



**United  
Nations**



**Easy to read**

# **What the United Nations has been working on in 2022 and 2023**

**This report is about a part of the United Nations called  
the United Nations Secretariat**



**Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization  
2023**



## About this report

My name is António Guterres.

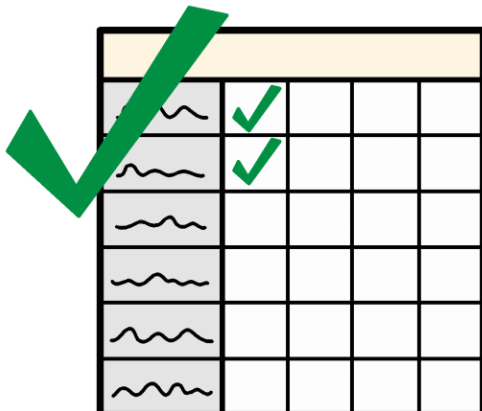


My job is Secretary-General for the United Nations (UN).



The United Nations is a place for 193 countries to meet and work together.

They are working to make the world better, fairer and safer.



This report is about some of the main work that we have done in the last year.

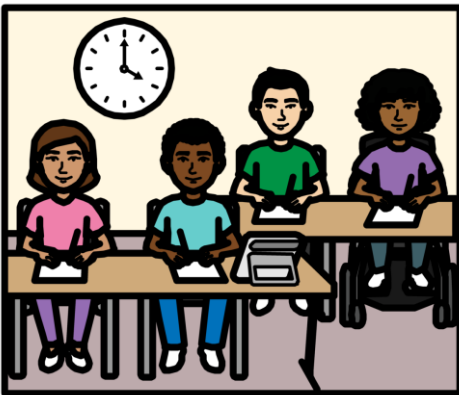
When we say **we** it means the United Nations.

We did this work with many countries and organizations.

# Some of our main work in the last year

## Making the world better and fairer for everyone

### Helping people to have better lives



There are 17 big things that countries are working on by the year 2030.

For example, countries want to stop people being poor and to make sure that everyone gets a good education.

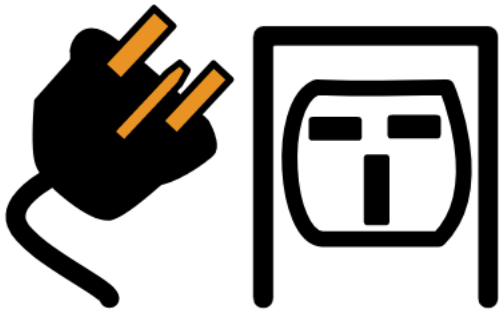


This work has not been going as well as it should.

But we supported countries to keep moving forward.



For example, we had a meeting in July 2022 to help countries work harder on the things they have promised to do.



There are big problems in the world with money, food and energy.

For example, food and energy are costing a lot more.

Energy is electricity and heat to keep our homes warm.



We set up a group to help the world work together to solve problems like this.



We are also helping to solve unfair access to money that is stopping many poorer countries from doing well.

We had a big meeting in September 2022 about education.

Many countries promised to make education better and fairer. That includes for girls.

We have also helped with work to make sure that more people can use the internet.





We are working to make sure that all groups of people are treated fairly.

For example:

- We asked countries to include older people more in their laws and decisions.



- We have made people with disabilities a much bigger part of our work.
- We are supporting many young people to speak up and help the United Nations to make decisions.



We supported many projects to stop violence that usually happens to women and girls.

We also helped with work to:

- Change laws that are unfair to women and girls.
- Make new laws that support women and girls to take part in the community, work and do well.



## Climate change

Climate change is about the earth getting warmer.

That is causing big problems for people, animals and plants.

For example, there are more bad storms, floods and forest fires.

And many plants and animals are in danger.

Many richer countries have now promised to give money to poorer countries.

The money is to help poorer countries to deal with climate change problems.

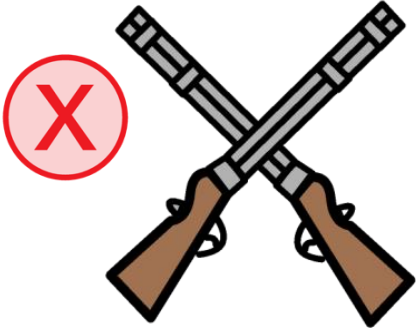
Many countries have promised to do more to save the world's plants, animals and seas.

For example, many countries will make a new agreement for the world by 2024.

The agreement will help to stop the damage that plastic causes to the planet.



## Helping the world to be peaceful and safe



We worked even harder to keep the peace and keep people safe in many parts of the world.



For example, we kept working with leaders and organizations to help stop fighting in some countries.

That helped people to talk more and solve problems together.



We looked at how to use technology to help stop violence and keep people safe.

Technology is things like computers, the internet and mobile phones.



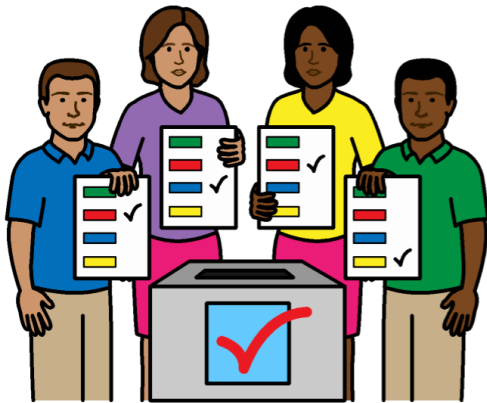
We supported more people to help make decisions about their country and how to keep people safe.

That includes women and young people.



We got money for projects to help keep countries peaceful and safe.

And we are working to get money for more projects like that in the future.



We worked with governments to have fair and safe elections.

Elections are when people choose who they want to lead the country.

For example, we worked to stop people sharing false and unfair information during elections.



We helped the police in some countries to use new ways to keep people safe.



We worked with countries to help stop violence that happens to children during war.





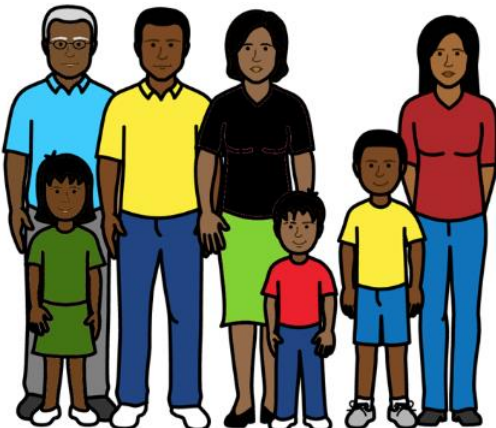
## Our work in Africa

Africa is an important part of the world that we work in.



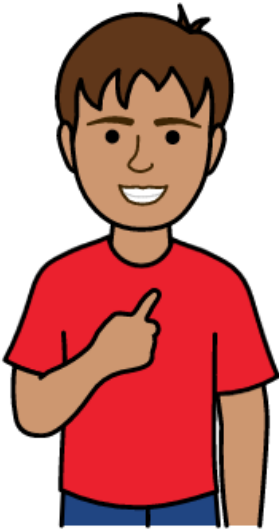
We work with countries in Africa to:

- Save and spend money in a better way.
- Give people better health care.
- Use money, food and energy in a better way.



That will help Africa to do well in the future.

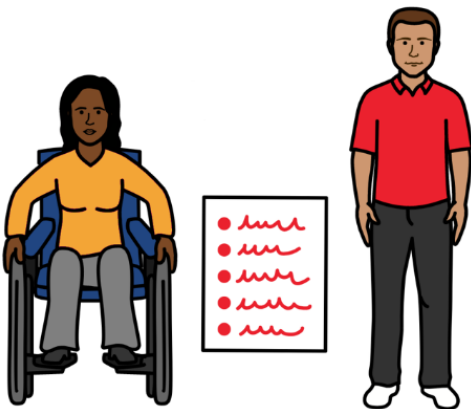
# Making sure that we respect people's human rights



Everyone in the world has human rights.

Human rights are about how we should all be treated.

For example, everyone has the right to be safe and treated fairly.

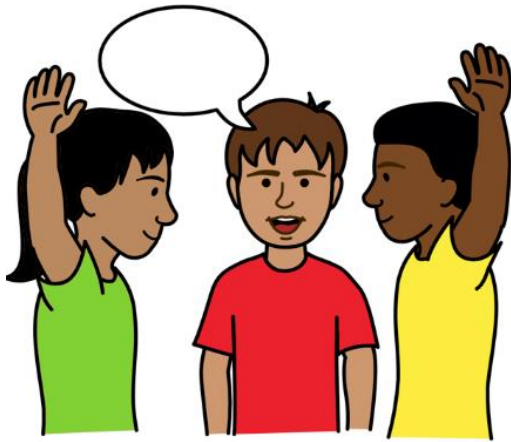


We made human rights a bigger part of our work in different countries.

We set up a new way for our staff in different countries to do that.



We sent teams of people to some countries to deal with big problems to do with human rights.



Many people are treated badly because of where they and their family come from and the colour of their skin.

We started a new project for the world to help stop this happening.

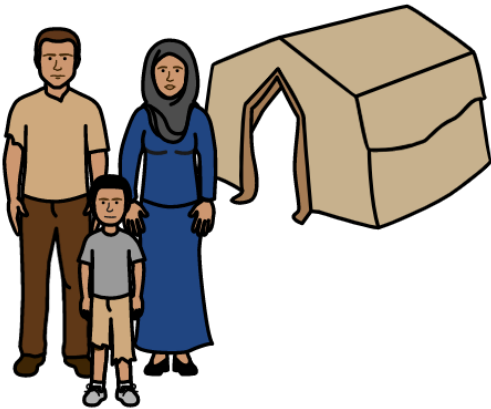
It is called **Learn, Speak Up, Act!**



We also started work to make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly by the police and courts.

## Giving people the right support when big problems happen

Like war and bad weather problems.



We helped many people in different countries to get urgent support to save their lives.

Like support with food and medicine.



Many people in the world do not have enough to eat.

We helped to get food from Ukraine and Russia to the rest of the world again.

There were problems with that because of the war in Ukraine.

This helped many people to get more to eat.

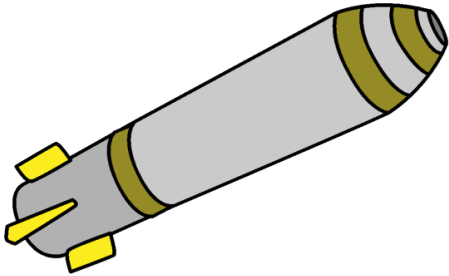


We helped countries to make better plans about big problems that might happen.

Like floods or too much heat.



## Our work on weapons, drugs and crime



We helped with meetings and projects about how to stop weapons in the world.

Weapons are things that can kill people, like bombs and guns.



For example, we helped with important meetings and projects about:

- Nuclear weapons that can kill many people.
- Weapons made of chemicals and other things that can kill many people.
- Smaller weapons like guns.



We ran projects in local communities to help stop violence and drug problems.



We are helping countries to make a new law for the world about stopping crime on computers and the internet.



# Changing the way we work



We started new ways to plan our work and to plan how we spend our money.

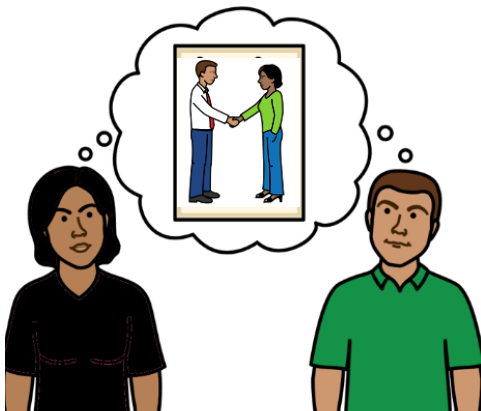
This will help us to work in a better and quicker way in the future.



We want all groups of people to have a fair chance of working for us and doing well.

That includes women, people with disabilities and people from different parts of the world.

We have plans to make that happen.



We made some new information to help our staff know how they should work.

That means working in a good and safe way for everyone.



We are giving the public better information about our work and about big problems that happen in the world.