovation for peace and security.

“Launch contests and innovation prizes for youth-led, technology-based solutions that can improve the security and stability of the online environment.”

UN Academic Impact, dialogue with mixed countries, age groups, professions.

Young people and future technologies

In Norway and Indonesia, young people encouraged the global community not to take our eyes off the opportunities and risks posed by new technologies such as artificial intelligence.

“Find a solution to move to another planet in the solar system, including through partnerships with billionaires”

Brent Jane, Norway, younger than 15 years, students, mixed genders.

“The world will be better in the future because despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, youth still found means to develop innovative ideas to sustain themselves.”

Dialogue organized by UN Women, ages 31-45, mixed professions, mostly women.

Participation in policy and decision-making that is real

“Increase participatory democracy, especially among young people, in United Nations working groups, as well as carry out participatory initiatives, such as this global dialogue, to spread information from the bottom up.”

Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona), Spain, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

Young people demanded meaningful (not token) participation in decision-making and policy debates that affect them, including at the UN:

- The UN can discuss policies with young people to better understand what they want, especially with regard to climate change, technology and innovation.

“Young generations should get more opportunities to express their ability and skills to contribute to sustainability and increase access between young people across the world to enable collective collaboration.”

ASN Senior Secondary School, India, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

- Member States and UN organizations can develop programmes that involve youth to ensure that their ideas, opinions, realities and concerns are considered in national and international plans and policies.
- Youth can support monitoring SDG implementation at the country level.

“A panel monitoring SDG implementation should be set up. This would be composed of citizens representing the age group of 18 to 30-year old... This panel should closely monitor the implementation of the SDGs into national law and whether a certain country is on track to achieving them.”

UN Association Switzerland/ETH MUN, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

- The UN can develop further opportunities for young people to be present during UN assemblies and meetings.
- UN working groups can include participatory mechanisms for young people.

- UN organizations can expand their volunteer programme to generate further outreach, collaborations and stronger communication across all walks of life.
- The UN can better educate youth about today's global challenges, and listen to their opinions.
- The UN can support the creation of a World Youth Body and/or establish a UN office comprised of those 20 years or younger to provide leadership and humanitarian training to young people and to give them a voice.

Young people wanted ongoing ways of sharing their perspectives and insights

Young people encouraged the UN and government decisions-makers to create open spaces for dialogue with young people to hear their opinions and solutions:

- An ongoing UN75 initiative for the UN Secretary-General to continue to listen to young people.
- A UN web platform where young people, and others, can post their ideas.
- The UN Secretary-General could hold more conversations with school children.

“Make an ongoing system (like UN75) that listens and records what young people have to say. To listen to their real problems on the ground, the struggles they go through in each country, and address them accordingly.”

Junior International Chamber, Syrian Arab Republic, ages 16-30, mixed professions and genders.

Young people wanted ways to talk to each other globally

Young people asked the UN and governments to create platforms to allow them to collaborate with each other around the world, to share their experiences, to build their ideas, and to advocate as a global force. The UN and governments could support grassroots youth initiatives to provide young people with the tools and opportunities to reflect on the big issues affecting them.

Mechanisms of youth participation must have inbuilt equity and equality. Young participants from lower human development countries stressed that they would wish to enjoy similar opportunities to young people from higher human development countries. They spoke of the UN's internship programme, highlighting that only those who have financial aid and who can afford to live without an income can dream of applying for an internship at the UN.

Concrete proposals included:

- Young people should be included in all new internationally focused participatory mechanisms.
- Young people from across the African continent asked for more opportunities (similar to those enjoyed by their young counter-parts in higher human development countries) to participate in and influence decision-making processes at country, regional and international levels, especially on climate change.
- The UN can work with foundations, governments, UN staff and former interns to establish a fund to pay UN interns a minimum wage (including remote interns during the pandemic) to ensure the UN does not only engage young people who have financial aid.

- Strengthen the induction and evaluation system for incoming UN interns.
- Conduct a study to examine the profile of candidates benefitting from UN internships, and those who are being left out.
- The UN can work with governments to hold events aimed at engaging adolescents and young professionals.
- The UN and governments can nominate designated days to encourage people to think about global cooperation and to suggest ways of changing the world.
- The UN could advocate for an annual, mock lockdown, to remind us that the pandemic lockdowns demonstrate that decisive action can be taken to reduce emissions.

“The Secretary General should embrace the World Citizen Initiative and establish a consultative UN Parliamentary Assembly directly elected by the people, which will allow all people a voice in setting the UN’s agenda... If we all participate in decision-making, we develop a sense of having a stake in the decisions. In addition, working on common goals such as sustaining the biosphere and promoting human rights can unite people.”

ASN Senior Secondary School, India, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

Shaping the future of work

Along with the mechanization and digitalization of jobs, young people discussed the need to adapt to a new job market. Participants encouraged **actors throughout the UN system to investigate the status and future of low-wage workers and the rapidly changing job market** and to discuss country-specific countermeasures to the COVID-19 induced rise in unemployment.

In China, young participants encouraged national governments to adopt policies to address the changes in work systems, including considerations of human emotions and values, intelligence and artificial intelligence capabilities, big data, lifelong learning and skills development, income and welfare.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER SURVEY

Polling reveals younger adults are more favorable toward the UN and WHO

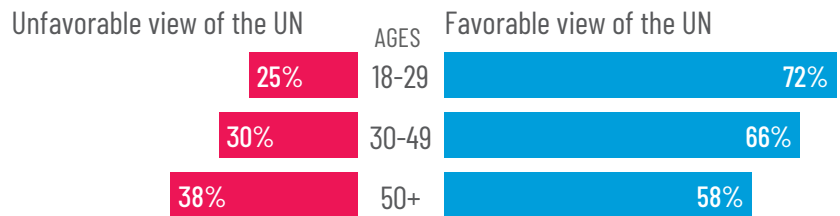
The Pew Research Centre’s polling in fourteen of the top donor countries to the UN reveals important differences by age, with younger adults (ages 18 to 29) more favorably inclined toward the UN and WHO as well as toward international cooperation in general. Among

this group, 72% say they have a positive view of the UN, compared with 58% among those 50 and older. Age gaps appear in support for the principle of cooperation between countries to manage COVID-19 and for the WHO’s handling of the pandemic.

Younger people more favorable toward UN, WHO’s handling of COVID-19 and international cooperation

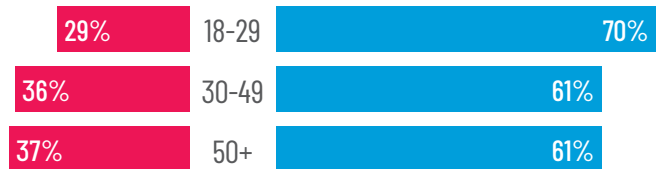
Source Pew Research Center. Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey, Q4, Q8e Q10e. “International Cooperation Welcomed Across 14 Advanced Economies.” Note: percentages are medians based on each age group across 14 countries. In Australia and Canada, question asked about “COVID-19.” In Japan, asked about “novel coronavirus.” In South Korea, asked about “Corona 19.”

Median % who say...



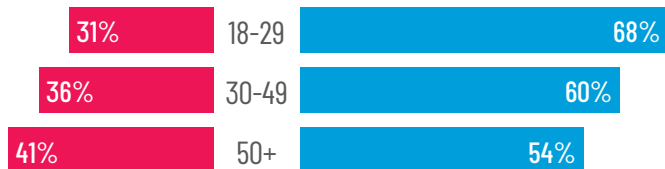
The WHO has done a bad job dealing with the coronavirus outbreak

The WHO has done a good job dealing with the coronavirus outbreak



No amount of cooperation would have reduced the number of coronavirus cases in their country

If their country had cooperated more with other countries, the number of coronavirus cases would have been lower in their country



RESEARCH SNAPSHOT²

Academic publications

- Alfvén, T. 2019 "[Placing children and adolescents at the centre of the Sustainable Development Goals will deliver for current and future generations](#)" Global Health Action.
- Kluge, J. et al. 2019 "[Do youth employment programs improve labor market outcomes? A quantitative review](#)" World Development.
- Sayre, E. & Yousef, T. (eds) 2016 [Young Generation Awakening: Economics, Society, and Policy on the Eve of the Arab Spring](#).
- Sukarieh, M. & Tannock, S. 2018 "[The global securitisation of youth](#)" Third World Quarterly.
- Thew, H. 2018 "[Youth participation and agency in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)" International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics.
- Trivelli, C. & Morel, J. 2020 "[Rural Youth Inclusion, Empowerment and Participation](#)" Journal of Development Studies.
- Van Den Hazel, P. 2019 "[The role of youth in the climate change debate](#)" European Journal of Public Health.

Policy research & reports

- Engel, D. & Stefanik, M. 2018 [Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action: Igniting Hope](#), United Nations Population Fund & International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- Gardiner, D. & Goedhuys, M. 2020 [Youth Aspirations and the Future of Work: A Review of the Literature and Evidence](#), International Labour Organization.
- Kamel, L. (ed) 2020 [Youth and Africa](#), Istituto Affari Internazionali.
- Kamel, L. & Okyay, A. (eds) 2018 [Realizing Youth Potential in the Mediterranean: Unlocking Opportunities, Overcoming Challenges](#), Istituto Affari Internazionali.
- Khan, A. et al. 2016 [The role of youth in sustainable development: Perspectives from South Asia](#), Sustainable Development Policy Institute & Overseas Development Institute.
- Paes Mamede, R., Pereira, M. & Simões, A. 2020 [Growing green: Fostering a green entrepreneurial ecosystem for youth](#), International Labour Organization.
- Plan International UK & Asian Development Bank 2018 [What's the Evidence? Youth Engagement and the Sustainable Development Goals](#).
- Simpson, G. 2018 [The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security](#), United Nations Population Fund & Peacebuilding Support Office.

2. 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](#)".

- Smith, S. 2020 [The United Nations: A Champion for Youth?](#), Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation.
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network Youth 2019 [Youth Solutions Report 2019](#).
- United Nations 2020 [Youth and peace and security: Report of the Secretary-General](#).
- – 2020 [World Youth Report 2020: Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda](#).
- – 2018 [Youth 2030: Working With and For Young People](#) [United Nations Youth Strategy].
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific 2017 [UN and SDGs: A Handbook for Youth](#).
- United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth 2017 [Principles and Barriers for Meaningful Youth Engagement](#).

Commentaries & opinion pieces

- Alisjahbana, A. 2020 [“The United Nations, 75 Years Young: Engaging Youth Social Entrepreneurs to Accelerate the SDGs 2020”](#) “SDG Knowledge Hub”.
- Chebbi, A. [“Intergenerational Co-Leadership for Global Governance Innovation”](#) Just Security.
- Mathys, Q. 2020 [“Transition from school to work remains a difficult process for youth”](#) ILOSTAT.
- Ten Hove, D. 2020 [“Meet the 20-Somethings Advising the UN Chief on How to Save Planet Earth”](#) PassBlue.
- Wickramanayake, J. 2020 [“Making the case for youth-led evaluation and accountability to achieve the SDGs”](#) Eval4Action.

Data resources & tools

- International Labour Organization [Youth labour statistics](#).
- Youth Policy Labs [National Youth Policy Overview](#).



WE WILL BE PREPARED

“The COVID-19 pandemic caught us off guard. It has served as a wake-up call for improving our preparedness for not only health-related crises but also other challenges and crises. We need to strengthen international cooperation, coordination and solidarity. It is important to learn and share experiences and information to reduce risks and make our systems more resilient. While improving our global crisis prevention and response systems, there is an urgent need to accelerate development, production, as well as equitable and affordable global access to new vaccines, medicines and medical equipment. We applaud all health-care and other front-line workers who put their own safety at risk when saving others, and pledge to put people at the centre of our response.”

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

Preparedness requires preventing inequality including through “adapting social protection frameworks to incorporate support to small and mid-size enterprises as well as the informal sector, informed by a better understanding of ‘cascading and systemic risks’ that result in the vulnerabilities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic... leveraging the potential of community-driven approaches to reach the most vulnerable...”

Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, USA, mixed ages and professions, mostly women.

UN75 DATA ON THIS COMMITMENT

UN75 dialogues



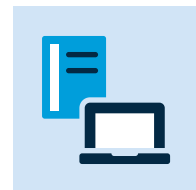
UN75 survey



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 DIALOGUES¹

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Participants overwhelmingly observed that COVID-19 was a compelling reminder of our fragility and our interconnectedness, that only multilateral cooperation would be enough to reign in the pandemic, recover from it, and learn its lessons. Participants were disappointed with the inward-looking governmental responses that failed to consider the basic needs of citizens globally, especially for access to vaccines and access to accurate, timely information, essential health services, and hygiene facilities.

“The international community is focused on the first principle of protecting its own people, but it is urgent to work to respond to Corona 19 as one.”

Goriul Youth Culture House, Republic of Korea, ages 16-30, mixed genders, managers and professionals.

“Covid-19 might be a learning experience for our communities for the urgency of sustainable development for our local and global communities.”

Youthinkgreen, Egypt, ages 16-30, mixed professions and genders.

Inequality was a recurring issue raised by participants, exacerbated by the pandemic:

- Unequal health effects for certain groups, and unequal access to healthcare services.
- Unequal jobs and livelihoods loss for those working in certain sectors.
- Unequal gender impact, with women losing their income at higher rates than men; women bearing a larger portion of unpaid

care generated by lockdowns; and girls missing education.

- Unequal generational impact, as the elderly suffered both health and isolation effects; and young people who lost education and employment opportunities, and who will bear the economic effects.
- Higher safety risks for precarious and essential workers unable to work from home.
- Unequal impact between those at a medically higher risk.
- Unequal access to government support, including for many migrants and refugees, and those working in the informal economy.
- Unequal access to clean water and sanitation – essential during a pandemic.
- Increased domestic violence disproportionately affecting women and children.

Participants expressed concern about misinformation undermining public health messaging. They saw the rapid spread of misinformation through social and other media channels, alongside populist political movements as undermining the trust of expert scientific opinion leading to poorly informed decision-making, response and prevention policies, which cost lives.

Participants were daunted by the immense task of recovery, concerned that many have been forced into destitution irrespective of their countries level of development, and that whole sectors of the economy representing the livelihoods of millions of people had been lost.

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”](#).

Particular concerns were raised about the high mental health cost of the pandemic, with participants noting the myriad of stressors people faced, whether through bereavement, isolation, caregiving, job and business losses, among other factors. Participants noted that recovery would require a strong mental health recovery plan.

“The need for human connection is so great that even during this pandemic people are risking their lives by congregating in unsafe ways. This

human need to belong and connect must be acknowledged in all COVID-19 relief efforts and policies, and mental health should be mainstreamed throughout UN analytical and policy setting frameworks.”

Mixed dialogue hosts (UN75, Office of the 74th President of the General Assembly, UN Volunteers, I am Your Protector, International Federation of the Red Cross), USA, ages 31-45, mixed professions and genders.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

“The group felt the world would be better by 2045 if a shift in values and priorities could be sustained and augmented to support greater societal cohesion and resilience, leading to fairer and sustainable societal and economic conditions for all.”

Mixed dialogue hosts (UN75, Office of the 74th President of the General Assembly, UN Volunteers, I am Your Protector, International Federation of the Red Cross), USA, ages 31-45, mixed professions and genders.

More positively, participants viewed the pandemic as a wake-up call with hidden opportunities – a chance to ‘build back better’:

- The potential for collective action in the face of climate change and other environmental crises.
- The chance to defeat inequalities at the root of much of the suffering, with more flexible workplaces that better respect caregiving responsibilities.

- Increasingly decentralized workforces with the potential regeneration of dying communities and reduction of population pressures on urban centres.
- Greater acceptance of virtual connections that bring together new actors.
- A stronger appreciation of the necessity of free and universal health care and strong public welfare systems.

Participants across regions, age groups and sectors emphasized that pandemic management and recovery requires sustained and collaborative multilateral cooperation in the short and long term. Many noted that in this interconnected world, nothing less than global collaborative action will be sufficient for ensuring our collective resilience to future global shocks and crises.

“One country can recover from epidemics only if their neighbors and other countries recover.”

Asia Culture and Art Association (Asia Culture House), Afghanistan, mixed ages, professions, genders.

HOW WE CAN GET THERE

Participants wanted a collaborative, collective response to COVID-19. There was a great deal of commonality across regions and age groups. Participants called for a COVID-19 response that will lead to a more equal and resilient world. They offered suggestions for COVID-19 preparedness, acute crisis management and recovery, and how to leverage unexpected opportunities and lessons learned from the pandemic for other threats and risks, such as the climate change. Many proposed strengthening cooperation between countries and the role of international institutions in pandemic preparedness, management and recovery.

“In the 21st century, where people are more connected than ever, it is not enough to cure COVID-19 in your own country of residence and then shut down the borders. This is a global problem that requires cooperation on the part of all nations.”

Kim 2020, Republic of Korea, ages 16–30, mixed professions, mostly women.

Ensuring preparedness

Suggestions for strengthening the UN System to ensure better preparedness in the future:

- Solidarity should underline international efforts to control COVID-19. UN Member states can strengthen international cooperation and the role of the World Health Organization. Countries should adopt a collaborative approach, guided by the World Health Organization.

“Resilience has replaced efficiency as the most desired quality, whether in government systems or business.”

Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, USA, mixed ages, professions and genders.

- The UN system can adopt a ‘One Health’ approach to avoid different organizations competing for funds and to ensure coherent preparedness for and response to pandemics and health crises.
- International and multilateral organizations can allocate more resources to public health as an emerging priority for the 21st Century.
- Governments and multilateral funds should assist lower human development countries strengthen national health systems and infrastructure to better manage health crises.
- The UN can create better pandemic management coordination mechanisms, including joint health surveillance technologies to better regulate cross border movement during pandemics.
- The UN could encourage Member States to establish an International Solidarity Fund for Pandemics, for example through a small tax on masks and hand sanitizers. Funds could support solidarity, preventive research, and addressing pandemic related risks of the wild animal trade.
- The UN can improve oversight of health projects, to avoid corruption and mismanagement.
- The UN can increase support to hospitals and government health centres in lower human development countries, and provide

access to healthcare for all, especially persons at risk.

- The UN can take further steps to lead in the fight against COVID-19 induced human rights abuses.
- Countries can better cooperate for the adequate distribution of personal protective equipment.

“Access to health for everybody and strengthening the health system is necessary. The COVID-19 pandemic caught many countries, particularly developing countries, unawares. The health systems need to be strengthened; a lot of investment is needed to deal with the effects of COVID-19 and prepare for future pandemics because it is clear that this may not be the last serious and damaging pandemic.”

Dialogue organized by UN Eswatini, ages 46-60, mixed professions, mostly men.

Suggestions for cooperation for research and development:

- Countries should put more resources into monitoring emerging zoonoses and share information transparently and in a timely way.
- Structures should be created for countries to cooperate on research and vaccine development.
- The international community should create a team of medical experts for the purpose of rapid vaccine development. This team should be established not only for the current pandemic, but to be ready to react to future pandemics and emerging disease risks.

Suggestions for need for countries to share information:

- Member States can strengthen solidarity and better communicate on new knowledge about the pandemic, with greater transparency on data, results of treatments, and research on vaccines.
- Systems for cooperation and information sharing between health systems can be strengthened.
- A common statistical instrument should be created to clearly expose the evolution of the pandemic and the number of cases in every country.
- Assessments can pre-determine which elements of pandemic preparedness, management and recovery can be managed centrally, and which are best carried out locally.

“Health issues should not be politicized. It is vital that the international community support low-income economies through financial aid, monitoring, and vaccines access in the future”

Asia Culture and Art Association (Asia Culture House), Afghanistan, mixed ages, profession, genders.

Suggestions for cooperation for vaccine equality:

- The international community must ensure vaccines are shared, and not monopolized by individual, wealthier countries.
- Structures for countries to distribute vaccines equitably and at not cost will require collaboration between governments and private manufactures, with no preference to any particular country.

- Vaccine producing countries and vaccine manufacturers should join global efforts to ensure that vaccines and other treatments and technologies reach citizens in lower human development countries, including through sharing intellectual property and technology, and not insisting on intellectual property rights.

“Mongolia cannot manage to supply the prospective COVID-19 vaccination by itself to its entire population without potential assistance expected from the UN and WHO”

Dialogue organized by the UN Resident Coordinator Office, Mongolia, mixed ages and genders, government agencies.

Suggestions for health policy making:

- Countries’ finance ministers could allocate higher budgets for primary health care facilities (ones that treat all irrespective of economic status) to prevent current and future disease spread.
- All UN Member States were urged to implement free and universal health coverage.
- Governments need to ensure fair distribution of medical personnel, tools, and medicines across all regions, especially in remote and poor areas.
- Governments and schools can strengthen health education as a tool to eliminate ignorance about health issues, so that individuals can engage in discussions, understand the rationale for health measures put in place, and to create immunity to misinformation.
- Governments and the private sector should prioritize funds and incentives for future research and development on health technologies.

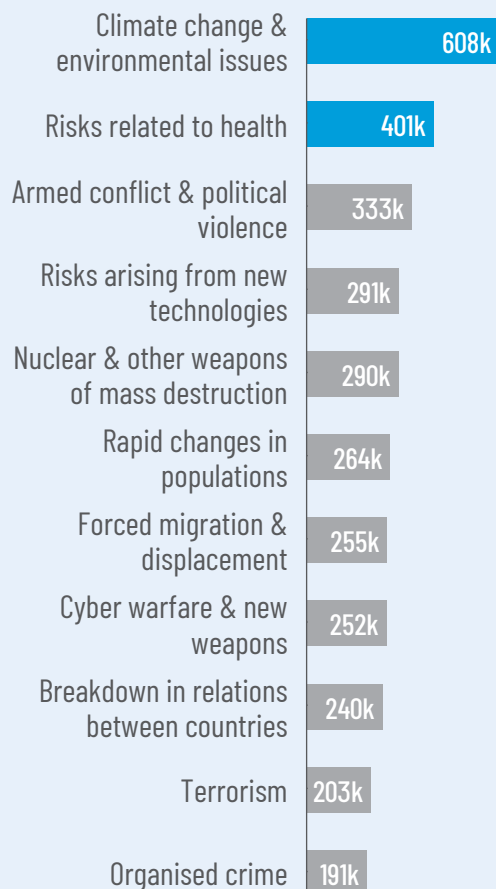
Suggestions for Policy Making:

- Defeating inequality, which requires political will, was viewed as critical for preparedness, with inequality driving much of the human suffering resulting from the pandemic:
 - Investment in universal and equitable health care, education and social protection systems (including cash based and in-kind support to improve resilience to shocks).
 - Social protection systems that include small and mid-size enterprises and those in the information sector, as well as vulnerable groups without legal recognition in their country of residence.
 - Leverage community-driven approaches to reach the most vulnerable.
 - Fiscal measures to reduce inequality, including fair corporate taxation, reduction of tax evasion, reigning in excessive profits and addressing under-taxed sectors, and inequality assessments in budgetary decision-making.
- Ensuring access to essential services and information for remote communities. Ensure access to safe public/private spaces that support human wellbeing in cities.
- Governments should ensure daily public service supplies in the event of pandemics.
- Governments should integrate urban and rural health services and strengthen health coordination networks in rural areas.
- Governments should institute strong welfare systems and strong worker protections to minimize disruptions for populations when they are required to comply with stay at home orders.
- Create incentives for health care workers to work in rural environments.

- Participants noted that what is considered important work has shifted during this pandemic, with essential workers often least recognized and least remunerated. Courier drivers, public transport workers,

cleaners, supermarket staff, childcare workers, nurses and doctors have all taken significant risks for little reward, at times costing them their lives. Ensuring their rights, protections, recognition and fair remuneration will safeguard us all in future pandemics.

UN75 Survey long-term global threats: Widespread acknowledgement that pandemics and disasters are in our future, with climate change and risks related to health top perceived global 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.

Suggestions for individuals, communities and other actors:

- International, national and local level actors should foster a culture of volunteerism and community building in development policies to mobilize community-wide responses to pandemics.
- Governments, NGOs and educational institutions can increase health awareness so that people are better prepared, with necessary support, infrastructure and information.
- Parents and teachers can encourage children to be inclusive and discuss basic health.
- Local authorities can conduct drills to assist in community readiness for future pandemics and other crises and disasters.

Suggestions for disaster preparedness:

- Future UN reforms should focus on strengthening disaster management capacity and forecasting systems, in view of environmental degradation and climate change increasing risks of future pandemics and intensifying frequent natural disasters.
- Governments and the UN system must ensure universal access to clean water and sanitation.
- Governments should establish long-term science and technology cooperation by expanding IT and technological training and capacity-building, promoting industrial technology projects, and supporting

the establishment of scientific and technological systems.

- Local governments in rural areas could adopt online platforms and social networking that minimizes risks of disruption to food and other essential supplies.

Acute crisis management

Suggestions for multilateral action:

- The UN should condemn the blame game among certain countries regarding the pandemic.
- All developed countries should voluntarily increase their contributions to WHO.
- The Secretary-General should continue to advocate for a global ceasefire during the COVID-19 crisis, and it should be adopted by resolution.
- An information sharing system should be established for the transparent sharing of real time information by countries on their current pandemic status.
- Countries should ensure adequate prevention policies and public health measures are in place, in line with WHO guidelines.
- Partnerships with development agencies should ensure all COVID-19 health advisories and information reach people at every level, including remote and underprivileged communities.
- Particular strategies should meet the needs of Indigenous peoples and communities.
- Higher human development countries should provide support, masks, and other relevant prevention supplies to lower human development countries.
- Multilateral funds and bilateral donors must prioritize health aid to vulnerable countries.
- International campaigns can help spread public health safety messages, countering misinformation. The UN could build on preventive campaigns led by the UN and PAHO such as “Stay Home” to reach communities where access to information is scarce or non-existent.

Suggestions for health policy making:

- COVID-19 vaccines should be free of charge and accessible by all.
- International travel should be limited to essential travel.
- Each nation should create a set of preventive guidelines and regularly update them.
- Governments should put in place strong oversight of compliance and use legal sanctions in the case of violations of preventive measures.
- Awareness and acceptance around mask wearing is essential. To change negative ideas on mask wearing, national leaders and celebrities should come out and state their support.
- To ensure the wellbeing of all medical staff, governments should increase support to ensure the physical and mental health of health care and hospital workers on the front line.
- Personal Protective Equipment should be procured for all those who need it.
- Those who are most at risk should be prioritized in this and future pandemics.
- Governments should continue to implement strong test, trace, isolate and treatment protocols.
- The use of telemedicine can provide health services for individuals who may be unavailable to access local health services or to assist under-trained medical staff.

Suggestions for the needs of marginalized groups:

- Governments and NGOs should address the needs of refugees and asylum seekers in recipient countries, with their legal status often leaving them without government support, in isolation, and susceptible to job loss. Ensuring their access to the internet should be prioritized.
- Ensure government safety nets for individuals without legal status during a pandemic because access to community groups, NGOs and charities is not always guaranteed.
- Local community support groups can foster communication between the government and people. This will combat misinformation, panic and fear and will foster dialogue during recovery.
- To the extent compatible with critical public health goals, schools and childcare facilities should remain open, and/or caregivers should be supported to facilitate parents who are working from home. Women and vulnerable children suffer most, and schools and education can reduce this.
- Governments and school authorities should better support teachers to effectively deliver online education where necessary, noting the extra time and resources it requires, and ensuring internet connectivity and access to computers for all students.

Suggestions for individuals, communities and other actors:

- Participants called for people to act as responsible citizens, protecting others through adherence to preventive measures.
- Individuals should take their personal hygiene seriously by wearing masks, avoiding gatherings, washing hands, and disinfecting surfaces.

A fair and just recovery

“[...] Usually, if the state found itself in a situation akin to one it faces now it could rely on foreign aid. However, due to the truly global nature of the pandemic and with no end in sight, foreign states have resorted to reducing any resource allocation that was being used as aid, leaving Afghanistan to deal with the crisis at home on its own for the first time in the 21st century.”

The Dais, Mandate Project, Rana University and Jami University, Afghanistan, ages 16-30, mixed genders.

Suggestions for multilateral action:

- Ensure recovery efforts focus on reducing inequalities.
- Governments should provide financial support to poorer countries to support recovery. They should assist indebted countries to fully invest their resources to mitigate the economic, social, health and psychological side effects of the current crisis on the most vulnerable groups.
- The IMF should provide partial debt relief to assist developing countries during the pandemic.
- The UN should be positioned as a ‘special purpose vehicle of transformation’.
- The UN Secretary-General and actors throughout the UN system can organize high-level events and campaigns to give greater attention to bolster health services in COVID-19 recovery.

Suggestions for economic recovery:

- Government-mandated funds at low interest rates should be made available for small and medium businesses that are experiencing financial difficulties.
- Focus efforts on recovery for the tourism industry, which was disproportionately affected.
- Support some form of 'Global Marshall Plan' to facilitate global recovery.
- Financial support should be directed towards families, vulnerable groups and small businesses.

Suggestions for education in recovery:

- The UN and other actors should support quality education through increased access to online/ remote education, especially in countries where internet access is low.
- Laptop and tablet banks offered on a library like basis for use at home can support poorer students access technology, as has been effectively launched in some pilot projects in India.

Suggestions for individuals, vulnerable groups, local communities and other actors in pandemic recovery:

- Create multi-institutional initiatives between local authorities, local housing authorities, community organizations, non-profits, government agencies, and researchers to provide local community support for food banks, shelters, online and responsive education.
- Countries should put in place a rehabilitation plan for migrant workers, with participants noting that if we want to build back better, we need to ensure migrant workers are treated with dignity, that they have access to education, health facilities, and portability of rights.

- Individuals and governments can assist in the financial recovery of the charity and non-profit sectors to ensure they can contribute their skills and expertise in ensuring an equitable recovery and reaching marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- Local authorities can support and encourage local communities share local values and goals for the healing and rebuilding of their communities.

Opportunities arising from the pandemic, and not losing sight of emerging risks

“Technological change that supports a just transition and a pro-equality, environmentally-friendly agenda combined with active labor market policies. Unless abated, current technological and demographic trends may worsen existing inequalities and tensions between groups. However, there are promising steps that can be taken...investing in physical and soft digital infrastructure...offering protections to those who may lose out from automation and digital change...utilizing technologies to expand rights and protections... making a shift to renewable energy.”

Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, USA, mixed ages and professions.

Suggestions for policy making on the future of work:

- COVID-19 has transformed the workplace, and with it, workplace expectations. The big lesson of the pandemic – that employees

can be relied upon to work remotely - has the potential to bring about change at a pace previously unseen. More flexible workplaces were seen to benefit those with caregiving responsibilities, those in remote locations, regional and rural areas, alleviating pressures on cities, and bringing together people from across the world more easily, increasing understanding, tolerance and a sense of global community.

- Young people were vocal about more flexible workplaces, asking that employers 'let their parents work from home'.
- To capitalize on these nascent trends, participants called for action from the research community, the private sector, UN Member states, and the UN system.

Suggestions for scientific and technical readiness and technology development as a public health strategy:

- Future investment in and development of medical technology (such as genetic engineering, nanotechnology, robotic, autonomous vehicles, and artificial intelligence) were viewed as having the potential to contribute to public health and safety and reduce risks associated with pandemics and health crises. Participants also called for research on their potential risks.
- Young participants asked the UN and other actors to invest in space exploration, the development of satellite technologies and artificial intelligence, while simultaneously understanding their impact and risks, for example the impact of robots and mechanization on the future of livelihoods.
- Participants urged greater preparedness for the anticipated risks that come along with scientific and technological developments, such as biological warfare and cybercrime.

“Greater cooperation among the actors of the international community, taking advantage especially of the advantages of technology to maintain a greater closeness with society in a direct way, while using it in a positive way to improve the quality of life of people and protect the environment at the same time.”

Dialogue organized by UN Resident Coordinator Office, Venezuela and Bolivia, ages 16-30, students, mixed genders.

- The pandemic demonstrated that a contactless culture is convenient, and that it can be used to combat tax evasion, and as part of public health strategies, warranting further investment.

Suggestions for climate change preparedness:

- As more fully explored in Commitment 2, We will Protect the Planet, participants observed that the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that our response to the immense and critical challenge of climate change has been inadequate and slow. Old excuses are not good enough anymore. The pandemic has shown that the global community can act with urgency, decisiveness, and that leaders can make difficult decisions, previously considered unthinkable.
- Young participants called for short, annual lockdowns to ask everyone to 'pause for a moment' to remember, from the 2020 lockdown, that we can reduce emissions, and we can act with urgency to create real, lasting and transformative change.

MEDIA ANALYSIS²

The pandemic dominated conversations about health in the media across all regions, followed by health systems and non-communicable diseases

Unsurprisingly, media coverage around health issues was largely dominated by COVID-19 in 2020. Health systems (ranked second) and mental health (ranked fifth) also had strong pandemic-related angles.

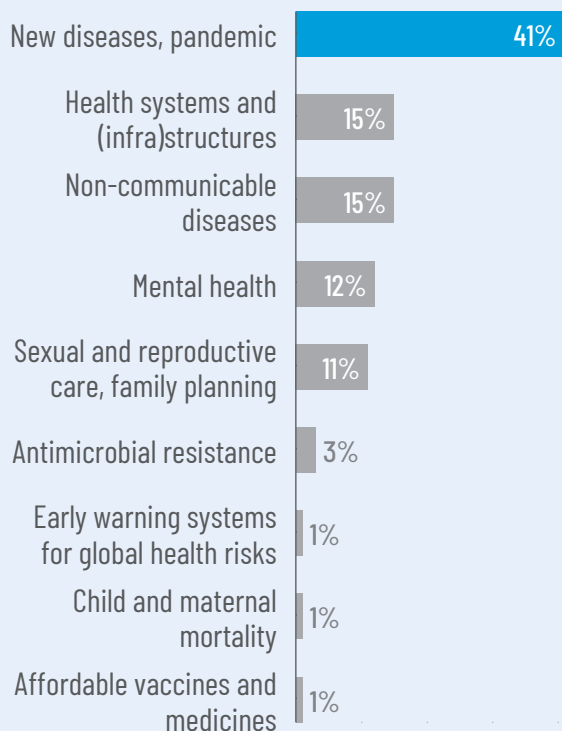
Health systems were prominently covered in the media in Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa, Western Asia, and Sub-Saharan

Africa, with some coverage also noted in Europe and North America.

In Asia, the issue of health systems’ capacity was prominent, while access to health services was a key driver in North Africa and Western Asia. In Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in Nigeria and South Africa, a narrative emerged about the media being alarmist about the robustness of systems.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, coverage focused on the extent to which governments followed WHO guidelines. In North America, the pandemic’s impact on the economy and future structure of health systems was a prominent media conversation topic.

➤ New diseases and the pandemic dominated media coverage in all regions



Asia & Australia	1. New diseases, pandemic 2. Non-communicable diseases
Europe & Central Asia	1. New diseases, pandemic 2. Non-communicable diseases
Latin America & Caribbean	1. New diseases, pandemic 2. Health systems & structures
Middle East & North Africa	1. New diseases, pandemic 2. Health systems & structures
North America	1. New diseases, pandemic 2. Sexual & reproductive care
Sub-Saharan Africa	1. New diseases, pandemic 2. Health systems & structures

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

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 SNAPSHOT³

Academic publications

- Acharya, A. & Plesch, D. 2020 "[The United Nations: Managing and Reshaping a Changing World Order](#)" Global Governance.
- Greenhill, B. & Lupu, Y. 2017. "[Clubs of Clubs: Fragmentation in the Network of Intergovernmental Organizations](#)" International Studies Quarterly.
- Hooghe, L., Lenz, T. & Marks, G. 2019 [A Theory of International Organization](#).
- Konarovskiy M., 2019 «[ШОС и БРИКС: возможности и перспективы сопряжения](#)» International Organisations Research Journal.
- Lipsky, P. 2017 [Renegotiating the World Order: Institutional Change in International Relations](#).
- Mao, R. 2020 "[多边主义与中国的联合国外交](#)" International Studies.
- Ocampo, J. (ed) 2015 [Gobernanza global y desarrollo: nuevos desafíos y prioridades de la cooperación internacional](#).
- Patrick, S. 2015 "[The New "New Multilateralism": Minilateral Cooperation, but at What Cost?](#)" Global Summitry.
- Patriota, A. 2017 "[Is the World Ready for Cooperative Multipolarity?](#)" Rising Powers Quarterly.
- Schimmelfenning, F. et al. 2020 [The Rise of International Parliaments: Strategic Legitimation in International Organizations](#).
- Smith, K. & Laatikainen, K. (eds) 2020 [Group Politics in UN Multilateralism](#).
- Sommerer, T. & Tallberg, J. 2019 "[Diffusion Across International Organizations: Connectivity and Convergence](#)" International Organization.
- Xu, Y. & Weller, P. 2018 [The Working World of International Organizations](#).

Policy research & reports

- African Union 2017 [N'Djamena Declaration on the Emerging Global Order, Multilateralism and Africa](#).
- Arjomand, B. et al. 2020 [UN 2.0: Ten Innovations for Global Governance 75 Years beyond San Francisco](#), Stimson Center.
- Centre for International Governance Innovation 2020 [Modernizing the World Trade Organization](#).
- Council of the European Union 2019 [EU action to strengthen rules-based multilateralism](#).
- General Assembly of the United Nations 2020 [Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations \[A/RES/75/1\]](#).
- Helble, M, Ali, Z. & Lego, J. 2018 [A Comparison of Global Governance Across Sectors: Global Health, Trade, and Multilateral Development Finance](#), Asian Development Bank Institute.
- Independent Commission on Multilateralism 2016 [Pulling Together: The Multilateral System and its Future](#).
- Jones, S. & Malcorra, S. 2020 [Competing for order: Confronting the long crisis of multilateralism](#), Brookings Institution.

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., Snower, D. & Strauss, S. 2020 [The Future of Multilateralism: Responsible Globalization that Empowers Citizens and Leaves No One Behind](#), Think 20 Saudi Arabia.
- The Elders 2020 [Hope for a Sea-Change: Why Multilateralism Must Reshape the World After COVID-19](#).

Commentaries & opinion pieces

- Ban, K. 2020 [“Returning to Multilateralism”](#) Project Syndicate.
- Brundtland, G. H. 2020 [“The UN @75: The Future of Partnership and Multilateralism”](#) Global Governance.
- Cui, H. 2020 [“中欧应当合作共建开放、包容的多边主义”](#) World Knowledge.
- Gabuev, A. & Chernenko, E. 2019 [“What Russia Thinks About Multilateralism”](#) Carnegie Moscow Center.
- Guterres, A. 2020 [“Multilateralism After COVID-19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?”](#) United Nations.
- – 2020 [“Secretary-General’s closing remarks at High-Level Interactive Dialogue with Heads of Regional and Other Organizations”](#) United Nations.
- Lissovolik, Y. 2020 [“Could There Be Multilateralism Across Regional Integration Blocs”](#) Valdai Discussion Club.
- Maas, H. & Le Drian, J. 2019 [“Who, if not us?”](#) German Federal Foreign Office [Alliance for Multilateralism].
- Malacalza, B. & Hirst, M. 2020 [“¿Podrá reinventarse el multilateralismo? El orden internacional y el coronavirus”](#) Nueva Sociedad.
- Mattoo, A. & Narlikar, A. 2020 [“Resuscitating multilateralism with India’s help”](#) The Hindu.
- Sathirathai, S. 2020 [“China and other Asian powers must stand up for multilateralism and peace in a divided world”](#) South China Morning Post.
- Scotland, P. 2019 [“Multilateralism remains a powerful agent of positive change, says Secretary-General”](#) Commonwealth of Nations.

Data resources & tools

- Sommerer, T. & Tallberg, J. 2017 [“Transnational Access to International Organizations 1950–2010: A New Data Set”](#) International Studies Perspectives.
- [The Good Country Index](#).