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

2020
Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization

2020
Introduction

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

KEY PRIORITIES

• Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development
• Maintenance of international peace and security
• Development in Africa
• Promotion and protection of human rights
• Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance
• Promotion of international justice and law
• Disarmament
• Drug control, crime prevention and combating terrorism
In 1945, world leaders gathered in San Francisco to sign the Charter of the United Nations, which gave birth to an organization that represented new hope for a world emerging from the horrors of the Second World War. Our founders were in no doubt about the kind of world that they wished to banish to the past.

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

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

Yet these efforts have not been enough to hold back the tides of fear, hatred, inequality, poverty and injustice. Moreover, early in 2020, we were brought to our knees by a microscopic virus: the virus responsible for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has taken a horrific toll on individuals, communities and societies, with the most vulnerable disproportionately affected. The pandemic has demonstrated the fragility of our world. It has laid bare risks ignored for decades: inadequate health systems; gaps in social protection; structural inequalities; environmental degradation; the climate crisis.

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

BUILDING A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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

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

This failure of solidarity compounds a much-longer-standing struggle to secure the financing necessary for the success of the 2030 Agenda, complicated by slow growth and high debt. We must act now to maintain progress made on sustainable development. We share a common fate. Only with true solidarity and unity will we achieve our shared goals and uphold our values. COVID-19 also brought home the drastic need to rebalance the human relationship with the natural world. We were already approaching the point of no return on climate change. Recovery from COVID-19 must go hand in hand with climate action. With global emissions reaching record levels, I hosted the Climate Action Summit and the Youth Climate Summit in 2019. Seventy countries committed themselves to more ambitious national climate plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050. Beyond climate change, and after more than 15 years of intense efforts, the 2020 intergovernmental conference on marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction must now be the starting point for greater harmony with nature as a whole.

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

Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet

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

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General

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

Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet
Over 36,000 United Nations Secretariat staff and about 95,000+ uniformed personnel working...

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

...in 140+ countries...

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

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

- **Sustainable Development**: Through the repositioned United Nations development system, resident coordinators worked with Governments and partners in 162 countries and territories for the 2030 Agenda.
- **Peace and Security**: Deployed 40+ peacekeeping, special political missions and offices to prevent conflict and support peacebuilding efforts.
- **Development in Africa**: Supported the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, one of the largest trading blocs covering about 1.2 billion people and GDP of over $2.5 trillion.
- **Disarmament**: Advanced implementation of the Agenda for Disarmament, which focuses on weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons and new battlefield technologies.
- **Humanitarian Assistance**: Helped mobilize and coordinate international assistance worth $18 billion for 117 million people in need.
- **Human Rights**: The Secretary-General launched his Call to Action for Human Rights to advance enjoyment of human rights by all.
- **Drugs, Crime, Terrorism**: Engaged more than 170 Member States in preventing and countering violent extremism through outreach and capacity-building activities.

Serviced Member States in over 36,900 intergovernmental meetings and conferences to help foster global consensus on the issues facing the world.
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S KEY AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2019–2020

2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE DECADE OF ACTION
Supported Governments and key stakeholders at all levels to kick-start the decade of action to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030

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

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

UNITED TO REFORM
Implementation of the Secretary-General’s reform agenda across development, management, and peace and security is improving the ability of the United Nations to effectively and accountably deliver on its mandates. Below are key accomplishments achieved to date and major ongoing changes that are part of the United to Reform agenda

DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM
Repositioning the development system to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- A new generation of United Nations country teams for more tailored support to countries
- A new resident coordinator system for strengthened leadership
- A Funding Compact with Member States with mutual-accountability targets
- Revised United Nations cooperation frameworks for more holistic responses to national priorities
- Unprecedented effort launched to strengthen the impact of United Nations regional assets and multi-country offices
- More transparency, accountability and oversight for results
- Ambitious measures to increase efficiency in country team operations
- Enhanced country team capacity to help countries scale up financing and partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE
Enabling a whole-of-pillar approach to confronting threats to international peace and security
- A restructured peace and security architecture at Headquarters with joint regional teams
- Prioritized support for prevention and sustaining peace
- Stronger focus on regional approaches and strategies
- Integrated approach to United Nations mission transitions and better alignment with United Nations country teams

MANAGEMENT REFORM
Shifting the management paradigm to enable nimble, effective and efficient operations
- Decentralized operations through more delegation to managers, accompanied by extensive training
- New accountability framework for decision-making authorities
- Strengthened data analytics and evaluation capacities
- Two new management departments at Headquarters, with clear roles and responsibilities
- New annual programme budget with better performance, planning and resource information
- Ongoing simplification of policies and processes, supported by a senior-level client-feedback mechanism
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT: 12 KEY OUTCOMES

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

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

UNITED NATIONS DISABILITY INCLUSION STRATEGY: BRINGING ABOUT TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

A CALL TO ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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

RENEWING MULTILATERALISM

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

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

As we build multilateral approaches, we also need stronger digital cooperation. Technology can turbo-charge recovery from COVID-19 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. My Road Map for Digital Cooperation promotes a vision of an inclusive, sustainable digital future for all.
The long-term objectives of the United Nations revolve around transformative agendas endorsed or welcomed by the Member States.

**SELECT TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDAS***

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

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

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

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

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

Implementation of the Gender Parity Strategy has progressed well at United Nations Headquarters, and most entities are on track to reach parity at each level by 2028.

The Secretary-General achieved his 50/50 gender parity target among senior leadership in full-time Under Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General posts in January 2020, almost two years ahead of schedule. Challenges remain to reaching parity in the field, particularly in peace operations, where the full attention of senior leadership will be focused on achieving the target of parity at every level in the Organization by 2028.
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S DATA STRATEGY FOR ACTION
BY EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

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

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

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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

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

A young visitor wearing a sweatshirt proclaiming “Our Generation Will Change the World” listens to a tour guide explaining the working methods of the Security Council (New York, 15 November 2019)
United Nations Family: Our Work

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

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

PRINCIPAL ORGANS

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Secretariat
- Economic and Social Council
- International Court of Justice
- Trusteeship Council

Subsidiary Organs
- Funds and Programmes
- Research and Training Institutions
- Other Bodies and Entities

Research and Training
- Institutions
- Functional Commissions
- Regional Commissions
- Specialized Agencies
- Related Organizations
- Departments and Offices
- Other Bodies and Entities

Subsidiary Organs
- Funds and Programmes
- Research and Training Institutions
- Other Bodies and Entities

Climate action
- Protects, improves or restores 244 million hectares of landscapes and marine habitats
- Mobilizes funding and supports renewable energy development across more than 27 developing countries
- Supports clean, affordable and sustainable energy access for 800,000 households headed by women in 16 countries

Food security
- Provides food and assistance to 87 million people in 83 countries
- Assists 25 million people with cash transfers in 62 countries; empowering people to achieve nutrition outcomes while boosting local markets

Women
- Assists over 337,000 girls and women in preventing or addressing female genital mutilation
- Helps over 2 million women a month overcome pregnancy and childbirth complications
- Supports 150,000 women in receiving legal aid
- Advocates for and empowers women in the economy, including through 82 laws and policies adopted in 40 countries

Human rights
- Seeks to protect human rights, make violations known and hold perpetrators accountable, with 7,500 monitoring missions
- Helps 40,000 victims of torture in 78 countries
- Partners with 89 countries to reform discriminatory laws

Peace and security
- Maintains more than 40 political missions and peacekeeping operations, including 95,000 peacekeeping personnel
- Deploys special envoys and representatives of the Secretary-General in 54 contexts in efforts to secure sustainable peace
- Assists some 60 countries with their elections

Children
- Feeds 16 million children with daily school meals
- Benefits 51 million children with cash transfer programmes
- Supports 4.1 million children in receiving treatment for severe acute malnutrition
- Supplies vaccines to 50% of the world’s children, helping to save 3 million lives a year

Safe water and sanitation
- Facilitates access to safe drinking water for 18.3 million people
- Helps 15.5 million people gain access to basic sanitation services

Disease prevention
- Supports the vaccination of 108 million people against yellow fever
- Assists with the shipping of 21 million doses of oral cholera vaccine
- Helps train thousands of health workers, tested 220,000 samples and vaccinated 303,000 people as part of a 22-month-long response to an Ebola outbreak

Displacement
- Registered 9 million refugees last year in the United Nations Biometric Identity Management System in 69 countries
- Assists over 81,000 stateless individuals in acquiring and/or confirming their nationality
- Assists and protects 82.5 million people fleeing war, famine and persecution
The United Nations response to COVID-19

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

THREE-PILLAR RESPONSE

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

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S POLICY INITIATIVES
JOINT OPERATIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGIES FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FAMILY AND PARTNERS

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

Funding requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Strategic objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200+ Governments, international and non-governmental organizations, research institutes and businesses</td>
<td>1 Mobilize all sectors and communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1.74 billion required, $1.44 billion received (83% funded)</td>
<td>2 Control asymptomatic carriers and clusters and prevent community transmission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Suppress community transmission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 Reduce mortality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Develop safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 – HUMANITARIAN: GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

Funding requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Strategic objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>110+ international and non-governmental organizations</td>
<td>1 Contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and reduce morbidity and mortality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10.31 billion required, $2.475 billion received (24% funded)</td>
<td>2 Decrease the deterioration of human assets, human rights, social cohesion and livelihoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Protect, assist and advocate for refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and vulnerable communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 – DEVELOPMENT: UNITED NATIONS SOCIOECONOMIC RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

Funding requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Strategic objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>165+ national institutions in countries and territories with United Nations country teams</td>
<td>1 Protect health services and health systems during the crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1 billion required, $0.8 million received (8% funded)</td>
<td>2 Protect jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, informal sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Facilitate macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Support social cohesion and community resilience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATTENTION TO THE HARDEST-HIT COUNTRIES AND POPULATIONS

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

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

RESPONSE OF THE BROADER UNITED NATIONS FAMILY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MEDICAL COORDINATION**
- 174 countries coordinating with WHO on strategic preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 123 countries supported in formulating national health plans and registering financial needs on WHO Strategic Partnership Portal

**MEDICAL SUPPLY CHAIN**
- >452 million items of personal protective equipment shipped or to be shipped
- 29 million diagnostic tests and collective kits shipped or to be shipped

**CRISIS RESPONSE**
- 110 Governments and non-governmental organizations contributing funds to the global humanitarian response plan
- 63 countries rapidly targeted for priority emergency assistance with the help of the INFORM risk framework for COVID-19

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT**
- 2.6 billion people reached with messaging on prevention and access to health services
- 4.2 million learners in 119 specialized OpenWHO COVID-19 courses
- 2.1 million health and community workers trained in detection, referral and appropriate management of cases on the ground
- 36 million households benefiting from new or additional social assistance provided by Governments with United Nations family support

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT**
- 22,493 households affected by COVID-19 receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grants for basic needs

**CRISIS RESPONSE**
- 2,1 million health and community workers trained in detection, referral and appropriate management of cases on the ground

---

**RECOVERING BETTER**

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

**CONTINUING OUR WORK**

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

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

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

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

SELECT MANDATES
- Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, General Assembly resolution 74/15
- Political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, General Assembly resolution 74/3
- Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy, General Assembly resolution 74/217
- Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, General Assembly resolution 72/279
- Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, General Assembly resolution 74/4
- Victoria Falls Declaration on the United Nations Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development in Africa, ECA/RFSID/2020/16

SELECT ENTITIES
- Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- Regional Commissions
- UN-Habitat
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION 2020

CONTEXT

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

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

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

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

ALIGNED WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
KEY OBJECTIVES

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

KEY OUTCOMES

Stocktaking and acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals

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

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

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

2019 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS STOCKTAKING

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

... with over 2,000 representatives across sectors...

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

and will complete reviewing progress in 168 countries by 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination

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

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

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

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

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

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

Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination
38 THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AN OVERVIEW

1. **NO POVERTY**
   - Proportion of population below the international poverty line, total
   - As of 2016, roughly 8% of the world’s population still lives in extreme poverty.

2. **ZERO HUNGER**
   - Prevalence of undernourishment
   - After extended progress, the number of people suffering from hunger is on the rise.

3. **GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**
   - Neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)
   - The neonatal mortality rate has consistently declined.

4. **QUALITY EDUCATION**
   - Primary school completion rate (of relevant age group)
   - Universal and equitable access to primary education is yet to be achieved.

5. **GENDER EQUALITY**
   - Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments
   - Major progress made towards addressing underrepresentation of women in parliament.

6. **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**
   - Proportion of population using safely-managed sanitation services
   - More people have access to safely managed sanitation services today.

7. **AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**
   - Proportion of population with access to electricity
   - The vast majority of the world’s population now has access to electricity.

8. **DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**
   - Global unemployment rate
   - Global unemployment has declined relative to 2000.

9. **INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**
   - Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP
   - Research and development is increasingly prioritized across the globe.

10. **REDUCED INEQUALITIES**
    - Labour share of GDP
    - The share of national income going to labour has shown a downward trend.

11. **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**
    - Proportion of urban population living in slums
    - The number of people living in informal urban settlements has declined steadily.

12. **RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**
    - Material footprint per capita (metric tons per person)
    - The global material footprint per capita has increased.

13. **CLIMATE ACTION**
    - Parties that have communicated their first nationally determined contributions to the United Nations
    - 186 of the 189 Paris Agreement signatories have communicated their first NDCs.

14. **LIFE BELOW WATER**
    - Average proportion of marine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas
    - Even more must be done to safeguard KBAs.

15. **LIFE ON LAND**
    - Forest area under an independent, verified forest management certification scheme
    - More efforts are needed to conserve and restore forests around the world.

16. **PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**
    - Proportion of countries with human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles
    - Less than 50% of countries have human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.

17. **PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS**
    - Net ODA (proportion of GNI)
    - The 0.7% aid/GNI target for international aid has yet to be collectively achieved. Source: OECD

ACCELERATING PROGRESS

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

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

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION 2020
39
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

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


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

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

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

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

\[\text{“We must ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable countries – the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS – are heard loud and clear, and that their sustainable development agendas are advanced.”}\]

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

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

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

DISABILITIES

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

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

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

“The environmental challenge has the ability to change the course of history. Whether we change track in the right direction or not is entirely up to us.”
— Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

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

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

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

41 laws signed or strengthened in 15 countries

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

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

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

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

Nearly 350,000 adolescents reached through education programmes

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

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

**GENDER EQUALITY**

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

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

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

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

Nearly 350,000 adolescents reached through education programmes

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

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

The Spotlight Initiative is a multi-year programme, supported by the European Union, to end violence against women and girls globally by 2030. Through comprehensive, rights-based programming, the Initiative is strengthening agency collaboration under the leadership of resident coordinators, in partnership with civil society, to support government efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
To achieve the 2030 Agenda, developing countries face a financing gap of at least $2.5 trillion per year – not considering the impact of COVID-19. In September 2019, the General Assembly convened the First High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which resulted in over 20 new initiatives and commitments by Governments and stakeholders to help to fill the gap.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed (third from left) meets with (left to right): Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); Armida Alisjahbana Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (New York, 21 February 2019)
The debt for climate adaptation swap initiative advocated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean gained momentum and now incorporates a stronger Caribbean Resilience Fund. It addresses the two most urgent development needs facing the Caribbean: debt and vulnerability to climate change.

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

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

Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe

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

Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
United Nations development system reform

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

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

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

KEY OUTCOMES

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

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

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

STRENGTHENING COUNTRY-LEVEL SUPPORT

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

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

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

**Maintenance of International Peace and Security**

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

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

**SELECT MANDATES**
- Peacebuilding and sustaining peace, General Assembly resolution 72/276 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016)
- Restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar, General Assembly resolutions 72/199 and 73/262 C
- Comprehensive review of special political missions, General Assembly resolution 74/91
- Safety and security of peacekeepers, Security Council resolution 2518 (2020)

**SELECT ENTITIES**
- Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
- Department of Peace Operations
- Peacekeeping Missions, Political Missions and Offices
In Niger, conflicts between farmers and pastoralist were significantly reduced by empowering women and youth as peacebuilders in conflict-prone regions (Niger, 2019)

CONTEXT

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

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

KEY OBJECTIVES

Grounded in the principles of the Charter and the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the United Nations supports Member States through a wide range of activities in the area of international peace and security. Through its political, peacebuilding and peacekeeping engagements, the Organization assists in the prevention, mitigation, management and peaceful resolution of conflicts. The Organization also provides dedicated capacities to tackle violence against children, sexual violence in conflict, children and armed conflict, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and the prevention of genocide.
The location indicators on this map are intended to illustrate geographical areas of responsibility or mandates of peace operations. They do not necessarily show where the entities are based. This infographic does not show United Nations-supported sanctions panels and experts or New York-based special political missions.

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

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

Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

At the heart of our work remains diplomacy for peace. To this end, my special envoys and representatives have been deeply engaged over the past year to secure sustainable peace in 54 contexts, including Libya, Mali, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Supporting the transition in the Sudan has been a key priority, as have the peaceful referendum in Papua New Guinea, diffusing post-election tensions in Malawi and the response to the unfolding crisis in Burkina Faso. Our good offices in the Gambia were instrumental in encouraging consensus-building, while in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, my Personal Envoy helped to calm tensions and violence in the aftermath of the 2019 elections. In Colombia, the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia continues to support the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace. The world’s most complex issues are borderless. Addressing them requires cross-border approaches, for example through the Group of Five for the Sahel, as well as the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region. In the current Peacebuilding Fund strategy, cross-border and regional support has been made a priority, with the aim of allocating 20 per cent of the Fund’s portfolio to such efforts.

SUPPORTING MEDIATION EFFORTS

Provided mediation support through 116 deployments in 25 different contexts

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

Supported regional organizations, civil society and Member States

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

WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY

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

THE NUMBER OF FEMALE PEACEKEEPERS IS INCREASING

Women’s Participation in Mediation and Peace Processes

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

UNITED NATIONS GENDER ADVISERS

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

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

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

... across 22 Special Political Missions

INCREASING WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN MEDIATION AND PEACE PROCESSES

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

100% United Nations mediation support teams had women members

United Nations Gender Advisers

... engaged in providing gender expertise and technical support

... across 22 Special Political Missions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

**OUR PEACEKEEPING WORK**

- 120+ countries participate...
- in 13 United Nations peacekeeping missions
- with 95,000+ uniformed and civilian personnel
- including 3,900+ uniformed female military and 1,300+ uniformed female police personnel...
- to support peace and stability in 15+ countries

---

**WE HAVE REDUCED THE COST PER PEACEKEEPER BY 22%**

Expenditure per uniformed personnel, inflation adjusted*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cost per Uniformed Person (Thousands of Dollars)</th>
<th>Inflation Adjusted Cost per Uniformed Person (Thousands of Dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**FEWER PEACEKEEPERS DIED IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE IN 2019**

Number of peacekeeping fatalities

- 2010: 8
- 2019: 5

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

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

Protection of civilians
The year 2019 marked 20 years since the protection of civilians was added to the agenda of the Security Council and was first mandated in a United Nations peacekeeping operation, in Sierra Leone. Today, 95 per cent of all peacekeeping personnel serve in missions with protection mandates. In Mali and South Sudan, for example, our missions help to identify “hotspots” in communities at risk. In other contexts, such as the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and Mali, the missions are using community violence reduction approaches and surge teams.

### CLIMATE SECURITY

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

### TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS MANDATE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUR ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

We provided capacity development support to 60 Member States on electoral processes and institutions and conducted 70 needs assessment and advisory missions.

We also directly assisted in the conduct of 19 elections including in Afghanistan, Madagascar and Papua New Guinea and 30 Member States benefitted from regional electoral training courses and workshops organized jointly by the United Nations in partnership with regional organizations.

YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

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

Participants in the first regional dialogue on Youth and Peace and Security (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, June 2019)
Rule of law and security institutions

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

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

Security Council affairs

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

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

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

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

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

SELECT MANDATES
- Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa’s Integration and Development Agenda, General Assembly resolution 71/254
- A monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa’s development, General Assembly resolution 66/293
- Political declaration on Africa’s development needs, General Assembly resolution 63/1
- New Partnership for Africa’s Development, General Assembly resolution 73/235
- United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, General Assembly resolution 57/7
- Implementation of the recommendations on the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, General Assembly resolution 73/336
- Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change, General Assembly resolution 57/380

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

Local women prepare maize flour outside their village (Northern Burkina Faso, 24 May 2019)
Support for African priorities constitutes a significant portion of our work. Collectively, the United Nations system, including the Secretariat, assists 54 countries on the continent. Over 40 per cent of spending is delivered in Africa, and two out of every five staff work in the continent.

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

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

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

Bience Gawanas, former Special Adviser on Africa
AFRICA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- **ZERO HUNGER**
  - Prevalence of undernourishment

- **GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**
  - Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

- **QUALITY EDUCATION**
  - Children out of school (of primary-school age)

- **GENDER EQUALITY**
  - Proportion of contributing family workers who are women (modeled ILO estimate)

- **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**
  - Population using safely managed drinking water services, (of rural population)

- **AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**
  - Proportion of population with access to electricity

HARNESSING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF A YOUNG AND GROWING POPULATION IN AFRICA

Population by age and gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-10</td>
<td>35.8%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-99</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KEY OUTCOMES

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

The United Nations is supporting digital transformation in Senegal with payments made online and via electronic devices, including through mobile phones (Senegal, 8 December 2017)
Central African Republic: The United Nations and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) supported the African Union-led mediation process, which led to the conclusion and implementation of the February 2019 political agreement.

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

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

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

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

Aya Chebbi, African Union Special Envoy on Youth, addresses the Security Council meeting on mobilizing youth towards silencing the guns by 2020 under the topic “Peace and Security in Africa” (New York, 2 October 2019).
In May, we also co-hosted the 2020 Africa Dialogue Series, on the theme “COVID-19 and silencing the guns in Africa: challenges and opportunities”. The goal was to enhance global advocacy for the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 and Security Council resolution 2457 (2019), as well as my appeal for a global ceasefire.

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

As part of our work to strengthen the use of data and statistics, the United Nations supported Member States in adopting digitized approaches to census taking. In Kenya, a 2019 census was taken digitally, saving an estimated 506 days of work, as well as strengthening data quality. Other countries are learning from the experience of Kenya, and 27 Member States have undertaken assessments of civil registration and statistics systems.
Students from Public School 22 perform "We the Children" with Charlie Chan at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 20 November 2019)

Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

KEY PROGRAMMES

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

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$323M
$128M regular assessed, $2M peacekeeping assessed and $193M voluntary contributions

SELECT MANDATES

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

SELECT ENTITIES

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

CONTEXT

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

KEY OBJECTIVES

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

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

Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD IN 2019

Field presences + Headquarters 84 + 1 (2 locations)
Country/stand-alone offices/ human rights missions 17
Regional offices/centres 12
Human rights components of United Nations peace/political missions 12
Human rights advisers deployed under the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals 37
Other types of field presences 6

* Reference to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
** Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.
*** Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood to be in the context of General Assembly resolution 67/19.
**** G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger).

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

Support for international human rights mechanisms

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

CALL TO ACTION

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

EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

TREATY-BASED BODIES

1 Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
2 Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
3 Human Rights Committee
4 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
5 Committee against Torture
6 Committee on the Rights of the Child
7 Committee on Migrant Workers
8 Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

9 Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
10 Committee on Enforced Disappearances
11 Human Rights Council
12 Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council

SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

- 133 State Party reports reviewed by human rights treaty bodies in 2019
- 92 resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council
- 42 Member States reviewed for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations

- 6 new Human Rights Council mandates established, including 1 new expert mechanism on the right to development
- 44 thematic and 12 country-specific special procedures mandates
- 41 newly established and/or strengthened National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up

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

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

Peace and security

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

Non-discrimination

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

OUR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

- **35,997** victims of torture in 77 countries received rehabilitation support
- **8,594** victims of contemporary forms of slavery in 23 countries obtained assistance
- **12** human rights components in United Nations peace missions, including **524** staff
- **37** Human rights advisers deployed in United Nations country teams

OUR SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATE COOPERATION

- **39** treaty actions: 2 signatures; 19 ratifications; 18 accessions
- **57** Governments hosted **84** visits by special procedures mandates
- **133** State Party reports reviewed by the treaty bodies with 7 States Parties visited by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture
- **3,174** official documents submitted for meetings of human rights mechanisms, General Assembly and the United Nations Economic and Social Council

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>196</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States Parties to Optional Protocol to the Convention</th>
<th>States reported at least once</th>
<th>Civil society reports submitted from 2009 to 2019</th>
<th>Children who met with the Committee during its pre-sessional working group from 2008 to 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>1,592</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reports submitted by children from 2009 to 2019</th>
<th>States made 200+ pledges on 24 articles of the Convention to celebrate the anniversary</th>
<th>Child-friendly version of the Convention produced in 6 United Nations languages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

196 States reported at least once

1,592 Civil society reports submitted from 2009 to 2019

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

63 Reports submitted by children from 2009 to 2019

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

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


A child stands by the doors to the General Assembly Hall during the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 20 November 2019)
Participation
We continued our support for the International Decade for People of African Descent, notably through a fellowship programme. Since 2011, 83 fellows from 32 countries have been empowered through the programme and subsequently played instrumental roles in promoting the Decade in their countries.

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

ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION

Since its establishment in 1985, United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples has supported the participation of over 2,500 indigenous persons in United Nations human rights mechanisms.

- 15 national laws adopted to combat discrimination in all forms
- 270 companies expressed public support for the Standards of Conduct for Business in Tackling Discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans and Intersex People
- The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent sent 44 allegation letters and urgent appeals on behalf of over 30,200 victims

INCREASING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE

- 7.6M followers across United Nations Human Rights social media platforms
- 36,900+ unique visitors to the Universal Human Rights Index website
- 85,000+ publications and other print materials dispatched to 51 countries
- 4.89M visits to online publications
- 481 civil society side events organized during Human Rights Council sessions
Effective Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance

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

KEY PROGRAMMES

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

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$1.9B
$105M regular assessed (including Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR, UNRWA) and $1.8B voluntary contributions (including Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Central Emergency Response Fund and Country-based Pooled Funds)

SELECT MANDATES

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

SELECT ENTITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

KEY OUTCOMES

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUR SUPPORT TO COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56 countries affected and in need of humanitarian assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We helped coordinate 35 response plans, regional plans, and appeals…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… deployed gender and protection advisers to 21 humanitarian emergencies…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… and brought 570+ partners together…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… to help 117.4 M people in need…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>… and mobilized $18.1B in humanitarian assistance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three girls at a United Nations-supported settlement in Barsologho in the north of Burkina Faso (Barsologho, Burkina Faso, 21 May 2019)
UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN POOL FUND – 2020

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

In Southern Africa, for example, we predeployed emergency coordination experts, as well as resources from the Central Emergency Response Fund, to enable a quick life-saving assistance response to cyclones Idai and Kenneth. When Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas, the United Nations supported national actions to reduce suffering and save lives.
WITH 35 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANS AND APPEALS, THE UNITED NATIONS HELPED MOBILIZE $18.1B OF THE $29B NEEDED TO ASSIST 117.4M PEOPLE IN 56 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
In July 2019, heavy monsoon rains triggered widespread flooding in Bangladesh. An OCHA ROAP communications mission was used to capture the impact of CERF-funded projects for affected people and to hear their stories.

In total, the Central Emergency Response Fund disbursed $538.7 million to responses in 49 countries and territories, where people’s suffering was often out of sight of the world’s media. For example, following consecutive harvest failures, the Fund provided $45 million to scale up support for 1.8 million drought-affected people across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. In response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak, the Fund allocated $9.8 million to the in-country response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as $10.5 million to support preparedness and mitigation in Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda.
We also continue to engage policymakers in critical humanitarian issues. In May 2019, a high-level conference on ending sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises generated $363 million in pledges and critical political commitments. In October, I announced a High-level Panel on Internal Displacement for durable solutions and better support for the more than 50 million people and host communities affected. In November, we launched guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

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

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

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

**85 COUNTRIES REPORT NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES**

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

- Europe and Central Asia: 43
- Asia and the Pacific: 27
- Africa: 26
- Americas and the Caribbean: 19
- Arab States: 16

Europe and Central Asia
Asia and the Pacific
Africa
Americas and the Caribbean
Arab States

**OUR SUPPORT TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

- 4,087 government officials and disaster risk reduction stakeholders trained, of which 39% were women
- 4,311 cities participating in the Making Cities Resilient campaign
- 131 Member and Observer States using the new Sendai Framework Monitor

**131 COUNTRIES USE THE NEW SENDAI FRAMEWORK MONITOR**

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

Mami Mizutori, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction
Promotion of International Justice and Law

KEY PROGRAMMES

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

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$190M
$71M regular assessed, $3M peacekeeping assessed (2018/19), $98M other assessed and $18M voluntary contributions

SELECT MANDATES

• Charter of the United Nations
• Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework, General Assembly resolutions 23 (I) and 73/210

SELECT ENTITIES

• Office of Legal Affairs
• International Court of Justice
• Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar
• International, impartial and independent Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic
• Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
• Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone
• International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
Reading of the Advisory Opinion of the Court on Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 at the International Court of Justice (the Hague, Netherlands, 25 February 2019)

CONTEXT

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

KEY OUTCOMES

Progress was made on a legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. The next session, in 2021, will consider a revised draft text of an agreement.

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

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

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

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


In August 2019, a signing ceremony was held for the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (Singapore Convention on Mediation), which will facilitate international trade and commerce by enabling disputing parties to easily enforce and invoke settlement agreements across borders. Expected to enter into force in 2020, the Convention was signed by 46 countries on the day it opened for signature, the highest number of State signatories for any United Nations trade-related convention upon its opening.
Public entrance to United Nations Headquarters in New York, showing the sculpture “Non-Violence” or “The Knotted Gun” by noted Swedish sculptor Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd. The sculpture was a gift from the Government of Luxembourg to the United Nations. It is an oversized revolver with a knotted barrel, to symbolize peace and non-violence.

Disarmament

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

INDICATIVE RESOURCES
- $30M
  - $14M regular assessed and
  - $16M voluntary contributions

SELECT MANDATES
- Disarmament, General Assembly resolution S-10/2
- The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, General Assembly resolution 74/60
- Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, General Assembly resolution 74/65
- Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, General Assembly resolution 73/46
- Regional disarmament, General Assembly resolution 74/37
- Study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, General Assembly resolution 73/59
- Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation, General Assembly resolution 74/64
- The Arms Trade Treaty, General Assembly resolution 74/49

SELECT ENTITIES
- Office for Disarmament Affairs
CONTEXT

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

KEY OBJECTIVES

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

KEY OUTCOMES

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

In pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons, we supported the preparations for the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We have also continued to support disarmament work on lethal autonomous weapon systems, including the adoption of guiding principles and efforts to develop recommendations on the normative and operational framework.
The first session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction was held in 2019. The Conference adopted a political declaration, confirming the commitment of participating States to pursuing the establishment of such a zone in an open and inclusive manner.

EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS

- 66% of all deaths and injuries from explosive weapons were civilians
- Total reported deaths and injuries: 29,499
- Total civilian deaths and injuries: 19,407

**Populated areas**

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

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

Civilian deaths and injuries by weapon launch method

- 49% civilian harm caused by improvised explosive devices
- 29% civilian harm caused by airstrikes
- 20% civilian harm caused by ground-launched explosives

Under the auspices of the United Nations, progress was made on new technologies in the context of international security through two intergovernmental groups on this issue, which held consultations with regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**OUR DISARMAMENT WORK**

- 182 multilateral meetings and deliberations facilitated
- 46% rise in participation in the high-level segment of the Conference on Disarmament
- Since 2008 124 Member States contributing to United Nations conventional arms register
- 8 in-depth publications on disarmament
- 22 projects to support regional disarmament

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

“In disarmament, no single actor alone is able to achieve the outcomes required. We need to work together to achieve progress.”
On International Youth Day, we launched the Youth for Disarmament (#Youth4Disarmament) initiative to empower young people with knowledge and skills for change. As part of the initiative, 75 young people spent a day during the session of the First Committee with United Nations officials, diplomats and civil society representatives.

GENDER IN DISARMAMENT FORUMS

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

### 2019 General Assembly First Committee
- 33% of delegations are women
- 32% of heads of delegations are women
- 1 in 4 statements were delivered by women and 3% of the Rights to reply (of 67 total) were made by women

### 2019 Conference on Disarmament
- 36% of delegations are women
- 23% of heads of delegations are women

### 2019 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the NPT
- 30% of delegations are women
- 25% of heads of delegations are women

### 2019 Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of States Parties
- 36% of delegations are women
- 20% of heads of delegations are women

### 2019 Conference on Disarmament
- 36% of delegations are women
- 23% of heads of delegations are women
Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Combating Terrorism

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

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

SELECT MANDATES
• The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review, General Assembly resolution 72/284
• Strengthening the capability of the United Nations System to assist Member States in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, General Assembly resolution 71/293
• United Nations Convention against Corruption
• United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
• United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto
• International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem, General Assembly resolution 74/178
• Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, General Assembly resolution 74/177

SELECT ENTITIES
• United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
• Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT)

Farmers participating in an alternative development farming programme at the Vanmah Cooperative. They are processing their first harvest, which started late in 2019 (Houaphanh Province, Lao People’s Democratic Republic)
This woman from Nigeria is among the survivors who shared their stories at the exhibition “Surviving Terrorism: The Power of Resilience”. Having previously been taken captive by an insurgency group, she attends a support network for women who survived captivity, which has helped her gain peace and forgiveness. She now leads support groups for other women (New York, 21 August 2019).

**CONTEXT**

In 2019, transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism continued to pose major threats around the world. Cybercrime, trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling and environmental crimes are increasingly linked to State fragility, undermining the rule of law, and illicit drugs remain a risk to millions of people. Terrorists continue to wreak havoc in communities around the world, with rising concerns over the threat from new violent extremist groups that resort to terrorist tactics, especially against minority groups. The anxiety generated by the COVID-19 crisis has been used to spread hate, conspiracy theories and anti-government sentiments to incite attacks.

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

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

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

Ghada Waly, Executive Director, United NationsOffice on Drugs and Crime
KEY OUTCOMES

Crime prevention and countering transnational organized crime

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

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

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

Our support to crime prevention, drug control and anti-corruption

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

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

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

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

Countering the world drug problem

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

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

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

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

“Our counter-terrorism work

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

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

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

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

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

‘Only by investing in multilateralism can we build societies able to respond to the evolving threats posed by terrorism.’

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

**UNITED NATIONS COUNTERING TERRORIST TRAVEL PROGRAMME**

- **Travel information**
  - Collecting (single window)
  - Flight
  - Maritime
  - Biometrics
- **Passenger Information Unit**
  - Analyzing
  - Watchlists
  - Rules-based detection
  - Historical searches
- **Timely alerts**
  - Disseminating
  - National competent authorities
  - International competent authorities
  - International databases
  - Relevant authorities alerted

Advance passenger information (API) / passenger name record (PNR) data collected

Terrorists/serious criminals detected while protecting human rights

**UNITED NATIONS COUNTERING TERRORIST TRAVEL PROGRAMME**

*Joint programme between the United Nations and INTERPOL*
Effective Functioning of the Organization

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

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

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

SELECT ENTITIES
- Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
- Department of Global Communications
- Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
- Department of Operational Support
- Department of Security and Safety
- Office of Internal Oversight Services
- United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna
A visitor looks at an exhibition at United Nations Headquarters in New York City, which has been open to the general public since November 1952 (New York, 30 December 2019)

**KEY WORKSTREAMS**

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

**KEY OUTCOMES**

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

An inside look at one of the United Nations interpreters at work on the opening day of the General Assembly’s general debate (New York, 24 September 2019)
FEMALE REPRESENTATION IS INCREASING AMONG UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT STAFF

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT STAFF IN 2019

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

Note: Because of rounding, totals may not equal the sum of parts.
A newly designed delegation of authority management system has allowed me to directly empower heads of entities and align their responsibility for mandate implementation with the authority to manage resources. Delegation has been simplified and is now managed through an electronic portal.

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

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

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

Our Effective Functioning Efforts

We serviced 36,900+ intergovernmental meetings and conferences

We translated 245M+ words

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

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

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

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

Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Increased delegations of authority** to improve the effectiveness and accountability of delivery on the ground.
- **Streamlined annual budget** to shorten budgeting timelines, enhance planning and increase responsiveness to emerging demands by Member States.
- **Tiered advisory model** allowing Headquarters to better support empowered managers in the field.
- **Improved human resource management** through increasingly simple policies and processes.
- **Integrated supply chain management** enabling end-to-end planning and management.
- **Improved support to troop and police contributing countries (T/PCCs)** through a new dedicated Uniformed Capabilities Support Division.
- **Consolidated Information and Technology functions** to create a single IT platform.
- **Continuous feedback loops with managers** through the new Management Client Board, consisting of rotating internal client representatives.
- **Increased accountability and transparency** based on a new accountability framework for decision-making and enhanced analytics.

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

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

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

Elia Yi Armstrong, Director of the Ethics Office

Helin Argav, a United Nations tour guide from Germany, describes for visitors the posters depicting the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, created by Brazilian artist Otavio Roth (New York, 23 January 2019)
Implementation of the Environment Strategy for Peace Operations remains a key priority. It aims to achieve maximum efficiency in the use of natural resources, minimize risk to people and ecosystems, and leave a positive legacy.

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

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

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

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

Produced communications products in 108 languages

Provided communications support in 180 countries

57.8M visitors to the United Nations website

2.2M people engaged online with #ActNow climate campaign

2M users of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library

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

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

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

“We cannot achieve our ambitious goals unless we capture people’s attention and move them to care.”

Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications

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

These persisting liquidity challenges undermine the Organization’s ability to implement its mandates and carry out its approved programme of work. I continue to reiterate my request to Governments to meet their financial obligations to the United Nations and to approve my proposals for structural changes to place the Organization on a sound and sustainable financial footing.
The chart shows an indicative overview of United Nations expenditure in 2019 across its eight priorities. Standing at about $14.2 billion, spending increased slightly from 2018. The diagram also helps compare the expenditure of United Nations Secretariat entities with the approximately $51 billion of the entire United Nations System (including specialized agencies, funds and programmes). See chart on next page for all entities in the United Nations System.

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