



UNITED NATIONS

Reimagine the UN Together Dialogues



COVID-19 RESPONSE



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who are these dialogues open to?

All colleagues across the UN system. Any colleague is welcome to join the conversation, regardless of grade, location or contractual status.

Q: Why is this different from other initiatives?

This initiative is different in that this is a staff-at-large conversation. It is a listening exercise and looking at how we can collectively build on what we have learned from the COVID-19 experience in our workplaces, to help shape and reimagine the UN, together. Given the fact that the UN staff-at-large is heterogeneous and contains an array of different perspectives and background, it is expected the Dialogues will be lively, rich and authentic!

Q: The UN is always talking. It is a talk shop. Do we really need more discussions?

The UN is much more than a talk shop. It feeds, shelters and protects millions of people every day. It protects people in some of the most challenging situations in the world. It vaccinates almost half the world's children. It supports the creation of international laws and norms, helps to prevent conflict and build peace, provides practical support and advice to governments on a host of issues – from tackling organized crime to empowering people with disabilities. And its 'talk shop' functions are essential – it remains the primary international forum for states to come together, to resolve their differences peacefully and to adopt shared solutions to the challenges we face. We need to discuss how we can move from where we are – and are headed – to where we need to be. The costs of not talking, not communicating are too high. We are also at a moment when trust – between and within many countries, and internally, within our workplace – is fraying. We need to listen better to those who feel left out and left behind. We need to foster greater understanding and empathy, greater knowledge about the risks we face, and greater collaboration on solutions. The Dialogues present an opportunity to do that.

Q. What will happen with the findings? Will there be outcomes and actions?

The dialogue feedback, including the ideas and solutions generated, will be collated and developed into a report. This will be shared with and disseminated to key groups, initiatives and mechanisms involved in the ongoing discussions about the post-COVID UN response, next Phase planning, and the future of work and new ways of working for United Nations organizations (both at Secretariat and system levels). This will include presentations to senior UN officials and decision makers in EOSG, DMSPC and DOS.

Q. The areas outlined for dialogues focus on specific issues – agility, collaboration, staff health and well-being. What about all the issues that are not included?

The areas highlighted are those that most clearly resonated from the UN system wide pulse check survey and other surveys and questionnaires conducted by Staff Unions and other groups. This list is not however intended to be exclusive or prescriptive. Rather, it is to help guide and inform participants and dialogue organizers. The dialogues are an opportunity for staff to actively join the conversation on how we can collectively reimagine the UN in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Following this framework, conversations may reflect a variety of issues, concerns and ideas.

Q: How does this initiative relate to others taking place on the issue of the post-COVID response and the future of the UN workplace?

The Reimagine the UN Together dialogues seek to complement and enrich other initiatives and discussions taking place and providing a focused avenue for the collection of staff voices. They are intended to encourage and influence all other initiatives to listen to the variety of voices and ideas coming from staff about our workplaces.

Reach out to innovate@un.org to get the conversation started!