



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S FIVE-YEAR ACTION AGENDA

25 JANUARY 2012

The currents of change are transforming our human and physical geography. Demographic transformation, the emergence of new centres of economic dynamism, accelerating inequality within and across nations, challenges to the existing social contract by a disillusioned, mobilized citizenry, technological and organizational transformation linking people directly as never before and climate change are all placing the foundations of our world and our global system under unprecedented stress. They are driving not just incremental but exponential change. They are deeply connected and increasingly complex. To ensure that our generation and future generations benefit from the opportunities presented by this changing reality and are able to mitigate increased risks, the global community will need to work together in unprecedented ways.

The United Nations is uniquely positioned to facilitate such action because it can provide integrated solutions across interconnected issues areas such as development, peace and security, human rights and humanitarian action. It can facilitate universal dialogue to arrive at joint solutions and mobilize new constituencies to join Governments

and international organizations to address global problems and share burdens, and it can legitimize new norms, structures and processes for international cooperation.

The next five years will be crucial for defining and agreeing on a common vision for the future, making path-shaping investments, broadening the base of constituencies working together and adopting a flexible but robust international architecture that can address the increasing stresses on our international system.

The UN can play a central role in strengthening international governance and establishing constructive patterns of collaboration to manage unprecedented threats and demands for change and to take advantage of new generational opportunities.

This agenda sets out a series of actions that I believe the global community must take over the next five years. This will require mobilizing all the human, financial and political resources available to the United Nations in order to catalyse the type of global collaboration that is possible, necessary and timely. It will also require our renewed commitment to mobilize the international support measures required to address the socio-economic development needs of countries in special situations.

This agenda describes specific measures regarding each of the five generational opportunities and two primary enablers that I laid out in my speech to the General Assembly this past September.

GENERATIONAL IMPERATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES

I. Sustainable development

1. Accelerate progress on the Millennium Development Goals:

- Keep the world solidly on track to meet poverty reduction targets focusing on inequalities, making particular efforts in countries with special needs and in those which have not achieved sufficient progress.
- Complete the final drive to eliminate by 2015 deaths from top killers: malaria; polio; new paediatric HIV infections; maternal and neonatal tetanus; and measles.
- Fully implement the global strategy on women and children's health to save tens of millions of lives, including through the provision of reproductive health services to meet unmet global needs.
- Unlock the potential of current and future generations by putting an end to the hidden tragedy of stunting of almost 200 million children by mobilizing financial, human and political resources commensurate with the challenge.
- Stimulate generational progress by catalysing a global movement to achieve quality, relevant and universal education for the twenty-first century.

2. Address climate change:

- Facilitate mitigation and adaptation action on the ground:
 - Promote climate financing by operationalizing the Green Climate Fund and set public and private funds on a trajectory to reach the agreed amount of \$100 billion by 2020. Ensure effective delivery of all fast-start financing. Deepen

understanding of the economic costs of climate change, and the corresponding financing needs, including through mapping regional and subregional vulnerability hotspots.

- Facilitate and execute agreements on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) to protect forests and sustain the livelihoods of the people who depend on them.
- By 2015, secure a comprehensive climate change agreement applicable to all parties with legal force under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Strengthen, defend and use climate science to make and promote evidence-based policy.

3. Forge consensus around a post-2015 sustainable development framework and implement it:

- Define a new generation of sustainable development goals building on the MDGs and outline a road map for consideration by Member States.
- Mobilize the UN system to support global, regional and national strategies to address the building blocks of sustainable development:
 - Energy: Mobilize a broad multi-stakeholder coalition under the Sustainable Energy for All initiative to achieve universal access to modern energy services, double the rate of improvement in energy efficiency and double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, all by 2030.

- Food and nutrition: Adopt globally agreed goals for food and nutrition security, mobilize all key stakeholders to provide support to smallholder farmers and food processors and bolster the resilience of communities and nations experiencing periodic food crises.
- Water: Launch and execute a UN-wide initiative to provide universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation globally.
- Oceans: Agree to a compact on oceans that will address overfishing and pollution by improving the governance of oceans and coastal habitats and by developing an institutional and legal framework for the protection of ocean biodiversity.
- Transport: Convene aviation, marine, ferry, rail, road and urban public transport providers, along with Governments and investors, to develop and take action on recommendations for more sustainable transport systems that can address rising congestion and pollution worldwide, particularly in urban areas.
- Work with Member States to make Antarctica a world nature preserve.

II. Prevention

1. **Support the development and implementation of national disaster risk reduction plans** that address growing challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, urbanization and population growth. Special emphasis should be placed on the least

developed and most vulnerable countries, including by providing a platform for South-South cooperation and facilitating the use of innovative methods and technologies.

2. Prioritize early warning and early action on preventing violent conflict by:

- Mapping, linking, collecting and integrating information from across the international system
- Supporting national capacities for facilitation and dialogue
- Ensuring that UN good offices, mediation, crisis response and peacebuilding services are easily and rapidly deployable

3. Advance a preventive approach to human rights by:

- Developing a policy framework that identifies basic elements needed to prevent human rights violations
- Establishing a preventive matrix that will chart progress and gaps in the use of a range of human rights instruments
- Advancing the responsibility to protect agenda

4. Build resilience to external economic and financial shocks by helping countries identify vulnerabilities rapidly and adopt adequate social safety nets and policies that promote job-led growth.

III. Building a safer and more secure world by innovating and building on our core business

1. Construct an enhanced partnership for peacekeeping, building on a renewed commitment to:

- Share the burden and strongly collaborate with regional organizations
- Ensure that peacekeepers have the necessary capacities and support to meet with increased speed and nimbleness the demands of increasingly complex operations
- Enhance the ability of the UN to provide civilian protection

2. Build a more global, accountable and robust humanitarian system:

- Enhancing collaboration among humanitarian organizations, particularly from the global South, at the local, national and regional levels, to strengthen community resilience and emergency response, and establishing a monitoring system to assess progress on the implementation of preparedness measures
- Building a shared international commitment to strengthen aid transparency and commitment, including by promoting a global declaration and agenda for humanitarian aid transparency and effectiveness
- Expanding support for pooled funding mechanisms, including the Central Emergency Response Fund, and identifying with stakeholders additional sources and methods of innovative financing for emergency preparedness

- Convening a world humanitarian summit to help share knowledge and establish common best practices among the wide spectrum of organizations involved in humanitarian action
3. **Revitalizing the global disarmament and non-proliferation agenda** in the field of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional arms, and strengthening the role of the UN in dealing with related emerging issues, including nuclear security and safety and arms trade, as well as outstanding regional issues.
 4. **Enhance coherence and scale up counter-terrorism efforts** to better support Member States in their implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and their own national counter-terrorism plans. This should include consideration by relevant intergovernmental bodies of creating a single UN counter-terrorism coordinator.
 5. **Address the heightened threat of organized crime, piracy and drug trafficking** by mobilizing collective action and developing new tools and comprehensive regional and global strategies. This will require integrating rule of law, public health and human rights responses.

IV. Supporting nations in transition

- 1. Develop best practices and scale up UN capacity and support in key areas** of comparative advantage, including peacebuilding, human rights, the rule of law, electoral assistance, national reconciliation, dispute resolution, anti-corruption measures, constitution-making and power-sharing arrangements and democratic practices.
- 2. Support “transition compacts”** with agreed strategic objectives and mutual accountability in fragile and conflict environments.
- 3. Advocate for and establish an age of accountability** by combating impunity for serious international crimes through strengthening the international criminal justice system, supported and enhanced by capacity-building measures to strengthen national judiciaries.
- 4. Deepen strategic and operational collaboration** with international and regional organizations, including international financial institutions and regional development banks, and other stakeholders.

V. Working with and for women and young people

1. **Deepen the UN campaign to end violence against women** by enhancing support for countries to adopt legislation that criminalizes violence against women and provides reparations and remedies to victims, provide women with access to justice and pursue and prosecute perpetrators of violence against women.
2. **Promote women's political participation worldwide** by encouraging countries to adopt measures that guarantee women's equal access to political leadership, managing elections to promote women's engagement and building the capacity of women to be effective leaders. Place a special focus on the Secretary-General's seven-point action plan on women's participation in peacebuilding.
3. **Develop an action agenda for ensuring the full participation of women in social and economic recovery** through a multi-stakeholder partnership with government, the private sector and civil society. This should include recommendations on inheritance laws, wages, childcare, work-sharing and taxes.
4. **Address the needs of the largest generation of young people the world has ever known** by deepening the youth focus of existing programmes on employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, citizenship and protection of rights, and education, including on reproductive health. To help advance this agenda, the UN

system will develop and implement an action plan, create a youth volunteer programme under the umbrella of the UN Volunteers and appoint a new Special Adviser for Youth.

ENABLERS

I. Harnessing the full power of partnership across the range of UN activities

1. **Scale up UN capacity to engage in transformative multi-stakeholder partnerships** with the private sector, civil society, philanthropists and academia across a broader range of issue areas by creating a new UN Partnership Facility, which will catalyse commitments and promote accountability.
2. **Consolidate functions to create a coherent capacity for partnering consisting of the Global Compact and the UN Partnership Facility** and coordinate system-wide partnership efforts.
3. **Enhance UN capacity to engage with traditional and new constituencies** using the full range of outreach tools, including social media.

II. Strengthening the United Nations

1. **Ensure the more effective delivery of mandates and do more within recognized resource constraints through innovation and change management initiatives,** including by facilitating a review of the current budget process.
2. **Build a modern workforce supported by a global Secretariat** that shares financial, human and physical resources, knowledge and information technology more effectively, including through the robust implementation of the Umoja initiative.
3. **Make the United Nations more open, flexible and accountable,** including by adopting a results-based planning, accountability and management system, streamlining budgeting and implementing a system-wide risk management approach.
4. **Launch a second generation of "Delivering as one",** which will focus on managing and monitoring for results, ensuring increased accountability and improved outcomes.
5. **Enhance the safety and security of UN staff** by mainstreaming security resource and personnel decisions through all relevant planning and budget processes, increasing security threat analysis capabilities at more UN field locations and improving national and international staff security training to match the threat environments in which the UN operates. The UN must also increase its support for staff affected by trauma.

