POLICY BRIEF 1: FUTURE GENERATIONS

Meeting needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs

PURPOSE

Fulfill our long-standing commitment to meet the demands of the present in a way that safeguards the interests of future generations, by ensuring that we take decisions with the long-term in mind.

BACKGROUND

Choices we make today will have consequences for ten billion people yet to be born this century, most in low and middle-income countries, whom we have a duty to protect from foreseeable harms. We have unprecedented capacity to understand the intergenerational impact of our decisions, but despite 75 years of commitments to safeguarding the future, no mechanism exists at the global level to put that understanding at the service of decision-makers. There is a growing body of practice at national level on which to build, as well as a history across many traditions and cultures. In an era of existential threats, the time has come to deliver on our commitment.

ACCELERATING THE SDGs

Meeting the needs of those alive today is a precondition for securing a better future. The intergenerational transmission of poverty and inequality, including gender inequality, is well documented. The more equitably we distribute resources and opportunity today, the better the outcomes for future generations. The best solutions to today's problems are those that take a longer-term perspective.

> "What we need to do for future generations is also what we need to do for ourselves, which is to take challenges and opportunities that lie in the future far more seriously… both present and future generations will benefit from stronger global systems that put sustainable development at their centre."

RECOMMENDATIONS

The brief includes ideas for Member States and actions that the Secretary-General will take.

An Envoy For Future Generations

The Secretary-General will appoint a Special Envoy to represent and advocate for future generations; raise awareness of intergenerational impacts of decisions; and facilitate collaboration. The Envoy could report to the General Assembly.

Foresight, Data And Science

Better use of foresight, data, and science helps us evaluate the future impact of our actions.

Declaration On Future Generations

Member States could adopt a declaration, as part of the Pact for the Future, confirming and updating their existing collective commitment, adding practical detail to make this a reality and enumerating the issues that most affect future generations and where their interests should be consciously safeguarded.

An Intergovernmental Forum

A General Assembly commission on future generations could provide a locus for debate and collaboration by Member States, and a venue to receive assessments from the Special Envoy on the intergenerational impacts of decisions.

READ FULL BRIEF

https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs

United Nations

Summit of the Future
Our Common Agenda

POLICY BRIEF 2: EMERGENCY PLATFORM

International response to complex global shocks has to be stronger, multi-sectoral and flexible

PURPOSE

Establish a more structured, predictable and coordinated multilateral response to crises of significant scale, severity and reach.

BACKGROUND

Recent complex global shocks have taken on new and worrying characteristics – they are more interconnected, and dangerous, with more global impacts. In the future, such shocks might include pandemic risks, major climatic or biological events, incidents in cyberspace or outer space, or other risks as yet unknown.

Existing crisis response mechanisms are too fragmented and sectoral to enable us to respond coherently and effectively to global shocks with a simultaneous impact on multiple sectors. We must learn from recent shocks, and take a different approach – a multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder approach that can enable us to better respond to future complex global shocks.

The types of complex global shocks we might experience in the future are uncertain. We therefore need a flexible mechanism. An emergency platform would not be a standing entity or institution but a set of protocols that could be activated when needed.

ACCELERATING THE SDGs

Complex global shocks hit the poorest and most vulnerable hardest. Such events throw the SDGs further off track, with women and girls disproportionately affected. COVID-19 erased four years of progress against poverty. A more timely, predictable global response could mitigate negative impacts on the SDGs.

"Enhanced international cooperation is the only way we can adequately respond to complex global shocks, and the UN is the only organization with the reach and legitimacy to convene at the highest level and galvanize global action."

RECOMMENDATIONS

The brief includes ideas for Member States action.

Standing Convening Authority

Member States can provide the Secretary-General and UN system with standing authority to convene and operationalize an Emergency Platform in the event of complex global shocks of significant scale, severity, and reach.

Coordination and Accountability

Participating entities to commit to cooperate with and report to the Secretary-General for a whole-of-system response while remaining fully accountable to respective governing bodies for delivery of their individual mandates.

Full Use of Existing Mechanisms

The Emergency Platform would not displace or duplicate existing mechanisms but focus on high-level convening and advocacy, for a finite period, bringing together actors with an ability to contribute meaningfully to the global response.

Objectives of an Emergency Platform

1. High-level political leadership
2. Equity and solidarity
3. Coherent multilateral response
4. Inclusive and networked multilateralism
5. Advocacy and strategic communications
6. Securing commitments and accountability

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https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs

POLICY BRIEF 3: MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Young people are key to sustainable breakthrough and have most to lose if breakdown persists

PURPOSE

More meaningful youth participation will make decision-making more effective, innovative and long-term, engendering greater trust in public institutions and leading to better outcomes for all.

BACKGROUND

The change we need will not be possible without the buy-in and participation of 1.9 billion young people, most from developing countries. They have immense potential to offer solutions to contemporary problems. The General Assembly has long called for their full and effective participation in the life of society and in decision-making, and for the UN to create mechanisms for their representation in all UN processes. Steps have been taken, but these are not yet sufficient or systematic. Without strong and targeted actions to address gaps and shortcomings, youth engagement will remain of mixed quality, thus limiting the capacity of governments, public institutions and multilateral institutions – including the UN – to incorporate, understand and respond to youth concerns. The brief offers eleven guiding principles to ensure youth engagement is effective and meaningful.

ACCELERATING THE SDGs

Youth are the "torchbearers" of the Sustainable Development Goals. Children and youth account for two thirds of the world's poor and suffer disproportionately from the goals being off track. Youth have a vested interest in the realization of the SDGs and are playing an integral role as partners and participants in their implementation.

> "Young people have become a driving force for societal change through social mobilization - pushing for climate action, seeking racial justice, promoting gender equality and demanding dignity for all."

RECOMMENDATIONS

The brief offers guiding principles and ideas for Member States action in three key areas.

Decision-making At All Levels

Member States can commit to meaningful youth engagement in decision-making at local, national, regional and global levels by endorsing a global standard for meaningful youth engagement based on principles outlined in the brief, establishing a youth consultative body in every country, and creating a framework to track progress, including through regular reporting to the General Assembly.

Improved Engagement At The UN

Member States could ensure that meaningful youth participation is the norm in all UN intergovernmental processes through: arrangements for engagement across the work of the General Assembly; formal status and a stronger mandate for the ECOSOC Youth Forum; stronger youth engagement in the work of the Security Council; wider participation in the UN Youth Delegate Programme across a broader range of UN bodies; and systematic resourcing with a focus on boosting participation of young people from developing countries.

UN Youth Townhall

Member States could support the establishment of a standing UN Youth Townhall to provide a dedicated forum for young people to better prepare for participation in decision-making at the UN and to boost the diversity of youth voices informing the work of the United Nations.

READ FULL BRIEF

https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs

POLICY BRIEF 4: BEYOND GDP

Comprehensive metrics to ensure policymaking is guided by the needs of people and planet

PURPOSE

Sets out a process to develop metrics that measure progress and allocate resources on the basis of a fuller picture of what is needed to sustain life and human well-being, rather than focusing only on GDP.

BACKGROUND

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a vital, widely used yardstick for economic growth but an insufficient measure of true sustainable development as it overlooks environmental and social concerns such as inequality, resilience, sustainability, and unpaid care work; perversely values negative externalities such as resource depletion, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss; and insufficiently captures new phenomena such as digitalization and data development. It has long been recognized that we need more accurate, comprehensive metrics to support national and international policymaking, in particular for development financing. The brief suggests steps to go beyond GDP, building on related initiatives and capitalizing on the upcoming revision of the System of National Accounts.
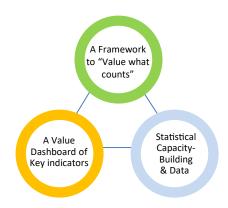
ACCELERATING THE SDGs

The SDGs were consciously crafted to address the shortcomings of GDP. Target 17.19 calls for complementary measurements and support to capacity-building in developing countries. Going beyond GDP can fundamentally change the way governments make policies and spur investments to accelerate achievement of the SDGs, leaving no one behind.

> "We need a paradigm shift in what we measure as progress, so that we can capture data on the activities and outcomes that a society truly values and then use the data to better inform our policy and financial decisions."

RECOMMENDATIONS

The brief includes three potential actions:

A Framework To 'Value What Counts'

Member States can confirm a commitment to develop a conceptual framework by the time of the 2024 Summit of the Future to "value what counts", anchored in the 2030 Agenda. The framework should be designed to achieve three main outcomes: 1) well-being and agency, 2) respect for life and the planet, and 3) reduced inequalities and greater solidarity. It should be based on three elements: 1) participatory and stronger institutions, 2) innovative and ethical economies, and 3) resilience building.

A Value Dashboard Of Key Indicators

Member States can agree to the establishment of an independent high-level expert group to develop a value dashboard of key indicators (10–20) and to present the result for Member States consideration by March 2024, in preparation for the Summit of the Future.

Statistical Capacity-building & Data

Resources are needed to strengthen statistical capacity building and data collection, in particular at the national level, to support efforts to go beyond GDP and to fill gaps in reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

READ FULL BRIEF

https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs

POLICY BRIEF 5: GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT

An open, free, secure and human-centred digital future anchored in human rights, enabling the SDGs

PURPOSE

Sets out principles, objectives and actions of a Global Digital Compact, for adoption at the Summit of the Future, with a view to harnessing the benefits of digital technologies for all and putting in place guardrails and governance to prevent their misuse.

BACKGROUND

Our digital world is one of stark divides: a persistent **digital access divide** across regions, gender, income, language, and age groups; growing **data divides** that disadvantage developing countries; and an **innovation divide** resulting in highly unequal wealth generation, dominated by a handful of big platforms and states. Behind these divides is a massive governance gap. New technologies lack basic guardrails, and public administrations are not well equipped to support the rapid digital transformations of society. These developments have brought unparalleled opportunities but also pose enormous risks, necessitating global, multi-stakeholder cooperation. It is especially urgent to close the digital divide, to avoid fracture of the global digital community, make the online space open and safe for everyone, and govern new technologies and Artificial Intelligence for all of humanity.

ACCELERATING THE SDGs

Digital technologies have proven potential to advance progress across the SDGs. We need to harness data at scale, make them globally accessible and use them to inform actions across all the SDGs. For example, adopting global environmental data standards will be critical for enabling action to address the triple planetary crisis.

"We urgently need to find ways to harness digital technologies for the benefit of all. We need national and international governance arrangements that prevent their misuse. We must shape innovation in ways that reflect universal human values and protect the planet."

READ FULL BRIEF

https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs

RECOMMENDATIONS

Digital Connectivity and Capacity

Targets, policies, and tracking for affordable, meaningful, universal connectivity; with financing for hard-to-reach areas; education for digital literacy and skills; a capacity development network; among others.

Digital Cooperation for the SDGs

Scaled-up investment in safe and inclusive digital public infrastructure with support of digital transformation, data, and innovation across SDGs.

Upholding Human Rights

Steps to ensure legal commitments are applied online, including by establishing a digital human rights advisory mechanism to provide guidance.

Inclusive, Open, Secure And Shared Internet

Commitment to safeguard the free and shared nature of the internet, to avoid blanket internet shutdowns, and to refrain from damaging or destroying critical infrastructure, among others.

Digital Trust And Security

Address harmful online content through common standards, guidelines, oversight and industry codes of conduct, while respecting freedom of expression.

Data Protection And Empowerment

Give people the ability to manage their own data, through common definitions and standards; legal protections for personal data and privacy; a declaration on data rights and principles for data governance; among others.

AI And Emerging Technologies

Ensure AI and other emerging technologies are safe, under human control and governed fairly and transparently. A High-level Advisory Body on AI will be urgently convened to offer recommendations by the end of the year on governance that will promote the ethical use of AI that is aligned with human values and human rights.

Digital Commons/Implementation

Sustained multi-stakeholder cooperation through existing digital forums and an annual Digital Cooperation Forum that supports exchange, shared learning and aligned action across them.

POLICY BRIEF 6: INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE

A fairer, more effective financial system that supports sustainable development and climate action

PURPOSE

To recraft the international financial architecture to support implementation of the SDGs, rebuild trust, and prevent further fragmentation of international financial and economic relations. For this, we need ambitious reform, starting with more inclusive, representative and, ultimately, more effective global economic governance.

BACKGROUND

The international financial architecture, crafted in 1945 after World War Two, is undergoing a stress test of historic proportions – and it is failing. Plagued with inequities, gaps, and inefficiencies, it has been unable to support mobilization of stable and long-term financing at scale for climate and SDG investments; does not provide equal voice nor opportunity for all countries; and has generated a great finance divide between developed and developing countries.

ACCELERATING THE SDGs

A stable international system is a foundation of national economic growth and sustainable development. Financial shocks and crises set back progress on social goals, increasing poverty and hunger. High debt servicing can lower spending on health, education, social protection and other social priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The brief proposes action in six areas:

Global Economic Governance

The international financial architecture should reflect the realities and needs of today in terms of structure and capital.

The **boards of the international financial institutions** should: 1) Make voting rights and decision-making rules in international financial institutions more democratic, e.g., through a double majority rule; 2) Separate access to resources from ability to pay, and instead determine access by both income and vulnerability.
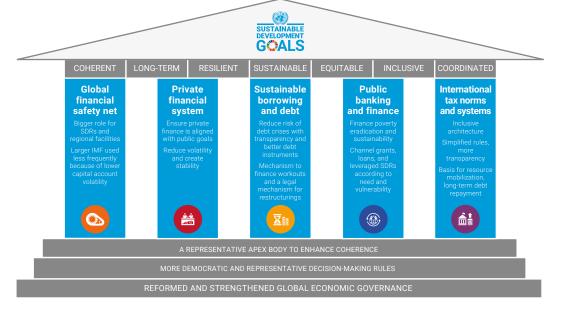
Member States should: Set up a coordinating body on economic decisions that works towards a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient global economy; this could be in the form of a Biennial Summit.

Debt Relief And Sovereign Borrowing

Creditors and debtors should: 1) Increase transparency; 2) Improve debt contracts (including state contingent clauses, such as hurricane and other clauses); 3) Update principles of responsible borrowing and lending to reflect the changing global environment.

The IMF and credit rating agencies should: 1) Improve debt sustainability analysis and credit ratings, distinguishing between liquidity and solvency crises, taking long-term risks and investments in the SDGs and resilience into account, and considering SDG needs.

COHERENT	LONG-TERM	RESILIENT	SUSTAINABLE	EQUITABLE	INCLUSIVE	COORDINATED
Global financial safety net	**Private financial system**	**Sustainable borrowing and debt**	**Public banking and finance**		**International tax norms and systems**	
Bigger role for SDRs and regional facilities	Ensure private finance is aligned with public goals	Reduce risk of debt crises with transparency and better debt instruments	Finance poverty eradication and sustainability		Inclusive architecture	
Larger IMF used less frequently because of lower capital account volatility	Reduce volatility and create stability	Mechanism to finance workouts and a legal mechanism for restructurings	Channel grants, loans, and leveraged SDRs according to need and vulnerability		Simplified rules, more transparency	
					Basis for resource mobilization, long-term debt repayment	

A REPRESENTATIVE APEX BODY TO ENHANCE COHERENCE

MORE DEMOCRATIC AND REPRESENTATIVE DECISION-MAKING RULES

REFORMED AND STRENGTHENED GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

Donors should: Scale up debt management capacity support.

To make restructurings more effective and fairer, **Member States** should implement a two-step solution to support both low-income and vulnerable middle-income countries in need: 1) Create a debt workout mechanism to address slow progress in the Common Framework, tasking debt treatment to an expert body and facilitating comparable treatment; 2) In the medium-term, establish a sovereign debt authority, independent of creditor and debtor interest to anchor an efficient insolvency system.

International Public Finance

MDBs shareholders should: 1) Scale up MDB lending to 1% of global GDP ($500 billion–$1 trillion a year), supported by an increase in paid-in capital, more efficient use of their balance sheets, and SDR re-channelling; 2) Improve MDB borrowing terms, by offering ultra-long affordable financing, with state-contingent repayment clauses, and increase local currency lending; 3) Fully align MDB business models with the SDGs; phase out fossil fuel finance; 4) Scale up climate finance as additional to development finance, with a new accounting framework to better measure additionality; 5) Increase concessional resources, including IDA contributions, and consider permanent international funding mechanisms (e.g., levies on shipping); systematically consider vulnerability in all its dimensions in allocation criteria, going beyond GDP; 6) Develop new frameworks for when and how to scale up leveraging private finance to maximize sustainable development impact; 7) More effectively use the system of development banks to increase lending and impact. For example, set up a joint insurance or reinsurance fund to manage risk, such as currency risk, more effectively across the system.

Global Financial Safety Net

The IMF Board of Governors should: 1) Revamp SDRs so they are issued more automatically and counter-cyclically in response to shocks; 2) Allocate SDRs based on need and vulnerabilities to target countries that truly need liquidity (this could be through an ex-ante agreement).

The IMF Executive Board should: 1) Make IMF lending more flexible, and end surcharges; 2) Set up a multilateral currency swap facility.

To address volatility in capital markets, **major economies** should: 1) Strengthen macroeconomic coordination, e.g., by elevating to the meeting of G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors; 2) Play an active role in reducing volatility of capital outflows when they are the source.

All countries should: Have access to the full capital account management toolbox.

Financial System Rules

Policymakers and regulators should: 1) Reset regulation to address financial stability and integrity risks from both bank and non-bank financial institutions; 2) Overcome excessive short-termism embedded in regulations and tax incentives; 3) Reduce greenwashing by strengthening and mandating company sustainability disclosure; 4) Update market regulations, standards and practices to place the SDGs, and climate, at the heart of markets.

Market participants should: 1) Create long-term indices and credit ratings that reflect the SDGs and resilience; 2) Address excessive short-termism embedded in compensation and other incentives.

Policymakers should: 1) Require clear SDG-oriented transition plans from each institution within the IFA; 2) Develop policies to establish links between profitability and sustainability, so that externalities are appropriately reflected in prices; 3) Fully integrate financial integrity into regulatory systems, including global standards for professionals.

Global Tax Architecture

Member States should: 1) Explore options to make international tax cooperation fully inclusive and more effective, including the possibility of developing an international tax cooperation framework or instrument at the United Nations; 2) Simplify global tax rules (such as through digital services taxes and withholding taxes) and adopt a higher global minimum corporate income tax rate, which can benefit under-resourced developing country tax administrations; 3) Create global tax transparency and information sharing frameworks that benefit all countries.

READ FULL BRIEF

https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs

POLICY BRIEF 7: OUTER SPACE

Maximizing benefits and minimizing risks of outer space activities

PURPOSE

Governance proposals so we can equitably benefit from increases in access to and operations in outer space, for achieving of the SDGs, while addressing potential risks.

BACKGROUND

Major developments in outer space can be observed including in the growing number of objects in orbit, the level of commercial activity, and the intentions of public and private actors to resume deep space exploration. With technological advances and lowering costs, these trends will accelerate and pose both risks and opportunities, including in security, safety, and sustainability. Specific challenges include uncoordinated space traffic, accumulating space debris, questions arising from possible resource exploitation, and the potential for military confrontation. Existing space governance arrangements cover important aspects of sustainability and security respectively, but there are areas for development including broader stakeholder participation.

ACCELERATING THE SDGs

Space activities are essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals so much so that nearly 40% of their targets leverage Earth observation and global navigation satellite systems. Satellite technology and applications enable scientists for example to monitor weather patterns, temperature fluctuations, and coastal changes, informing energy and climate policy as well as support disaster management efforts, facilitate increased connectivity and provide global navigation systems. Space exploration, science and technology provide indispensable tools for long-term development solutions and can effectively promote the development of all countries and regions of the world.

SPACE-BASED CHALLENGES

Space Traffic Coordination

Space Debris

Space Resource Exploration

Conflict Prevention

READ FULL BRIEF

https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs

RECOMMENDATIONS

The brief includes ideas from the Secretary-General for Member States consideration and action.

Space Sustainability

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) should develop a unified regime OR separate mutually reinforcing frameworks for space sustainability to foster transparency, confidence-building and the interoperability of space operations in Earth orbit and beyond. Issues to cover include space traffic management, space debris removal, and space resource activities. COPUOS should set up an international mechanism to coordinate implementation, with a platform for broader stakeholder inclusion.

Space Security

Member States should develop international norms, rules, and principles to address threats to space systems and, on that basis, launch negotiations on a treaty to ensure peace, security, and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Inclusive Approaches to Governance

Member States should consider how to facilitate the participation of commercial actors, civil society representatives, and others in the work of outer space-related intergovernmental processes. UN bodies should ensure equal participation of women.

Better UN System Collaboration

UN entities should increase collaboration, including through UN-Space, to better coordinate data-sharing, building system capacity and cooperating on the procurement of space-based information, to accelerate the application of space assets to achieve the SDGs. UN entities should advance the equal participation of women in the aerospace sector.

> "Over the past decade, we have witnessed fundamental changes in outer space. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that effective governance is in place to propel innovation and mitigate risks...."

POLICY BRIEF 8: INFORMATION INTEGRITY ON DIGITAL PLATFORMS

Guiding action to strengthen information integrity on digital platforms

PURPOSE

The brief outlines how threats to information integrity have an impact on global, national and local issues, and lays out potential principles for a code of conduct to help guide Member States, the digital platforms and other stakeholders to make the digital space more inclusive and safe for all.

BACKGROUND

Digital platforms are crucial tools that have transformed social, cultural and political interactions everywhere. Across the world, they connect concerned global citizens on issues that matter. Platforms help the United Nations to inform and engage people directly as we strive for peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet. Yet these same platforms have also exposed a darker side of the digital ecosystem. They have enabled the rapid spread of lies and hate, causing real harm on a global scale. Optimism over the potential of social media to connect and engage people has been dampened as mis- and disinformation and hate speech have surged from the margins of digital space into the mainstream.

ACCELERATING THE SDGs

Threats to information integrity can have a negative impact on the achievement of the SDGs. The impacts of online hate speech, mis- and disinformation can be seen across the world, including in the areas of health, climate action, democracy and elections, gender equality, security, and humanitarian response. Strengthening information integrity on digital platforms is an urgent priority for the international community, which will boost efforts to achieve a sustainable future and leave no one behind.

> "The core ideas outlined in this policy brief demonstrate that the path towards stronger information integrity needs to be human rights-based, multi-stakeholder, and multi-dimensional."

RECOMMENDATIONS

Code of Conduct

The UN Secretariat will undertake broad multi-stakeholder consultations to develop a Code of Conduct for Information Integrity on Digital Platforms, including mechanisms for follow-up and implementation. It is anticipated that the Code will build on the principles of: commitment to information integrity; respect for human rights; support for independent media; increased transparency; user empowerment; strengthened research and data access; scaled up responses; stronger disincentives; and enhanced trust and safety. Member States and other stakeholders will be invited to implement the Code on a voluntary basis.

In-depth Studies

To support and inform the Code, in-depth studies could enhance understanding of information integrity globally, especially in under-researched parts of the world.

Dedicated Capacity in UN Secretariat

The Secretary-General will establish dedicated capacity in the UN Secretariat to scale up the response to online mis- and disinformation and hate speech affecting UN mandate delivery and substantive priorities; to develop tailored communication strategies to anticipate and/or rapidly address threats before they spiral into online and offline harm; to support capacity-building of UN staff and Member States; and to support efforts of Member States, digital platforms and other stakeholders to adhere to and implement the Code.

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https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs

POLICY BRIEF 9: A NEW AGENDA FOR PEACE

Collective action to promote peace and prevent conflicts in traditional and potential new domains

PURPOSE

Recognizing that the world is in transition to a new global order, this brief addresses how Member States can manage competition, find pragmatic solutions to global problems, and make the collective security system more effective. It suggests twelve actions to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and to strengthen the collective security system.

BACKGROUND

Global power dynamics have become increasingly fragmented as new poles of influence emerge, new economic blocs form, and axes of contestation are redefined. Nuclear conflict is once again part of the public discourse. We face a series of interlocking threats: a changing conflict landscape; persistent violence; the potential weaponization of new technologies; rising inequalities; shrinking civic space; and the climate emergency. A significant normative challenge is underway, with violations of the UN Charter and a pushback against human rights, in particular women's rights. International cooperation is essential to effectively address these threats. The policy brief puts forward a unifying vision for multilateralism grounded on the need for Member States to move beyond current divisions by recognizing their shared interests.

Principles For Effective Collective Security

Trust: International cooperation depends above all on trust – the expectation that States will abide by their commitments. Confidence-building mechanisms can reinforce trust. They range from crisis management hotlines to the monitoring of ceasefires or bilateral arms control agreements with verification provisions, as well as regional organizations and frameworks.

Solidarity: The community of nations has a collective duty to support those in need. Solidarity is not charity, but a recognition that past and current injustices must be redressed – from the legacies of colonialism and slavery to the deeply unjust global financial architecture and anachronistic peace and security structures of today.

Universality: Two foundational principles of the UN are the sovereign equality of all its Members and the fulfilment by all States of their obligations under the Charter. This means taking the prevention of conflict and violence as a universal obligation, applicable to all countries, without selectivity or double standards.

Multilateralism For A World In Transition

Member States must find ways to act collectively and cooperatively through such foundational steps as: respect for the UN Charter and international law; diplomacy for peace; prevention as a priority; rebuilding mechanisms to manage disputes; enhancing regional frameworks; placing national action at the centre; people-centred approaches; eradicating all forms of violence; prioritizing comprehensive approaches over securitized responses; dismantling patriarchal power structures; ensuring young people have a say in their future; bolstering financing for peace; strengthening the toolbox for networked multilateralism; and ensuring an effective, impartial UN Secretariat.

ACCELERATING THE SDGs

Full achievement of Agenda 2030 is critical, both in its own right and because sustainable development is ultimately the only way to address the interlinked, multidimensional drivers of violence and insecurity. Prevention and sustainable development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Only 12 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goals on track. People must be at the centre of our efforts to attain development, overcome poverty and reduce the risks of conflict and violence arising from inequality, marginalization and exclusion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Addressing Strategic Risks And Geopolitical Divisions

1: Eliminate nuclear weapons while strengthening norms and mechanisms against their spread and use.
2: Boost preventive diplomacy to improve geopolitical and geoeconomic relations and guard against incidents in potential new domains, with greater use of UN and the Secretary-General's good offices.

Preventing Conflict And Violence And Sustaining Peace

3: Shift the prevention and sustaining peace paradigm by calling on all States to develop national prevention strategies and by investing in national prevention capacities and infrastructures for peace.

4: Accelerate SDG implementation to address underlying drivers of violence and insecurity through proven development pathways; new and emerging ways to protect livelihoods and provide social protection; and alignment of international funding mechanisms.

5: Transform gendered power dynamics in peace and security through concrete measures to secure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making; the eradication of all forms of gender-based violence; and sustained, predictable and flexible financing for gender equality.

6: Address links between climate, peace and security by ensuring that climate action and peacebuilding reinforce each other; that the Security Council systematically addresses implications for peace and security in the mandates of peace operations and other country or regional situations on its agenda; through a dedicated IPCC expert group on climate action, resilience and peacebuilding; a new Peacebuilding Fund window; and regional hubs.

7: Reduce human cost of weapons. Strengthen protection of civilians in populated areas; achieve universality of treaties banning inhumane and indiscriminate weapons; reduce military expenditures, renew efforts to limit conventional arms, and increase investment in prevention and social infrastructures and services; stop the use of IEDs by terrorist and other non-State armed groups; curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and ammunition.

Strengthening Peace Operations And Addressing Peace Enforcement

8: Strengthen peace operations and partnerships. Deploy peace operations based on and in support of clearly identified political processes, with realistic mandates, while leveraging civilian capacities as well as innovation, data and digital technologies. Ensure effective exit strategies and transitions. Make peacekeeping more nimble and adaptable building on A4P.

9: Address peace enforcement. Where enforcement required, authorize a multinational force or action by regional and subregional organizations; provide direct support to operations by countries or regional organizations that lack required capabilities; and accompany peace enforcement with inclusive political efforts to advance peace and non-military approaches. Ensure accountability and justice in counter-terrorism contexts; and support counter-terrorism operations through strategic action groups via Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

10: Support to AU and subregional peace support operations. Ensure operations under Chapters VII and VIII of Charter have the required resources; African Union and subregional organizations' peace support operations to be systematically resourced.

Novel Approaches To Peace And Potential Domains Of Conflict

11: Prevent the weaponization of emerging domains and promote responsible innovation.

Cyberspace: declare that essential infrastructure for public services and functioning of society is off-limits to malicious cyberactivity; establish an independent multilateral accountability mechanism for malicious use of cyberspace by States.
Outer Space: international norms, rules, and principles to address threats to space systems and negotiations on a treaty to ensure peace, security, and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.
Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS): legal instrument by 2026 to prohibit LAWS that are not in compliance with international humanitarian law, and regulate all other types of autonomous weapons systems.
Artificial Intelligence (AI): national strategies on responsible design, development and use of AI; norms, rules and principles on military applications of AI through a multilateral process; global framework regulating and strengthening oversight mechanisms for use of data-driven technology, including AI, for counter-terrorism purposes.
Biorisks: reinforce capacities to identify, anticipate, coordinate and prepare for emerging and evolving biological risks; measures to address risks in applying biotechnology and human enhancement technologies in the military domain, including implications of advances in neurobiology and related converging technologies.

Strengthening International Governance

12: Stronger collective security machinery. Make urgent progress on Security Council reform; democratize its procedures; and make sanctions measures more targeted and regularly adjusted. Revitalize the General Assembly's role in peace and security, including disarmament. Enhance the role of the Peacebuilding Commission.

READ FULL BRIEF

https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs

POLICY BRIEF 10: TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

Towards a learning society: transforming education to transform the world

PURPOSE

Puts forward a vision and set of guiding actions for countries and the international community to transform education, building on the Transforming Education Summit and the report of the International Commission on the Futures of Education.

BACKGROUND

Against a global backdrop of unprecedented wealth and severe inequalities, progress towards securing access to quality education-for-all has faltered. Hundreds of millions of children and young people are out-of-school; and of the billions in school, most are not acquiring basic skills. These are especially true for the most vulnerable. Additionally, there is insufficient and inequitable investment in education. What's more, as our world grapples with exponential technological change, existential climate challenges, and growing polarization, transformative education systems are needed now more than ever for our collective future.

ACCELERATING THE SDGs

Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all is both the overarching focus of SDG4 and fundamental to the achievement of all 17 SDGs. If we are to achieve the SDGs by 2030, pivot our world from breakdown to breakthrough, and shape the future beyond 2030 towards greater equality, sustainability, and peace, then education must fundamentally change. The transformation of education is critical to guaranteeing the right to quality education and lifelong learning for all. It is a major requirement for building learning societies and equipping individuals, countries, and the international community overall with the skills, knowledge and mindsets needed to break through to a better future for all.

"By overhauling how we learn, what we learn, when we learn and where we learn, and equipping societies with new skills, capacities, and mindsets for a sustainable and just future, we can create the driving force we need to breakthrough to a better future for all."

RECOMMENDATIONS

The brief proposes two key recommendations to Member States.

New Shared Vision

Deliver on commitments made for Agenda 2030 at the 2023 Transforming Education Summit and embrace, in the Pact for the Future, a new vision for the creation of learning societies for a sustainable future. This recommendation calls for Member States to build a comprehensive and integrated system of education and lifelong learning in a world of uncertainty; ensure equality and inclusion in and through education; make curricula and pedagogies relevant for today and tomorrow; reposition the role of teachers as creative guides and facilitators in the learning process; and increase public investment in education; and invest more, more equitably and more efficiently in education.

Global Public Good

Recognize education and life-long learning as a global public good and rapidly increase international cooperation to transform education and achieve SDG4. This recommendation calls for Member States to support developing countries to invest more in education; increase international spending on education by delivering on previous ODA commitments (0.7% of GNI), and increase ODA percentage for education to 20%; ensure policy coherence across global commitments on education; develop a public, open-source digital commons to support equitable access to digital learning; establish a global consensus on recognition of vocational qualifications, education, and lifelong learning; strengthen coherence of support from global education community; and enhance the UN development system and wider education community to support efforts in transforming education in the Joint SDG Fund.

READ FULL BRIEF

https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs

POLICY BRIEF 11: UN 2.0

Forward-thinking culture and cutting-edge skills for better United Nations system impact

PURPOSE

A UN system with 21st century expertise and organizational culture to deliver stronger results, better Member State support, and faster SDG progress.

BACKGROUND

Halfway to 2030, the world is not on track to achieve the SDGs. To accelerate progress, everyone needs to rethink, refocus, and recharge. "UN 2.0" is a vision of a modernized UN system: cutting-edge skills and forward-thinking culture that enable UN entities to better contribute to the quest for the SDGs. These ongoing internal transformations are designed around a **"Quintet of Change"**:

UN 2.0
Quintet of Change

• **Innovation:** Learning to scale new solutions, e.g., to help expand access to healthcare services.
• **Data:** Building impactful data ecosystems, e.g., to help raise yields with data-driven agriculture.
• **Digital:** Becoming fluent in digital impact, e.g., to help with inclusive online education platforms.
• **Foresight:** Learning to navigate uncertainty, e.g., to assist in adapting to climate change trends.
• **Behavioral science:** Enabling better choices, e.g., to help enhance access to social services.

ACCELERATING THE SDGs

Shifts in UN system expertise unlock novel approaches for SDG progress. The www.un-two-zero.network features over 500 initiatives globally, demonstrating how the Quintet of Change is already reshaping our programmes to support the SDGs — in climate, education, agriculture, gender equality, and beyond.

"UN 2.0 is about strengthening our expertise and culture — to build a UN system that can better support Member States in the 21st century."

WHAT TO EXPECT

The policy brief outlines how UN system expertise and culture are shifting, what the goals are, and how these transformations benefit Member States.

Forward-Thinking Culture

We are fostering a culture where modern skillsets can flourish across the UN system, with an emphasis on creativity, agility, learning, curiosity, geographical diversity, gender equality, inclusion, youth, resilience, well-being, sustainability, and integrity.

Cutting-Edge Skills for the 21st Century

By enhancing UN system expertise in data, innovation, digital technology, foresight, and behavioral science, we boost on-the-ground impact and improve support to Member States. We will pursue these shifts with use case-driven approaches, leadership engagement, knowledge networks, and partnerships.

Shifting Capacities, Not Adding Structures

We are carefully recalibrating, retraining and realigning our expertise to introduce new skills rather than adding structures. This includes support to continuous learning for staff and adapting job roles to cover new areas of expertise that will strengthen SDG impact.

Faster Internal Change, Greater External Impact

UN 2.0 is firmly focused on internal changes in UN system organizations. The increase in capabilities will result in better programmatic and operational support to Member States and faster collective progress across the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

Joint Direction, Unique Entity Journeys

The UN 2.0 transformation will engage all UN system entities, leaders, and colleagues. Starting in 2024, a lean UN 2.0 Accelerator Programme will support each UN entity as they chart their own path towards UN 2.0 over the next three years.

READ FULL BRIEF

https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs