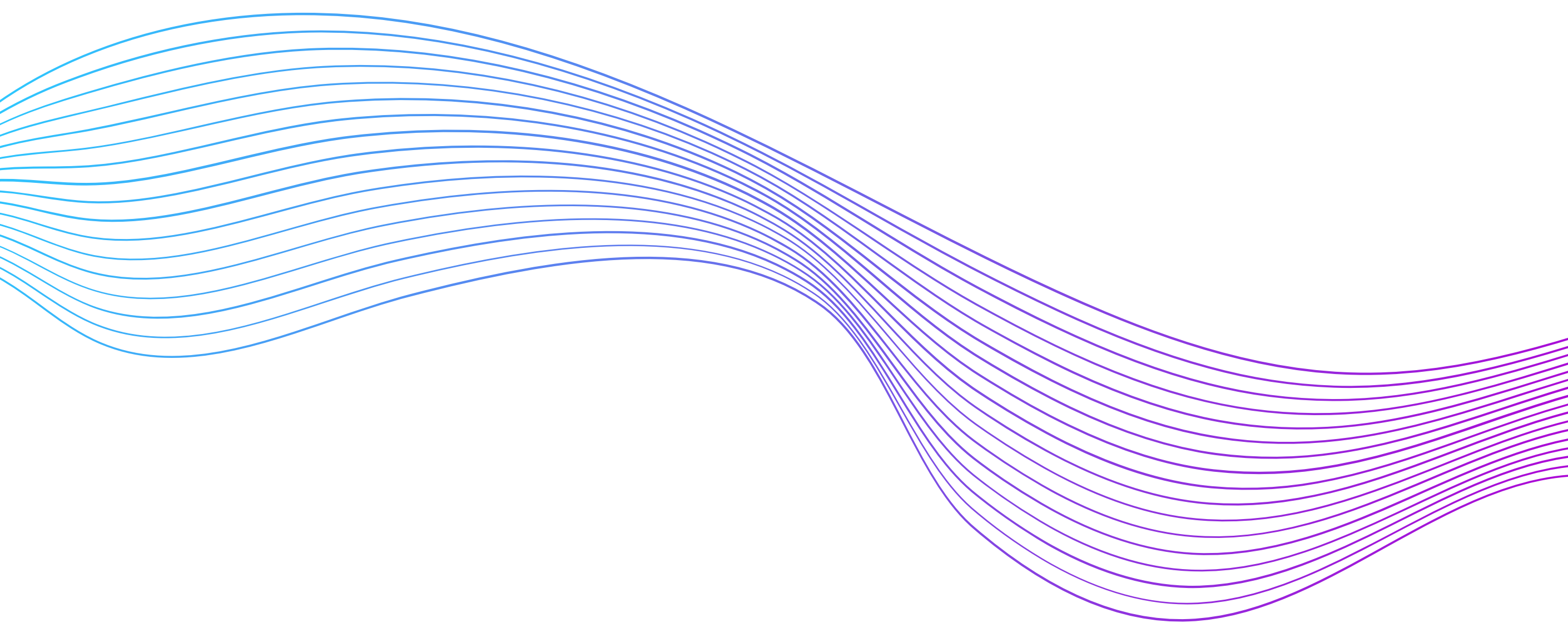


# 58th Graduate Study Programme

UN Geneva, 29 June - 3 July 2020



*"United Nations at 75: Shaping  
our Future together"*



## 58<sup>th</sup> Graduate Study Programme

UN Geneva, 29 June – 3 July 2020

### UN 75: Shaping our Future Together

- *Compilation of participants' works* -

**Disclaimer:** *The following report is a compilation of individual and group works of eighty participants of the 58<sup>th</sup> Graduate Study Programme of the United Nations Office at Geneva, which took place virtually from 29 June to 3 July 2020. Opinions, policy proposals, statements and conclusions on a wide range of topics covered by these works are exclusively of their authors, and do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the United Nations.*

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## **Global Health in a Pandemic Affected World:**

### **UN in 2045: Towards a global moral commitment to manage pandemics and epidemics**

Authors:

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BLASCOVICH; Noelia Natalia

#### **Executive Summary**

COVID 19 pandemic has shown the fragility of the international community to respond in an inclusive, effective and efficient manner. This policy report proposes a comprehensive collective moral commitment with the aim to improve global response to future pandemics and epidemics' outbreaks. Recommendations include the areas of health, socio-economic, politics, education, technology, energy and environment, including complex emergencies. Policies must be person-centered, specially focused on the most vulnerable populations and innovative enough to include remote management, in order to leave no one behind.

#### **Context**

The recent global COVID 19 infectious disease pandemic has revealed the fragility of all nations in terms of health systems, socio-economic dynamics, politics and education, which clearly reveals the urgency to improve the management of pandemics and epidemics. In fact, these infectious diseases negatively affect human beings' physical and mental health (WHO, 2020), endanger all economies of the world like never before (World Bank, 2020) as well as the overall welfare of societies, and exacerbate complex emergencies settings, which include ongoing conflicts, protracted crises, natural disasters, and forced displacement, deepening fragility and endangering the life of the most vulnerable, as recently highlighted by OCHA (2020), IRC (2020) and ICRC (2020).

Past remarkable progress in facing global health issues and the current joint response to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic implemented under the guiding role of the whole United Nations and specially WHO (2020) is crucial to respond in a timely manner. Similarly to the 2014 Ebola outbreak, and to past pandemics and epidemics, it is a shared responsibility of the whole international community to ensure global health's safety and wellbeing, as also highlighted recently by WHO (WHO, 2018). Despite the international community remarkable commitment, it is evident the need for further shared global commitment to coordination, collaboration, multilateralism and solidarity among Member States and relevant stakeholders, as was recently requested by the UN Secretary General's "call for COVID-19 solidarity" (United Nations, 2020)

### **Policy recommendations [1]**

Member States, relevant international organizations, INGOs, NGOs, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should undertake a collective comprehensive moral commitment to tackle the ongoing COVID 19, as well as other pandemics and epidemics, in order to ensure a safer world. Effectivity and efficiency are conditions sine qua non to be considered in response policies, as well as a truly inclusive humanitarian approach where no one is left behind, including the most vulnerable, particularly people with disabilities, minors, women, ethnic minorities, children, the elderly, migrants, IDPs, refugees, women and LGBTQ+.

#### **1. Health**

- Member States, international organizations, INGOs, NGOs, private sector and all relevant stakeholders must undertake a collective moral commitment to assure that therapies, medicines and vaccines to face all major pandemics and epidemics are considered "global public health goods", whose affordability and access must be granted to all, particularly to the most vulnerable. This must ensure the complete fulfillment of existing vaccination programmes.
- Member States should strengthen Health Emergencies Alert System to enable the predictability of the incidence of the Emergency and enhance their preparedness efforts.

- Under a state of health emergency in a national territory, where the spread of a disease is at an alarming rate, such as pandemics and epidemics, Member States should prioritize mass testing and contact tracing, as part of the Surveillance System for all, particularly the most vulnerable.
- Member states must strengthen the implementation of updated International Health Regulations (2005) with the aim to implement a proper response. Additionally, Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must facilitate complementary interaction between national and international disease specific health policies, programmes, implementation strategies and research centres.
- Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must identify and monitor recovery needs and implement corrective actions to mitigate damage after the emergency.
- International organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs, and relevant stakeholders must provide monetary, health and medical supplies to Member States, especially least developed countries, developing countries and those affected by emergencies, including complex ones and protracted crises, in the face of any medical crisis.

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[1] Policy recommendations proposed are built on previous related documents, such as WTO declaration WT/MIN(01)/DEC/2 entitled “Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health”, WHO resolution EB146.R10 on “Strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: implementation of the International Health Regulations”, the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement resolution 33IC/19/R3 named “Time to act: tackling epidemics and pandemics together”, WHO resolution A73/CONF./1 Rev.1 “COVID-19 response”, UNGA resolutions A/RES/74/270 on “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), A/RES/74/274 on “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”; A/RES/74/2 on ‘Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”’. In addition, policy is based on the Grand Bargain launched in the World Humanitarian Summit of 2016, the commitments made during the First Global Refugee Forum in 2019; WHO’s Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) and the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 and the International Health Regulations.

- Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must ensure that health protocols and laboratory standards for biosafety and biosecurity in hospitals, clinics and medical biolaboratories are systematically followed to protect the safety, welfare, and health of all lives.
- Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must promote and enhance the general psychological health of all citizens, especially the most vulnerable communities, by providing the appropriate psychological first aid and the needed psychosocial therapy and/or programs during pandemics and epidemics. In addition, it is highly encouraged that Member States undergo community resilient models training to reduce psychological health problems and promote social support within nations. There is a need to provide psychological support also for health workers.

## **2. Socio-Economy**

- Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must promote a mutual inclusive dialogue, which must include the broader civil society stakeholders and research centres. Dialogue should include topics such as developing policies and strategies as well as financing plans for the creation of employment opportunities.
- It is needed that Member States commit to legislation on efficient budget allocation, including mobilization of fiscal resources, management of international capital flows and curb of illicit financial flows during pandemic and epidemics, as well as the implementation of progressive tax systems where possible. International organizations, INGOs, NGOs should advocate in favor of this matter.
- Member States, private sector and local authorities must implement flexible alternative work arrangements to avoid total closure and/or employee livelihoods' termination. These could include work hours and/or workdays' reduction, rotation of workers and/or forced leave for

several days only. Employers must ensure employees fair compensation and the necessary health protocols to ensure their welfare and safety in the whole duration of their work shifts.

- During pandemics and epidemics, Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must implement economic recovery strategies based on the Build Back Better approach and the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda, which might include investment agreements that could support least developed and developing countries in their policies productive capacities and industries' improvement.
- Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must work towards reducing prejudices, social stigma and discrimination associated with pandemics and epidemics among and within Member States, especially regarding the most vulnerable groups, as well as promoting social cohesion and intercultural dialogue among communities.
- Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must strengthen the global food supply chain and mitigate its potential disruption, especially for the most vulnerable populations.

### **3. Politics**

- Member States must implement inclusive dialogue platforms jointly with international and regional organizations, civil society and all relevant stakeholders for the identification and implementation of response plans to pandemics and epidemics, including the most vulnerable.
- During pandemics and epidemics, Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must ensure good governance, management, accountability, transparency and responsible leadership. As a consequence of a global health

crisis, there should be a re-sorting and re-prioritization of SDG as well as a review of related national and international policies and strategies.

- Member States must develop national context-specific monitoring and evaluation systems to reduce corruption at governmental level during pandemics and epidemics, including the use of Key Performance Indicators, which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound.
- Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must support and share scientific research in different fields and encourage related funding in strategic areas related to pandemics and epidemics.

#### **4. Complex emergencies**

- Member States, international organizations and all relevant stakeholders must actively promote and comply with ceasefires in pandemic and epidemic affected conflict areas, encouraging an enlargement of the bargaining space between parties, and ensuring an effective and verifiable protection of aid, health workers and health facilities.
- Member States, international organizations, INGOs, NGOs must promote a comprehensive dialogue with beneficiaries, which converges on an integration of cultural-inclusive perspectives regarding needs, vulnerabilities and capabilities assessments as well as practices and approaches, ensuring the participation of civil society in humanitarian decision making processes. Responses must be person-centered, and localization must be strengthened in accordance with the Grand Bargain. In that regard, training for local capacity building must be a priority.

- Member States, international organizations, donors, INGOs, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders must respect the humanitarian principles in the pandemic and epidemic response, particularly those of humanity, impartiality and neutrality, and support humanitarian responses by ensuring access, freedom of movement and security for humanitarian supplies and humanitarian workers and beneficiaries in all pandemic and epidemic affected areas. The response strategy must be comprehensive, based on the triple nexus approach which includes coordination among peace, humanitarian and development efforts, and must assure the respect for human rights.
- Humanitarian response programming during pandemics and epidemics must include all the most vulnerable populations. Specifically, refugees, migrants and IDPs must be priority, based on a human-rights approach, both in refugee camps and in settlements. Countries should extend citizenship rights to migrants and refugees during pandemics and epidemics. In refugee camps and informal migrant settlements, hospitals must be mandatory to enable quick treatment in case of pandemics and quick detection. Additionally, special places for social distancing, as well as safe water and sanitation facilities ought to be prepared before communicable diseases' outbreaks. It is necessary to remind that one case of an infectious disease must be considered as a pandemic inside the refugee camps.
- Member States facing natural disasters and hazards in pandemic and epidemic affected areas must implement a comprehensive early action and response plan based on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Responses must be person-centered, assuring that the assessment of needs, vulnerabilities, capabilities take into account cultural perspectives of beneficiaries, enshrining a civil society inclusiveness in the decision-making processes.
- Preparedness, including anticipatory programming, is fundamental to save time and cost in potential responses. Furthermore, the implementation of the Build Back Better approach contributes to overcoming overall emergency recovery issues while empowering beneficiaries and Member States.



- Under ongoing pandemics and epidemics, accurate information must be provided to the beneficiaries through national health information systems and it should include data on planning, resource allocation, accountability, risk factors and preventive measures such as early warning systems. Information should be issued considering diversity of languages, cultures, and minorities.
- Psychological support must be provided both for beneficiaries and to humanitarian practitioners in order to ensure their mental health. With respect to the humanitarian aid workers, extra leave for hardship environments must be guaranteed. Psychological support must be culture-sensitive and need-based.

## **5. Education**

- Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must ensure the continuity of regular budget allocation for ongoing education to all students at all levels. At the same time, additional funding must be allocated for a more flexible education system that guarantees distance learning, equitable access to learning materials, technology and digital devices in affected areas of health crisis. Measures must ensure quality and inclusive standards of education as well as equal access for all students of all levels, including the most vulnerable, and particularly in developing countries and emergency settings.
- Local capacity building of educators and teachers should be enhanced through the provision of training and learning materials to face educational challenges provoked by health emergencies.

## **6. Technology**

- In complex emergencies, digital humanitarianism is fundamental to ensure the provision of aid when access is not possible. Protection must be ensured also when aid is digitally delivered, for example including special legislation and programs against GBV.
- Remote management is key in times of pandemics, therefore training for local professionals is needed to ensure a proper response to pandemics as well as the continuation of non-communicable diseases treatments.
- Digital economies must be strengthened and must be provided with high cybersecurity to safeguard Personally Identifiable Information (PII), health information, records, and transactions from theft and intended damages. In addition, digital intelligence and information services reinforcement is needed, especially on public sector platforms that provide the necessary health information, digital goods, and services.

## **7. Energy**

- Member states must ensure the security of energy and electricity, as well as a resilient energy system. Clean energy must be put at the center of the economic recovery and stimulus plan. The efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be maintained and accelerated.
- Member states must prioritize energy access to hospitals, clinics and vulnerable communities. During times of health and economic security, there should be an increase of reliable, continuous and adequate energy production in preparation to sustain an economic recovery.

## **8. Environment**

- Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must work together to positively transform the relation between human and nature with the aim of avoiding suspected climate change related disasters.
- Member states, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and all relevant stakeholders must work together to ensure a positive transformation in the relation between humans and animals with the objective to reduce risk of upcoming zoonotic diseases, which could lead to pandemics and epidemics.
- Sustainable management of the biomedical waste products related to pandemics and epidemics must be included in national related policies, in order to avoid further damages to the health and environment.

## **Conclusion**

COVID 19 global alarming spread has come at an unprecedented time of lack of preparedness and foresight of the severity of the global crisis, as well as the fragility in its global overall response, which has had negative consequences for humanity, in particular the most vulnerable.

We urge Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and relevant stakeholders for a joint comprehensive global moral commitment to ensure stronger collaboration, coordination and multilateralism in the response to pandemics and epidemics, as was recently recalled by the UN Secretary General. Inclusiveness must be at the centre of the response, ensuring it is person-centered and cultural-sensitive, leaving no one behind, particularly the most vulnerable populations. At the same time, response must be in line with the Build Back Better approach and follow the 2030 Agenda, in order to assure an equal development for all.

This policy proposal is time-bounded, by no means exhaustive, nor final to address all of the needs of Member States, local communities and the most vulnerable, especially in complex

emergencies. As the whole of the Member States, international organizations, private sector, INGOs, NGOs and relevant stakeholders come together as common humanity in solidarity, unity, good will, it is more feasible to converge diverse perspectives, policies and provisions will strive to enrich the document in both substance and form.

Towards the 100th anniversary of the United Nations in 2045, we, as active members of the international community, expect the present policy proposal contributes to imbibe its pillars of development, respect of human rights and peace and security, in order to build together a renewed global solidarity community that enhances the safety, protection and dignity of all human beings.

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# **The economic development trap and its environmental implications on shaping the future of emerging market economies (EME)**

*EMEs industrialization pattern for economic growth and how it is destroying the environment with its negative externalities.*

Authors:

ADJEI, Kirstie; ROUDANI, Zineb

## **Abstract**

The effect of industrialization as an economic growth engine and its impact on environmental prosperity has been subject to abundant research in modern society by developed countries. However, in this paper, the focus will be given to EMEs as the less affluent group is confined to choose between their economic growth or environmental sustainability. EMEs and developing countries have been the most affected and worst off in the global quest for economic development, due to the consequences of climate emergency resulting from excessive Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) emissions, chemical and liquid wastes, soil, marine, and coastal pollution...

Pollution is a threat that travels beyond borders and does not need permission or a passport to spread its shades. International commitment, global governance, and a joined plan that all stakeholders abide by is the only chance we have to expand the life on earth and prevent the worst from happening.

Foreign direct investments (FDIs), free trade agreements, industrial outsourcing, regional and international unions should toil under a unified strategic blueprint that guarantees the sustainable development for EMEs and Developing countries, likewise, to keep their GHGs emissions under the ceiling set by the Paris agreement. Since the open market economy has not only eased the flow of capital and economic development to less advantageous countries and regions but also the passage of cross borders polluting productions, from developed to EMEs and less developed nations. This kind of approach should be intercepted by the global community and shifted into a Green growth inclusive economic model for EMEs and developing countries as well

**KEYWORDS:** Emerging market economies, GHGs emissions, Climate Change Emergency, United Nations Development Program, NDCs, SDGs

## Abbreviations and Keynotes

AfDB	African Development Bank
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AI	Artificial Intelligence
CC	Climate Change
CCE	Climate Change Emergency
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DDPP	Deep Decarbonization Pathway Project
EMEs	Emerging Market Economies
EU ETS	European Union Emissions Trading System
FDIs	Foreign Direct Investments
GEG	Global Environmental Governance
GEP	Global Environmental Protection
GHGs	Greenhouse Gases
IDDRI	Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IR	Industrial Revolution
LEDCs	Less Economically Developed Countries
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
SDA	Sustainable Development Agenda
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals

UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

## **1. Industrialization as an economic development engine and its environmental threat**

Global leaders and decision-makers have widely pursued industrialization as the gate to a fast-economic growth. After the considerable success witnessed in developed countries, industrialization has received polarized opinions. Its supporters argue in favor of adopting industrial production within EMEs and LEDCs in hopes of competing within the rapidly developing global market. Conversely, climate activists oppose industrialization because of the inevitable environmental damage which would result from it. Although industrialization grants economic growth and better living conditions, its environmental impact remains catastrophic and significantly contributes to the Climate Change Emergency (CCE). [1]

### **1.1 The Industrial Revolution from the first to the fourth stage.**

The success of the first British industrial revolution (IR), 1.0 IR, was owed to its abundant resources, political stability, knowledge, technological advancement, and innovation (led by the white collars), and the vast wealth acquired through its colonies. However, soon other western European countries, such as France, Germany, Switzerland, were able to supersede the British model. The US IR displaced them by the twentieth century. The 2.0 IR saw enhanced scientific management. It introduced the "producing more with less" concept – as initiated by Ford in the US – as well as the Japanese Lean manufacturing model by Toyota. Then was followed by 3.0 IR "the digital revolution". Finally, in the current 4.0 IR, in which the best of all accumulated knowledge and resources developed through the three first stages will be harnessed in genetics, biotechnology, AI, quantum computers, and big data. (Pouspourika, 2019).[2] It is an evolution of the way technologies are used and the services it could provide, some of which are prediction, prevention, alerts, and futuristic projections as a dynamic real-time solution. Figure 1 offers an insight into the different IR stages.

Hence, the substantial breach between different stages of IR and the gap between countries following the different IR patterns will lead us to an assessment of how the first three phases of the IR severely damages the environment.

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[1] (Stevenson, 2018)

[2] (Pouspourika, 2019)



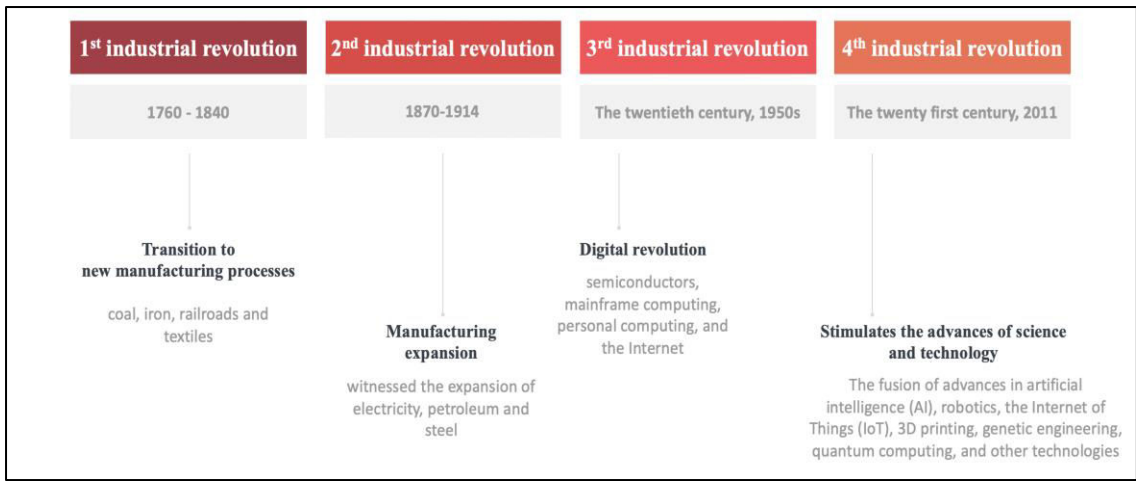


Figure 1-1 The evolution of the Industrial revolution over the four stages

The evolution of industrialization came at a high cost for the industrialized countries and still accounts for the bulk of environmental degradation. Moreover, EMEs and LEDCs possess neither the advanced technology, accumulated knowledge, nor the financial capability to act independently towards a green economic transition. Environmentalists have raised multiple concerns related to the expansion of polluting industrial activities highlighting resource depletion and intensifying CC effects. They urged for a more sustainable green developmental approach without which the world balance could never be achieved, and gimmer scenarios would be inevitable. [3]

**1.2 Industrialization and its effect on the Climate Emergency**

Industrialization as a significant contributor in the GHGs emission has caused massive stress on the environmental prosperity, ecosystem biodiversity, and CC, at national, regional, and international levels. The urgency of the global emission levels has prompted the need for Global Environmental Governance (GEG) to tackle the CCE and the necessity of taking actions to face its different consequences such as resource depletion, water scarcity, pollution, deforestation, weather instabilities, species extinction, exposure to radiation, and climate displacement.

The figure below depicts the impacts of industrialization and heavy industries on the different systems at distinctive levels.

[3] (Stevenson, 2018)

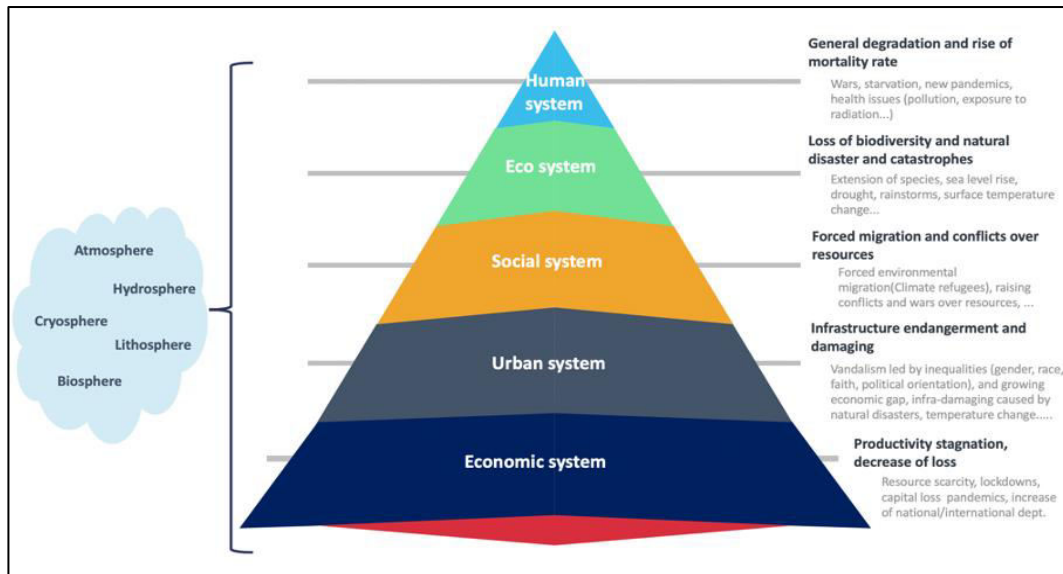


Figure 1-2 Environmental degradation impacts over five different systems

Based on what has been said earlier, the need to come up with a solution and a sustainable action plan is crucial to achieving the aimed ends. In the last four decades, The EMEs and LEDCs headed by the Asia-pacific region have witnessed rapid development and a remarkable economic growth thanks to its export-led industrialization strategy. [4] However, the sustainability, quality, and inclusiveness of rapid growth remain critical with the growing social and economic inequalities, where nearly ninety million people are still living under the poverty line. The Asia-pacific region hosts more than half the world population [5], and so CC is projected to have adverse effects on the sustainable development of the Asia-pacific region [6]. In 2017 a study led by the IDMC revealed that the migration caused by environmental disasters exceeded the conflict-caused movement by 22.88% (Appendix A). Developing countries, including both EMEs and LEDCs, are the worst-hit countries with 90.96% climate refugees or migrants, where China alone accounted for 23.93% of disaster displacement. In line with that, the second-largest emitter and the only developed country included in this analysis (Appendix A & Appendix B), the US, had a disaster displacement rate of 9.04% [7].

[4] (Felipe, 2018)

[5] (UNDP, 2016)

[6] (IPCC,2007)

[7] (IDMC, 2018)

According to the UNHCR, since 2009, an estimate of 22.5 million people displaced by weather-related events or climate change ramifications at a rate of a person per second [8].

Apart from desertification, droughts, civil war, and other political, social, and economic instabilities, the African continent has witnessed rising environmental concerns with an increase of 60% of outdoor air pollution deaths verified across the continent between 1990-2017 [9] A Dutch-based environmental NPO analysis revealed that a city in the eastern province of South Africa and center to coal-fired power stations was the world's deadliest air pollution spot contaminated primarily by the nitrogen dioxide [10]. This picture could worsen dramatically if serious measures to address environmental degradation are not rapidly implemented given the demographic growth is expected to reach an additional 1.3 billion people by 2050. There will be major migration to urban centers, resulting in more congestion and pollution, fostering social insecurity, poverty, epidemics, and deterioration of human health along with the extinction of wildlife and species. [11]

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[8] (GRID, 2018)

[9] (UNICEF, 2018)

[10] (Kazeem, 2019)

[11] (Kazeem, 2019)

## **Global environmental governance vs. sustainable economic development**

### **2.1 International initiatives to reduce GHGs emission through Global environmental governance**

Substantial academic research has backed the idea of considering the challenge of sustainability and climate change as a tragedy of the commons, by arguing that liberal democracies could not guarantee the tragedy will not occur, or the difficulty of establishing dialogues. Instead, the key actors have been incapable of looking beyond pragmatic limits. [12]

As argued by Eleonor Ostrom, the role of most multilateral agreements on matters related to CCE and sustainable development is frequently reduced into the fulfillment of a set of future goals. The real concern is the way goals are repeatedly altered or lose their sense of urgency, which affects the general public identification with the problem. For example, the sudden departure of the US from the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC, which is indicative of such inconsistency. In this respect, the establishment of a paradigmatically coercive agenda has been foremost in the continuation of "modern anti-commons." Concretely, these coercive measures for achieving goals has been demoted to pure rhetoric [13].

Multilateral environmental agreements are usually less institutionalized, yet not necessarily less effective. Multilateral treaties grant countries from different economic stages the chance to coordinate their actions, jointly shared knowledge, skills technologies, experiences, and for LEDCs to receive the needed support, thereby achieve benefits from cooperation. [14] Environmental protection, and accordingly ratification of multilateral environmental treaties, means that countries have to forgo certain benefits in areas such as economic growth. Consequently, LEDCs, in particular, may often not be willing to join such treaties. Furthermore, the participation of LEDCs in the extensive network of international organizations plays a major role in shaping their environmental protection policies. It would contribute positively to getting them to engage in multilateral environmental treaties. [15]

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[12] (Valera & Castilla, 2020)

[13] (Valera & Castilla, 2020)

[14] (Spilker, 2013)

[15] (Spilker, 2013)

The EU has been playing a pioneering role in the fight against GHGs emissions through DDPP [16]. As the first market to initiate the Carbon trading system (EU ETS) within the EU. The EU's economy is not predominantly based on coal, oil or fuel except a few countries where the transition towards renewable energy is workable thanks to both the geographic means, in addition to the funding the EU has secured for the regional Green, inclusive economy and sustainable development plan under the European Commission [17].

## 2.2 Actions and strategies

Tackling CCE largely relies on curbing GHGs emissions by keeping global temperature rise below 1.5C. The consequences will be irreversible on the planet if the world emission gets 2C warmer than pre-industrial levels. In the last five years, the GEG has conceived two global pacts for sustainable development, the SDA and Paris Agreement, parallelly initiated by two separate agencies under the UN, the UNDP, and UNFCCC in 2015. [18] These two agreements come along with a strategic approach to achieve the set goals. The core resolve of the SDA lies around three pillars: universality, integration, no one left behind. There the UNDP is helping implement the goals in about 170 countries and territories, with a framework of SDGs to be achieved by means of integrated environmental solutions. [19]

The Paris Agreement as a universal agreement with over 196 signatories agreeing upon climate resilience and low carbon development under the elements of mitigation and adaptation. In order for the Paris convention goals to be achieved, "every country needs to play its part" [20]. Since countries do not share the same economic development, resources, each country defines its pledges of targets and contributions that formulates their NDC and how they intend to achieve them. The world is anticipating each country to submit a new NDC with more ambitious targets every five years. [21]

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[16] DDPP [Deep decarbonization Pathways project](#)

[17] [Cop21-Ripples project](#) lunched by the (IDDRI) 'Results and Implications for Pathways and Policies for Low Emissions European Societies

[18] (Najam,et al., 2006)

[19] (UNDP, 2019)

[20] (UN Development Programme - Medium," 2019)

[21] (UN Development Programme - Medium," 2019)

The Scale and ambition of actions seldom match the atrocity and criticality of environmental degradation problems that need to be addressed, whether at local, regional, or international level. The role played by actors involved in political processes, aiming to improve the environmental conditions should not be omitted. Side by side with the active involvements of the private sector through different approaches namely CSR that integrates economic, social and environmental concerns in the business operations and its interactions with stakeholders [22], besides a more inclusive circular economy as a model of resilient growth that stimulates innovative ideas, favors reusability, recycling, and transforms the way natural resources are exploited.

## **2. The proposed solutions for environmental governance**

The preceding discussion emphasized the urgent need to transition towards low-carbon development so that LEDCs can hope to develop sustainable industries which can compete against developed markets without further harm to the environment. In order to facilitate that, it is necessary to consider (I) which entities are responsible for setting the required actions, (II) the actions, collaborations, laws and policies needed to facilitate this transition at the national, regional and international level and (III) the enforcement of these mechanisms.

### **3.1 Who is responsible?**

Given the universal character of the problem, as well as the cumulative nature of the contributions to CC, there is no one entity which can bear the burden. It is imperative that action is taken at every stage from the individual to the international level. Individuals must be educated on their roles as civilians and consumers, as well as the power that they have, not only to influence national policy but to mold commercial markets by shifting their demand. Similarly, national governments must recognize the duty upon them to enact policies that safeguard their people and their neighboring countries while stimulating their economy. Where this cannot be done independently, action must be taken at the regional level to catalyze this change. Simultaneously, international treaties, trade agreements, and policies must be increasingly intentional about demanding that each member of the global community aims to pursue the highest environmental standards within their reasonable reach. Without this joint effort, it would be difficult to create the rate of change necessary to enable sustainable global development, particularly within EMEs.

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[22] The triple bottom-Line approach (Appendix F)

## 3.2 Actions

### 3.2.1 National

Air pollution is an especially pivotal problem for developing countries where it has been known to kill more people than "AIDS [23], malaria, breast cancer or tuberculosis." [24] Air pollution monitors are critical to the identification of air-polluting sources, to the revision of public health and industrial policy, as well as to the promotion of public awareness, which leads to the adaptation of damaging consumer behavioral patterns. Without them, the current pollution estimates within these countries likely fall far below the real values. Moreover, standard business valuation and accounting techniques do not consider these environmental costs. [25] To address this, it is suggested that a three-fold approach is taken. Firstly, national governments should aim to directly increase the prevalence of these monitors so that they can put pressure on the culpable industries to change. Secondly, emissions trading systems like those pioneered in the UK and EU should be implemented in EMEs. This will incentivize corporate monitoring and production efficiency while introducing a new market to the countries, which will boost their economy. Thirdly, developing countries can address this indirectly by being more intentional about incentivizing and supporting the transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy sources in the industry, providing access to affordable transportation, and providing better waste management options to enable individuals to avoid burning of harmful waste products.

Moreover, EMEs can enhance competition through eco-innovation. By innovating along the production chain to reduce environmental impact or increase the efficient use of natural resources [26], this new business approach has the potential to boost profitability across the value chain whilst providing employment for many. As a result, it would help companies create new commercial prospects at lower financial and environmental costs in line with the UN sustainable development goals [27].

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[23] AIDS - acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

[24] (ESCAP, 2018)

[25] (W Gehring, 2016)

[26] (Carrillo-Hermosilla, et al., 2009)

[27] (UNEP, 2018)

Additionally, laws and policies should be adapted to discourage environmentally damaging commercial practices and consumer behavior. An example can be illustrated by Norway's treatment of electric car drivers. Such drivers are granted tax exemptions, free parking, free ferry use, access to bus lanes, and other attractive benefits which not only encourage consumers to purchase electric cars but force companies to shift production in the direction of the changing demands. Whilst this exact system may be difficult to reproduce in a sustainable way (since it is made possible by Norway's almost entirely renewable domestic energy consumption), it demonstrates the creative ways that countries should seek to alter the industries which directly impact their climate change goals.

Countries may do this by imposing heavier taxes on companies which use undesirable methods and lower taxes on companies which demonstrate environmentally sustainable approaches. They could also require certain minimum standard environmental policies as a prerequisite for registration of new companies or for making existing private companies public.

### *3.2.2 Regional & International*

The EU has demonstrated the power of regional policies in stimulating national change through its Renewable Energy Directives. Within a decade of passing the directive, in 2019, EU renewable power surpassed coal for the first time. [28] This regionally focused effort needs to be visible across the globe in order for any real global change to be seen. ASEAN, MERCOSUR, the AU and other regional bodies are encouraged to use their policy-making authority to enforce stronger regulations on energy sources, industrial regulations, and commercial practice. These regional authorities should set national targets for each country, taking into account their starting points and their potential for growth. They should encourage transparency and increased cooperation between intra-regional countries by requesting annual or bi-annual progress reports and offer support for joint projects.

Creative joint solutions could also spread the costs of the transition across the region. This could look like joint coastal regional hydropower plants or joint solar power plants along the equator. Such initiatives could significantly reduce the cost of commercial production and make electricity stable and accessible enough to enable more industrial progression in some of the poorest countries within the regions.

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[28] (European Commission, 2020)



*3.2.3 Enforceability at the International Level* Additionally, there needs to be increased coordination between the international organizations in order to further the work carried out towards this objective: particularly, the work of the UNEP, WMO, and UNDP in the light of promoting environmentally friendly projects. In so doing, they would promote sustainable development.

Although the Paris Agreement signified a promising leap towards global climate change prevention, it is potentially fragile because it doesn't have any built-in mechanisms for enforcement. Whilst it would be desirable to suggest a mechanism similar to the WTO dispute resolution panel, and this would be in direct contravention of the terms of the Paris agreement. This has led to disappointing results in the implementation of the agreement as many nations are already on course to fall short of their pledges. If ever the agreement is to be renegotiated, this issue of enforcement should be a priority for amendment.

In light of this, future multilateral and bilateral trade agreements should include requirements that parties maintain certain environmental standards as part of commercial practice (in line with the Paris Agreement). This will add a further international network of enforcement supported by repercussions such as trade sanctions and other penalties. This will effectively tie environmental progression to commercial behavior to ensure that industrialization and climate change prevention become joint goals.

## **Conclusion**

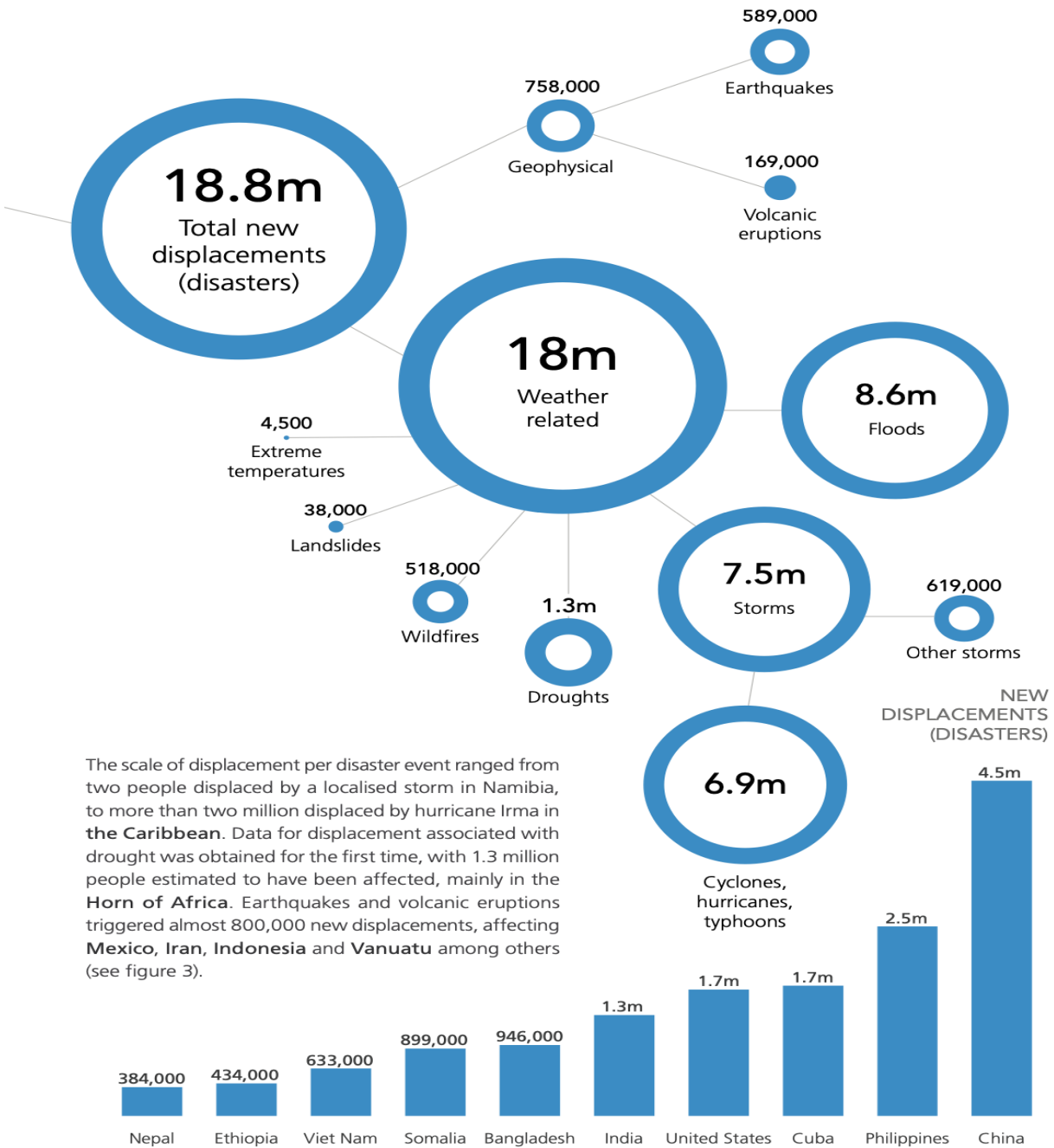
It is evident that traditional methods of industrialization as a mechanism for economic development are unacceptable given the current CCE. Although these processes propelled the now developed countries into their position of global dominance, that journey cannot be replicated by EMEs and LEDCs today. They, along with the rest of the world, must now focus on "sustainable development" as the only viable means for creating and sustaining their economic growth. This will require a global effort: civilians, companies, nations, regions, and organizations must share in this burden. Without this level of joint intentionality, the climate change goals will remain unattainable ideals, and the Paris convention will lose its significance. Worse still, the earth will suffer irreversible damage leading to loss of resources, ecosystems, homes, and eventually, lives. The time to take radical action is now.

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# Appendices

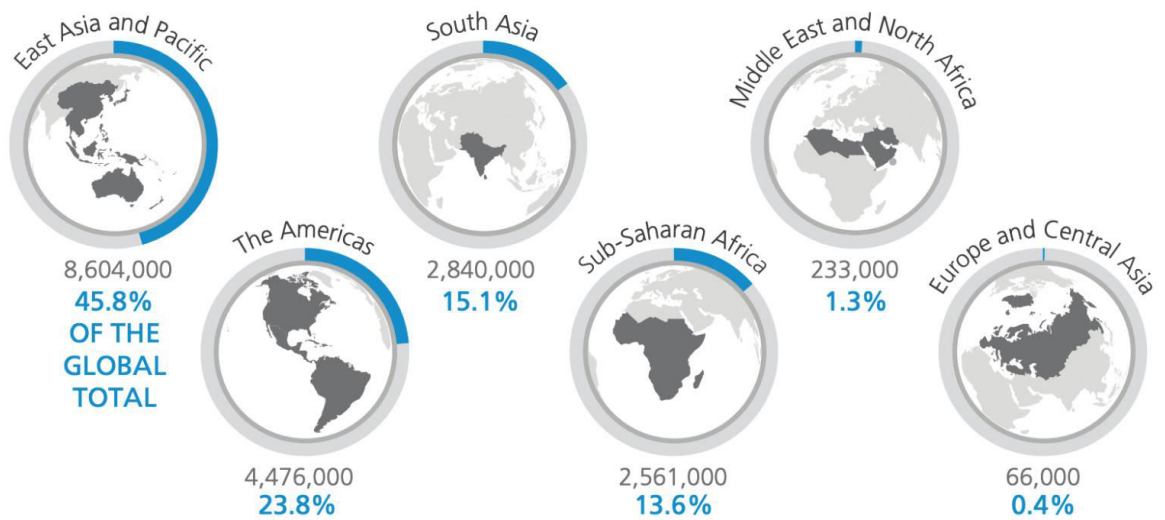
## Appendix A



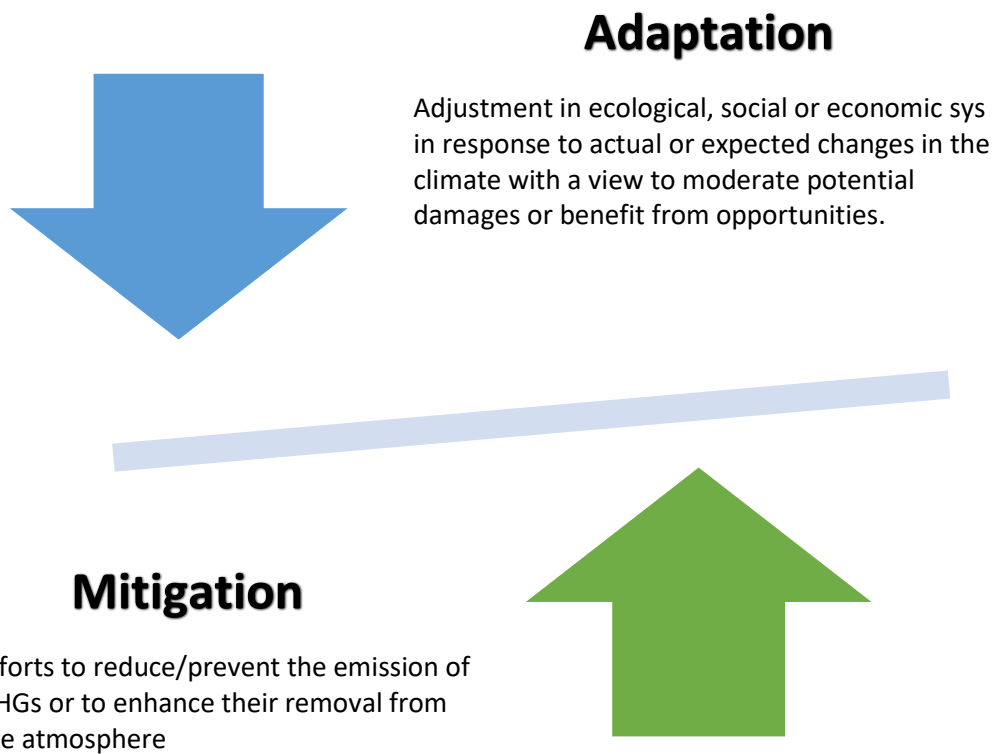
Source: GRID 2018

## Appendix B

### DISASTERS: NEW DISPLACEMENTS BY REGION



GRID  
2018



# Appendix D

Source: (content extracted from (UNFCCC,2009)



# Appendix E

## {content extracted from (UNEP, 2016) }



## Appendix F

### THE TRIPLE BOTTOM-LINE APPROACH



Source: <https://www.era-environmental.com/blog/sustainability-management-triple-bottom-line>



**Do you think your children, grandchildren, will have fewer or more opportunities than you had? Will they be better or worse off - when it comes to education or job prospects for example?**

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## **Introduction**

This year the UN Graduate Study Programme has united 80 participants from more than 50 countries under the theme “United Nations at 75: Shaping Our Future Together” which was held online for the first time in its history. It is a vivid example of changes our society currently undergoes and of the future next generations will face. We are entering the new era of technological progress which will transform many areas of our life such as education, work, living conditions, and environment. This new reality may give us more opportunities to change our life due to better access to education worldwide and the global job market, and to contribute to the wellbeing of our communities. However, technological progress may not benefit everybody equally, widening the gap between developed countries, countries in transition, and emerging countries. As the world is changing rapidly, we should consider it in the long run, thinking more about future generations. Do our children, our grandchildren, our great grandchildren have the same luck with us? Will they be able to embrace the emerging technologies and competition in the job markets? It makes us think of ways to improve our skills such as working together to deal with global challenges. To address these challenges, possible solutions or suggestions should be elaborated in advance to help future generations to have equal opportunities. In this paper, we will discuss possible outcomes of these technological advances and reasons why some people may have more opportunities on the job market and education, and why some people may not have equal chances. At the end of the paper, possible suggestions will be made.

## Education

Education is essential for human development and economic growth. New technologies will enable future generations to have access to a greater number of educational programmes and encourage distance learning. The Internet allows people who live in remote areas to attend classes or lectures without having to travel thanks to communication devices and platforms (Fojtik, 2014). The use of virtual learning today provides an easy and affordable way of interacting with other people and acquiring knowledge. It will help students become better learners and to develop higher cognitive skills. Because of Covid-19 pandemic this year, students all over the world have gone through the lockdown without being able to attend physical classes. With the support of technologies, students could still have online courses no matter how far away they were from schools or universities, which laid ground for more online courses in the future. Hundreds of years ago, it was hard for people to imagine that cars, computers or the Internet would be invented. When these new devices came out, many people started to learn how to use them, and how to improve them. In that case, new majors like engineering and computer science were offered in universities. On this account, it is possible for future generations to have more opportunities to learn new subjects due to the advances in new technology.

However, people in some places may have less opportunities for education as economic inequality deprives them of access to new technologies. These new technologies may widen the gap between the rich and the poor (Henry and Richard, 2003). The Internet and information technology (IT) may have an economic impact on many aspects such as living conditions and education all over the world, because new innovations are exploited mostly in relatively few parts of the world, which may only increase global economic inequalities. People in poorer areas will have less skills, which will impact future generations limiting their economic and educational opportunities. But this is not the only obstacle people in those areas may encounter. Cultural beliefs are another backdrop to education in some localities. Certain cultures do not encourage girls to study and have refused to embrace the advances in new technologies. Such cultural segregation places a big barrier to get the future generation to be fully integrated.

## Digital Disruption

The globe has witnessed an evolution since the first industrial revolution, and this has taken place in four phases: we have had the first, second, third and now the fourth industrial revolution. Digital disruption is defined as the rapidly unfolding processes through which digital innovation comes to fundamentally alter historically sustainable logics for value creation and capture by unbundling and recombining linkages among resources or generating new ones (Daniel, Henrick and Johan, 2018). Digital disruptions have a lot of advantages and disadvantages. Disruption affects education delivery ways and the job market. The future will be composed of skills not yet developed. A greater percentage of children enrolling to school today will hold jobs that do not exist. Digitalization is an active player in most businesses and workplace organizations today. Its evolution has made some businesses gain big names and take the advantage of digital emergence to increase their market surgenices and therefore success. With digital disruptions, people can now conveniently work from home, multi-task and enjoy leisure. The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic has made us realize the impact of technology.

Though digital disruption may seem as obvious as it appears, it has some geographical, financial, and economical backdrops. Some students cannot benefit the services it provides. A handful of educators and students are in off-grid communities with little to no access to electricity and internet connectivity. Some are financially disadvantaged and as such, they cannot afford the cost of smartphones, laptop, or internet. In this light, they are left out of the big picture. Digital disruption is a form of economic divide where some businesses especially small ones cannot afford the cost of digital equipment like laptops and lack the skills and training to cope with the market competition. They are set to lose a fair share of the market and are therefore kicked out. In such a situation, these businesses may downsize or lay off workers, hence, increase unemployment. Another drawback associated with digital disruptions is the risk of fraud and increase in cyber-attack. Many fraudsters take advantage of the technology to siphon data and sell to make money. Digital disruption also leads to price skimming. This is because research and development costs are always high for new innovations. Companies use price skimming to break even. With this so-called fourth industrial revolution and ongoing innovation, human workers will be significantly replaced by artificial intelligence like robots, and physical presence will not be needed, many people might be excluded from the job market. In a nutshell, digital disruption has a vital role to play in our future generation.

## **Job Market Evolution**

The job market transformation is inevitable, and the recent pandemic has only accelerated this process. It highlighted the necessity of speeding up automation which means that manual jobs may disappear in the near future and new ones will be created instead requiring advanced qualifications. This pandemic and the possibility of its periodical resurgence revealed the possibility of remote work and telecommuting on a larger scale thus leading towards the development of the online jobs market and the merger of national employment markets into the global one. This process is unavoidable and as any other major change, it will have both positive and negative outcomes. This shift will change our perception of work demanding from us more flexibility and constant learning in order to keep up with the technological progress which will regularly transform our working environment. Global online job market will enable people to find jobs in the fields which may not be available in their home country or home city without forcing them to move or to commute long distances which will increase the number of opportunities for people with limited financial resources and reduce the burden on our environment. In the future, it may help reduce inequality and poverty giving future generations more opportunities and a better chance to succeed.

However, these very same changes may lead to negative consequences which will deprive people all over the world of income and their right to decent working conditions. If national job markets become virtual, it will open the door to unfair competition if this process is not accompanied by proper legislation. Employers will be able to find cheaper workforce online which may lower the salaries in developed countries and increase the number of working hours thus depriving the person of social interactions and rest and adding stress. Moreover, the automation, development of the AI and virtualization of workspace will decrease the demand in the workforce thus leading to higher unemployment rates. Many tech and sales companies such as Microsoft, Apple, and Nike have announced the closing of their physical stores and moving all their sales online which will lead to layoffs in the near future. But it is not the only negative consequence related to this process. The very nature of work will change as, with virtual workspace, certain aspects such as social contact and physical space dedicated only to work, will disappear. Such changes may lead to multiple psychological problems and even disorient a person.

## **Future Generations' Flexibility and Sustainability**

The world is facing big challenges: climate change and wellbeing are in the top of the 17 SDGs. Sustainable development and environmental awareness are based on political, economic and social sciences, it is the main priority of future generations and of communities and business consideration. Students in the modern world are the main actors who have the potential to help the world reach zero carbon emissions and develop new technologies that may lead us towards the development of clean energy. Higher-quality educational institutions will enable future generations to acquire more knowledge and skills, thus diversifying their professional profiles and contributing to sustainable development, and economic and scientific achievements. Investing in human potential is the key strategy for development of social and education policy.

Globalization and global challenges (pandemics, wars) have had a major impact on our generation. Some areas may completely lose access to education facilities (cancelled courses, exams, and postponed graduations events) thus making the technology a very important factor to define our generation's capacity to succeed and move forward. Many developed countries have had problems with switching to distance learning, even though they have more resources to put it in place, which is not the case of many other countries. Some emerging countries do not have any access to the internet and energy and cannot provide online education at all. The experience with the present crisis (COVID-19) makes us wonder about future generations' readiness for new types of jobs, new markets and new economy, as new policies related to company's job offers open our perspectives and extend our vision concerning new course of actions. In the coming decades, there will be no borders between people. In addition, students with the access to different platform (e-learning, developed skills) acquire new skills quickly which may lead us to redefine the way of teaching and the role of educators (move forward to new skills needed in the future and job markets including resilience and adaptability which are essential to the future generations).

## Conclusion

Education is crucial for future generations and is the key to economic growth. Due to the recent advances in technology classroom learning might undergo huge transformation in the future. The trend of online courses might alter the traditional physical courses. In addition, high-quality online programmes will surface and partially substitute the traditional ones thus combining physical and online courses. Therefore, online education needs to have the same recognition as the traditional one. This transition may be one of the ways to make education more affordable regardless of residence status of students thus offering them degrees free of charge or with the reduced rate increasing their employability. The current situation (covid-19 pandemic) clearly shows the lack of digital platforms in universities, where public education institutions in many countries have been obliged to close their classrooms and suspend courses except those one who have partnership with private digital platforms (Microsoft office 365) and are used to online webinars and conferences. Investing in these platforms is crucial to ensure the continuity of studies which some developing countries have overlooked.

The future of job markets and economic changes will not depend only on education in general or method of teaching and learning, but also on the field of studies (the most suitable fields to cover the demand of the markets) and our capacity to diversify. To achieve that, we need collaboration between academics and businesspeople, the private sector financial support of educational institutions to set up new educational platforms or upgrade the existing ones. This is really important because as the world population is growing, the education demand will increase as well.

Governments and international institutions have tried for many years to address issues related to access to energy and internet connection. However, their cost is still an obstacle that the world is facing, students and parents struggle to follow online courses provided by their institutions in many countries. Therefore, the world community needs to elaborate solutions that can provide cheaper access to the highspeed internet and cover all the areas, such as the SpaceX project “Starlink”. Finally, governments should implement policies that can help people face all these challenges. Such policies should be directed at international cooperation, education and participation of future generations in order for them to accept this ever-changing environment because “We’re not going back to normal”. For better job opportunities for everyone, we will need to develop human intellectual potential so that

we can manage and control these technological innovations. We must start preparing our mindset now and focus on capacity building so that our future generations can fit into this new society.

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# **United Nations at 75: shaping our future together – the way forward**

Author:

ALESHINLOYE, Segun Micheal

## **Introduction**

The international system at large has witnessed a boom in both global and regional organizations since after the peace treaty of Westphalia in 1648. It is worthy of note that since the Westphalian treaty, the international system has been in a state of conflict with two devastating wars, that is, the First and Second World War. It was due to these devastating wars that the international arena decided to come together and establish a global organization in order to harmonize and unite the world at large. Consequently, the idea of establishing the United Nations came into limelight. Finally, the UN was established on 24th October 1945, in San Francisco (USA) after series of international meetings as regards its existence. The UN came into existence to maximize collective gains, promote peace and cooperation, political and economic integration.

The organization has six structures and they include the General assembly, the security council, the economic and social council, trusteeship council, the international court of justice and the secretariat. All the departments have specific roles and responsibilities being attached to them. This year, the United Nations is celebrating its 75th birthday and as a result, it gave birth to a theme called “UN at 75, Shaping Our Future Together”. So, the purpose of “UN75, Shaping Our Future Together” is to discuss issues and challenges circumambulating UN Sustainable Development Goals and also, proffer solutions to those issues. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the 17 goals the UN wants to achieve by 2030. So, all the UN member States decided to adopt the 17 goals and working towards achieving them by 2030. For the purpose of this paper, Poverty, Education and Good Health as regards Nigeria will be examined, giving recommendations on how best to tackle the issues that are hindering the country from achieving these goals.



## **Body (discussions)**

To begin with, the first SDG goal I want to talk about is end poverty and also, ending poverty happened to be the first SDG in the list of the 17 SDG's. It is evident that global poverty is alarming and the effects of poverty results to hunger, malnutrition, lack of social services and later on, frustration ensues. Nigeria is part of the UN member states and since the adoption of the SDG's, the country has been struggling to achieve the targets of ending poverty. However, in the process, the country faced and is still facing challenges on attaining the required targets. This is because, the country has witnessed and is still witnessing conflicts of various kinds.

Prevalent conflicts are a major factor hindering Nigeria from attaining the first SDG. With conflicts on the increase, it slows developmental processes, lives are lost, properties are being destroyed and also, it leads to displacement of persons. In the process, the vulnerable become susceptible which increases the rate of poverty. Furthermore, Quality Education will be examined. Achieving quality education is the 4<sup>th</sup> SDG in Nigeria and this SDG is quite ambitious. The target seeks to ensure equitable and inclusive quality education for children worldwide. However, achieving this target is challenging in Nigeria. It is worthy of note that some groups are affected heavily in terms of education as compared to others. In comparison, people in the rural areas are more hit than their counterparts in the urban areas. Similarly, those in the Northern part of the country are worse off as compared to their counterparts in the south. Generally, inadequate access to education have severe effects on living standards, economic growth and access to jobs. In fact, the increase in ignorance can largely be attributed to lack of education and I wish to reiterate that ignorance in a state hinders development. However, the key issues and challenges to educational access in Nigeria is lack of funding. Even though there are some budgets attached to the educational sector, it is still not enough to achieve the targets of the 4<sup>th</sup> SDG. Another issue bordering the education line is limited alignment of crucial aspects of the 4<sup>th</sup> SDG to existing national policies and in most cases, employing inexperienced teachers to teach is a factor hindering the 4th SDG to be achieved.

Again, I would also want to talk about good health and well-being in Nigeria. So, the Good health is the 3<sup>rd</sup> SDG on the list. Ensuring good health and well-being of the people is key and the main objective of the 3<sup>rd</sup> SDG. Some of the highlights of UNDP statistics concerning health are that, yearly, more than 6 million children die before reaching 5 years, over 6.2 million people malaria deaths were recorded between 2000-2015 and also, children born into poverty are double the number of those born with silver spoons. As a result, those born in poverty are likely to die before the age of 5 as compared to those born in wealth. Meanwhile, bold steps are being taken in order to increase life expectancy and

reduce the major common killers accompanying child mortality. Achieving this would require colossal improvements in skilled delivery care. Achieving this 3<sup>rd</sup> SDG in Nigeria is torpedoed by some factors. One of the major challenges to this is lack of awareness and sensitization of the goals to the public. Research reveals that quite a number of Nigerians are unaware of the SDGs enshrined by the UN. Unfortunately, Nigerians continue to experience avoidable deaths as they continue to die of illness that are easily treatable. In Nigeria, people only go to hospitals when they are seriously ill and with this, the chances of survival become low. Another issue is due to inadequate funding. Before now, quite a considerable amount of money is being budgeted for the health sector but due to widespread of social discord, killings and kidnappings and other host of ill societal effects, bulk of the monies are however been budgeted to tackle insecurity.

Having introduced the theme, the issues and challenges to three of the SDG's with special reference to Nigeria were discussed briefly. Hence, those issues called the attention of giving some recommendations. Therefore, the recommendations are as follows;

### **What is the way forward?**

First of all, the Nigerian government should step up their game and increase their efforts in combating conflicts and insecurity in Nigeria. This can be done by improving the existing operational approach towards conflict management. So, early warning mechanisms can be adopted to prevent further conflicts. If this can be achieved, the rate of conflict will be reduced, hence creating a platform for development. When conflict is absent and economic development triumphs, there would be a conducive environment for industrialization. Hence, the vulnerable will be engaged in activities which will go a long way in reducing poverty rate. Furthermore, there should be adequate funding in the educational sector. These funds should ensure it reaches the far rural areas where they are lacking access to quality education. There should also be adequate funding to enable further research in schools. A committee should be established in order to ensure quality education has reached the required places. Also, modern way of learning should also be introduced, and good governance should be a key curriculum in schools.

Lastly, the public should be adequately and properly educated on the pros and cons of the SDGs. With regards to quality health care, people should be sensitized about the advantages of periodic medical checks and the health care should also be financed properly. There should be constant research

and training of public staffs on good health practices. Summarily, if all these are followed adequately, it will go a long way in attaining the goals of the SDG's as enshrined by the UN.

**Where would you advise the UN Secretary-General to prioritize his focus? How can we collectively bridge the gap between the world we hope for and the world that may result if we don't better manage current trends?**

Author:

AMAECHINA, Uchenna

In times of growing geo-strategic competition, we must tackle new challenges to global peace. The increasing intensity and complexity of crises worldwide endanger the lives of millions, cause unparalleled levels of forced displacement and put human rights at risk. Climate change acts as a threat multiplier, with serious implications for peace and security across the globe. In the face of more complex, violent and protracted conflicts, it is necessary that UN will strengthen its role as a global provider of peace and security.

Conflict prevention is a critical tool to respond to these challenges. UN should sharpen her focus on collective engagement and galvanize joint efforts to make conflict prevention a strategic goal and must now deliver on its implementation. Conflict prevention is quite instrumental to bring real change on the ground by further operationalizing preventive efforts, peacebuilding and the sustaining peace agenda. Linking early warning to early action is essential to mitigate the risks of outbreak and recurrence of conflicts. Conflict prevention should be at the heart of joint actions to make peace operations and crisis management more effective and sustainable. UN should continue to vigorously support and strengthen mediation efforts and be at the forefront of a surge in diplomacy for peace. The meaningful inclusion of women and youth is crucial for effective conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. The UN should explore ways to strengthen the UN Peacebuilding Commission, an important platform for Member States to engage in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including through its enhanced interaction with the UN Security Council. The United Nations should also further strengthen the cooperation with the other bodies and the World Bank to help countries affected by conflict to plan for and implement a quick and sustainable recovery.

In today's ever more globalized world, global challenges need global solutions. Mega-trends, such as increased human mobility and rapidly developing new technologies such as Artificial

Intelligence, are shaping our future. The combined effects of globalization and technological, environmental and demographic change are transforming the world of work at an unprecedented pace and scale and present challenges and opportunities for the future of work. These transformative changes call for decisive action, greater solidarity and stronger partnerships in view of a fair globalization and a better and more sustainable future for all with full respect for human rights.

No country can address migration and forced displacement on its own the Un should work with partners – countries of origin, transit and destination as well as international organizations – to jointly address these challenges, including in the framework of the UN. The UN should continue to pursue its comprehensive approach to migration and forced displacement, including to address irregular migration, through the building of effective, sustainable and tailor-made partnerships and closer cooperation between humanitarian and development actors, as well as with civil society, aiming at harnessing and strengthening the resilience and self-reliance of both the host communities and the forcibly displaced, including internally displaced persons.

Counterterrorism (CT) and preventing/countering violent extremism (P/CVE) should be of a high priority for the UN. The UN through multilateral cooperation should address the global threat of terrorism in full compliance with the rule of law and international law, including human rights law and international humanitarian law. The UN should attach great importance to a holistic approach to tackle terrorism by empowering multi-agency approaches to prevent radicalization; preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online and promoting credible alternative narratives; strengthening law enforcement, judicial cooperation and information exchange as well as anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing. It is important that UN should explore means of cutting off the sources of terrorism financing, to enhance resilience and to provide comprehensive assistance to the victims of terrorism.

In addition to addressing global peace, other priorities to be address is food security by making concentrated effort in the achievement of SDG2, ending hunger, and SDG2.3, doubling smallholder productivity and incomes. This involves promoting increase agricultural productivity for smallholder farmers; increase smallholder farmer household income; increase equitable consumption of a safe, affordable, nutritious diet year-round; and increase women’s empowerment in agriculture.

Food production in most developing countries has been affected by the following:

- Low productivity which is made worse by climate change: Droughts, pests, and other threats to crops and livestock affect millions of farmers. These challenges reduce crop yields and

productivity, creating an ongoing struggle for smallholder farmers and their families to grow enough quality food and earn a stable income. A worsening climate, including rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall, will only exacerbate these problems.

- Low profitability from agriculture: Smallholder farmers often face barriers to entering or engaging effectively in markets for their agricultural production, which limits the ability of smallholders to realize a profit from agriculture.
- Systems and policies that fail to meet the needs of farmers: Many smallholder farmers are constrained by inadequate systems and policies that make it difficult for them to be profitable or to grow enough nutritious food. These systems and policies often fail to provide timely and affordable access to markets, advisory services, and inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and quality veterinary medicines.
- Lack of opportunity and resources for women: Women are vital drivers for economic and social development for their families and communities. But they often lack decision-making power in the agricultural system and in their own households. Inequitable access to agricultural information, inputs, and land constrains women's productivity and empowerment.
- Food systems that do not provide adequate nutrition: Many families do not have access to safe, affordable, nutritious diets year-round. Food systems do not incentivize production of nutrient-rich foods, seasonal availability constrains nutritious and safe food consumption throughout the year, lack of knowledge prohibits people from understanding their nutritional needs, and inadequate food policies struggle to ensure quality and safety.

The UN should adopt the following strategies to achieve zero hunger:

- Fund innovations in delivery, like digitizing agricultural extension or creating low-cost digital soil health maps. We have provided support to advance global data efforts on agriculture, including the development of indicators to measure women's empowerment in agriculture.
- Support country agricultural strategies and help drive systems innovation through country, private sector, and other in-country partnerships to enable more effective delivery of products, tools, technologies, and services. The private sector has a major role to play in achieving zero hunger and it is essential to partner with companies that are committed to working with smallholders through sustainable business models.

In conclusion, strengthening and ensuring the scale-up of prioritized, productivity-enhancing interventions; supporting the long-term capabilities of public and private actors needed to sustain delivery systems; supporting targeted research in agriculture; and strengthening market systems to better include women and effectively raise smallholder farmers' incomes is essential in promoting Zero Hunger as part of the achievement of millennium development goals.

**What would your ideal world look like in 25 years - the UN's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary?  
What is different from the world you see today? Describe a day in that world you  
envision 25 years from now. What action should we take now to make a better  
world for future generations?**

Author:

AZEEZ, Muqsit

Audio recording [here](#).



# **Quelles formes d'action et de collaboration concrètes seraient nécessaires pour l'inclusion de la jeunesse dans la gestion des conflits au Sahel ?**

Authors:

BARRO, Innocent; ILO, Jude; REXHEPI, Vjosa

## **Introduction**

Les conflits violents et le terrorisme dans la région du Sahel en Afrique, connue sous le nom de pays du G5 (composé par le Tchad, le Niger, le Mali, le Burkina Faso et la Mauritanie), deviennent de moins en moins gérables et ils constituent une menace énorme pour la paix et la sécurité régionales et internationales. Les conséquences des conflits au Sahel sont évidentes à cause du degré de souffrance humaine et de sous-développement. La région du Sahel est donc confrontée à de nombreux défis complexes et interconnectés. Elle est l'un des points chauds du changement climatique dans le monde. Des conditions météorologiques de plus en plus imprévisibles, des sécheresses et des inondations plus fréquentes et la dégradation des terres menacent les moyens de subsistance d'une population dont la majorité dépend de l'agriculture pour sa survie. Les chocs environnementaux, l'insécurité, la faim chronique et la malnutrition ont une relation dangereusement symbiotique au Sahel. Une multiplication de conflits armés et de violences aggrave les difficultés chroniques du Sahel et a entraîné de nouveaux pics de déplacements dans la région. Le manque d'opportunités et de chômage, la détérioration de la sécurité, les inégalités économiques et sociales exposent les jeunes à des risques de radicalisation et de recrutement. Les causes des conflits au Sahel ont été associées à des violences ethno-religieuses extrêmes, à la marginalisation politique et socio-économique, aux effets du changement climatique, aux affrontements agro-pastoraux et à la migration illégale à travers les États de la région. La radicalisation et les extrémismes violents religieux, tels que le Boko Haram, dans les pays voisins ont intensifié l'insurrection dans la région, rendant ainsi les conflits et autres formes de troubles sociaux au Sahel encore plus prolongés. Comme les efforts et les ressources prometteurs sont canalisés vers la gestion des conflits au Sahel, il manque l'inclusion ainsi que l'implication des jeunes

dans l'ensemble du processus. Il ne fait aucun doute que les jeunes qui constituent un pourcentage plus élevé de la population africaine jouent un rôle important pendant et après les incidents de conflits violents. En effet, plus de «50 millions de jeunes de moins de 30 ans vivent aujourd'hui dans la région du Sahel. Ils représentent environ 65% de la population des pays du G5 Sahel (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Tchad et Mauritanie) » (Centre pour le dialogue humanitaire). Cela représente un nombre extrêmement important, c'est pourquoi, la jeunesse au Sahel est essentielle pour le rétablissement, le maintien et la consolidation d'une paix tenace et durable dans la région ainsi que tout le continent africain.

En 2015, le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies a adopté la Résolution 2250 sur les jeunes, la paix et la sécurité afin d'affirmer le rôle important que les jeunes peuvent jouer dans la prévention et le règlement des conflits et en tant qu'aspect clé de la durabilité, de l'inclusivité et du succès des efforts de maintien et de consolidation de la paix, reconnaissant ainsi que les jeunes devraient activement participer à l'instauration d'une paix durable et contribuer à la justice et à la réconciliation, et de même qu'une importante population de jeunes présente un dividende démographique unique qui peut contribuer à une paix durable et à la prospérité économique si des politiques inclusives sont en place. La Résolution 2250 est la première décision du Conseil de sécurité qui reconnaît le rôle important que jouent les jeunes femmes et les jeunes hommes dans le maintien et la promotion de la paix et de la sécurité internationales.

C'est à la lumière de ce qui précède que ce projet de groupe entend explorer les actions concrètes et les collaborations nécessaires à l'inclusion des jeunes dans la gestion des conflits au Sahel. Ce travail est écrit comme un accomplissement partiel pour l'exigence d'un certificat de participation au 58e Programme d'études supérieures des Nations unies à Genève.

## Analyse et recommandations

La gestion des conflits, selon Christopher Allan, est un effort interventionniste visant à prévenir l'escalade et les effets négatifs, et particulièrement violents, des conflits en cours. De plus, Allan souligne une variété de techniques qui ont été identifiées et utilisées dans les efforts de gestion des conflits. Les plus importantes sont les suivantes. Premièrement, les parties en conflit sont réunies pour établir un accord mutuel. Deuxièmement, les gouvernements ou les tiers aux conflits peuvent intervenir directement pour introduire ou imposer une décision. Troisièmement, de nouvelles initiatives, programmes ou structures institutionnelles (par exemple, des élections) sont mises en œuvre pour résoudre le conflit en question. Quatrièmement, les parties rivales sont obligées ou contraintes d'utiliser des moyens de résolution ou de confinement précédemment établis. Cinquièmement, les gouvernements ou d'autres tiers peuvent recourir à la coercition pour éliminer ou inculquer la peur à l'un ou à tous ceux qui sont engagés dans un conflit donné, conduisant à une chute. De la même façon, Owen et al. déclarent qu'une fois qu'un conflit violent a commencé, les activités de gestion et de réduction des conflits deviennent une priorité; empêcher l'escalade d'un conflit violent, réduire son intensité ou son étendue géographique et mettre fin à la guerre.

L'intervention dans le conflit dans la région du Sahel en Afrique a systématiquement écarté les jeunes qui font partie intégrante du conflit en tant qu'acteurs et victimes, discréditant ainsi l'impératif que le conflit doit être géré par la société dans laquelle il se produit. Bien que la Résolution 2250 du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies sur les jeunes, la paix et la sécurité définisse le terme « jeunes » comme des personnes âgées de 18 à 29 ans, ce projet axé sur la région sahélienne de l'Afrique suit la définition employée aux échelles régionale et nationale, par exemple, la Charte africaine de la Jeunesse qui entend qu'un ou une « jeune » est toute personne âgée de 18 à 35 ans (Commission de l'Union africaine, 2006). Les crimes organisés tels que le banditisme, les enlèvements, les viols et les activités terroristes au Sahel sont orchestrés principalement par les jeunes dont la plupart ont été radicalisés et mobilisés par des incitations au conflit en raison de l'échec des gouvernements à créer des emplois ou des opportunités économiques pour la population croissante de jeunes dans la région. Par conséquent, comme les jeunes ont tendance à vivre des conflits violents, ils sont également capables de construire une paix durable dans leurs différentes communautés lorsqu'ils en ont la possibilité.

Ces derniers temps, des pays tels que le Tchad, le Niger, le Mali et le Burkina Faso sont assaillis d'incidents récurrents d'attaques terroristes, de conflits liés aux élections, de conflits entre agriculteurs

et éleveurs, de conflits ethniques et religieux. La gestion des conflits dans ces pays nécessiterait un engagement collaboratif conscient envers le partage des renseignements aux niveaux national et régional, l'inclusion des jeunes dans les processus d'intervention en cas de conflit et, plus important encore, la création de politiques pour les jeunes qui contribueraient positivement aux efforts de consolidation de la paix, y compris le développement social et économique, en soutenant des projets destinés à développer les économies locales et à offrir des possibilités d'emploi et de formation professionnelle aux jeunes, à favoriser leur éducation et à promouvoir l'esprit d'entreprise et l'engagement politique constructif des jeunes. Dernièrement, l'intervention dans les conflits au Sahel se caractérise par un fort déploiement de troupes militaires dans les communautés touchées, qui éclipsent les initiatives locales de consolidation de la paix et la participation inclusive des jeunes à la gestion des conflits. Étant donné que la gestion des conflits est un processus constant, il est donc essentiel de promouvoir les initiatives de paix de base pour les jeunes et d'encourager leur participation active aux efforts de consolidation de la paix dans toute la région sahéenne de l'Afrique. Ce travail propose les recommandations suivantes sur des formes et d'actions concrètes visant à améliorer la participation, l'implication et l'inclusion des jeunes dans la gestion de conflits au Sahel.

## **A) Plans d'action nationaux et régionaux et programmes d'autonomisation des jeunes**

Il est important de noter qu'une première action concrète pour l'inclusion des jeunes dans la région sahéenne est la mise en place des plans d'actions nationaux et régionaux (des « roadmaps ») ayant pris en compte une vue globale et une analyse compréhensive du contexte actuel dans lequel se retrouvent les jeunes au Sahel. Ces plans d'action devraient contenir des stratégies et initiatives détaillées sur des points, questions et domaines à améliorer, développer ou remédier. Plus précisément, ces plans d'action ou programmes détaillés pourraient et devraient contenir des programmes de création d'emplois ou d'opportunités de travail pour les jeunes, des programmes d'autonomisation des jeunes ainsi que des initiatives des jeunes pour la paix.

### *1. Création d'emplois et d'opportunités d'emploi pour les jeunes.*

Le recrutement dans les organisations terroristes devenant rapidement attrayant pour les jeunes en raison des possibilités d'emploi limitées, les gouvernements du Sahel et les agences internationales de développement devraient faire de la création d'emplois une question de la plus haute importance

dans leurs différents pays d'opération. Les jeunes sont, de ce fait devenus une figure importante dans la détérioration de la paix et de la stabilité dans les zones en conflits au Sahel. La jeunesse qui, devrait être associée au développement et l'instauration de la paix est souvent considérée comme un facteur déterminant de la violence, elle manque à l'appel pour la stabilité. Les jeunes sont l'avenir du continent, donc il serait impératif d'adopter des textes et mettre en place des opportunités d'emploi pour les jeunes. La création d'emplois permettrait aux jeunes de prendre part à la vie sociale, politique et économique et leur permettrait ainsi d'avoir des lieux d'appartenance, d'identification et d'expression.

## 2. *Présentation et soutien de programmes d'autonomisation des jeunes*

Les jeunes représentent le plus grand pourcentage de la main-d'œuvre au Sahel. Par conséquent, les gouvernements et les organisations de développement internationales, nationales et locales devraient collaborer pour lancer des programmes d'autonomisation durable ciblant les jeunes. Ces actions réduiraient non seulement la vulnérabilité des jeunes au recrutement par les insurgés et limiteraient les tendances des jeunes à commettre d'autres formes de délits, mais elles prépareraient des jeunes autonomes et capables de contribuer à la vie économique, sociale et politique de leurs pays. Des formes concrètes pour le soutien l'autonomisation des jeunes peuvent être leur renforcement de capacités c'est-à-dire par le biais de programmes de formations, mentorats, coaching pour les jeunes mais aussi par les jeunes.

## 3. *Initiatives des Jeunes pour la paix*

Les jeunes représentent un potentiel important pour le développement des personnes, cependant, leur engagement et leur importance dans les processus de paix sont souvent compromis par les gouvernements et la communauté internationale. Ainsi, il est nécessaire de créer un espace pour la participation des jeunes sur les questions de consolidation de la paix et de gestion des conflits au Sahel. Les initiatives de paix telles que l'éducation à la paix, les projets de paix, les dialogues de paix intercommunautaires / interétatiques devraient cibler les jeunes et créer des réseautages de jeunes investis dans de diverses initiatives pour la paix.

## **B) Mécanismes axés sur l'inclusion des jeunes tel qu'un mécanisme de rassemblement des jeunes dans la structure du Secrétariat permanent du G5.**

L'inclusion des jeunes dans la gestion de conflits au Sahel devrait également s'appuyer fortement sur la création et mise en place de mécanismes axés sur l'inclusion des jeunes dans les processus de paix et de sécurité.

### *1. Encourager la participation des jeunes à la gouvernance/leadership*

La voix des jeunes doit être entendue en matière de gouvernance dans la région du Sahel en Afrique. Par conséquent, le leadership à différents niveaux devrait assurer la participation active et la représentation des jeunes. Il est également impératif d'encourager la contribution des jeunes aux processus de décision au Sahel. L'inclusion des jeunes dans la direction locale est d'une importance capitale. En outre, les problèmes affectant les jeunes dans leurs diverses communautés tels que le chômage, les stéréotypes et la marginalisation doivent être résolus et la participation des jeunes aux dirigeants locaux doit être encouragée en tant que mécanisme de coexistence pacifique au Sahel. En effet, les gouvernements et organisations internationales doivent plaider de façon plus directe en faveur de l'augmentation du nombre des jeunes participant à des postes de direction à tous les niveaux de prise de décision dans les domaines politique, économique et public de la vie. La participation et représentation doivent être pas symboliques mais clé à tous les niveaux.

### *2. Impliquer les jeunes dans la police / sécurité communautaire*

Les gouvernements des pays du G5 devraient faire de la sécurité de la région une priorité et une question d'intérêt collectif. Il est important que les jeunes soient sensibilisés et activement impliqués dans les domaines de la police communautaire et du partage de renseignements. Ce faisant, les incidents de conflit et les extrémismes violents réduiraient et la paix serait rétablie au Sahel.

### 3. *Mécanisme de rassemblement des jeunes dans la structure du Secrétariat permanent du G5*

La participation des jeunes à la stabilité du sahel est très cruciale et les gouvernements et leurs partenaires devraient se mobiliser pour apporter des solutions. Le G5 Sahel, dont le siège est à Nouakchott, est un cadre de coopération intergouvernementale créé le 16 février 2014 à l'initiative de la présidence mauritanienne de l'Union africaine. Elle vise à lutter contre l'insécurité et à soutenir le développement en vue de l'ouverture de la région. Engager les jeunes à travers le Sahel et les intégrer dans les structures de gouvernance exploite simultanément leurs approches innovantes face aux défis de sécurité régionaux et facilite l'intégration de leurs perspectives dans l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre des politiques. C'est pour cela qu'il est vivement recommandé de mettre en place un mécanisme de rassemblement des jeunes dans la structure du Secrétariat permanent du G5 afin d'accroître l'influence des jeunes dans les processus menés par le G5.

### **C) Initiatives globales, régionales, nationales et locales de promotion plus accentuées contrant les fausses idées et stéréotypes appuyées par les nations unies et mises en place par les organisations de sociétés civiles (OSC)**

Finalement, l'inclusion des jeunes au Sahel ne sera pas possible si les efforts sont nationaux et régionaux uniquement. Il est indispensable que ces efforts nationaux et régionaux aient un soutien international i.e. des Nations unies, pour qu'ils deviennent un succès et puisse avoir un impact important.

#### *1. Renforcement de la confiance*

Au fil des années, les jeunes ont été considérés comme les seuls auteurs de conflits violents au point que les gouvernements, la communauté internationale et les agences humanitaires sous-estiment souvent le fait que les jeunes possèdent également un énorme potentiel de consolidation de la paix et de reconstructions après un conflit violent. Par conséquent, il est crucial pour les gouvernements de la région du Sahel en Afrique de rétablir la confiance dans les jeunes et de les engager activement dans tous les domaines de la vie politique et sociale, y compris à la police nationale et régionale et au partage de renseignements. L'établissement de la confiance dans cette compréhension impliquera également

d'impliquer les jeunes dans les processus de prise de décision et de développer un sens de la responsabilité sociale collective.

## 2. *Conversations et campagnes et promotion/sensibilisation et partenariats*

D'amples stéréotypes et tabous autour de la jeunesse présentent des défis à la participation et l'inclusion des jeunes dans la vie sociale, politique et économique. Les adultes considèrent souvent que les jeunes sont des fauteurs de trouble (SwissPeace, 2012, 6). L'étude indépendantes sur les jeunes, la paix et la sécurité a relevé que « les perspectives concernant les jeunes sont faussées par des stéréotypes contagieux qui les associent à la violence » (UNFPA, 2018). De tels stéréotypes négatifs stigmatisent et marginalisent les jeunes, les privent de leur voix, pouvoir et leadership. En réalité, les jeunes sont pourtant dans de nombreuses communautés des moteurs essentiels de changement et des sources innovantes de paix (ONU, 2018, p.1). Il est donc essentiel de contrer et lutter contre les fausses idées et stéréotypes qui posent des barrières énormes à l'inclusion des jeunes au Sahel. Le changement peut avoir lieu de manière significative seulement si les perspectives et mentalités autour des jeunes ont été transformées. Ces transformations sont longues et compliquées à atteindre, c'est pourquoi, il est essentiel d'avoir des conversations transversales, établir des partenariats et mener des campagnes de promotion et de sensibilisation aux niveaux local, national, régional et international. Ces initiatives pourraient être menés et appuyés par les Nations unies et elles seraient mises en place par des jeunes organisations de sociétés civiles locales, nationales ou régionales ayant pour but d'apporter le changement nécessaire à l'inclusion de la jeunesse à la gestion de conflits par les jeunes et pour les jeunes.



## Conclusion

Les auteurs de ce projet limité à un nombre de mots donné, ont essayé de donner un bref aperçu du conflit au Sahel et ont proposé des recommandations sur la façon dont les jeunes peuvent et doivent être activement impliqués dans la gestion des conflits dans la région sahélienne. Alors que l'ONU célèbre cette année son 75<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire depuis sa création pour maintenir la paix et la sécurité internationales sous le thème « Façonnons notre avenir ensemble », les Nations Unies, les États membres et la communauté internationale doivent reconnaître et encourager la participation des jeunes à la gestion des conflits, en particulier dans la région du Sahel en Afrique. Le rôle des jeunes dans le maintien, la consolidation de la paix et gestion de conflits ne peut plus être négligeable. Il est donc devenu primordial d'inclure la jeunesse dans les processus de paix puisque « tout effort visant à trouver une solution qui ne résout pas les problèmes sous-jacents à long terme auxquels la région est confrontée (...) sera vain » (Conseil norvégien pour les réfugiés).

La communauté internationale doit, plus que jamais soutenir la jeunesse dans la Force conjointe du G5 Sahel, afin qu'elle puisse jouer pleinement son rôle. Les jeunes doivent être intégrés aux initiatives ayant trait aux grands enjeux sociétaux, et pas seulement aux enjeux considérés comme caractéristiques de la jeunesse. Les jeunes, dans leur pluralité, doivent également avoir les moyens de définir leurs enjeux et d'agir en conséquence – ils ne doivent pas seulement prendre part aux discussions, mais aussi façonner les programmes (Corne de l'Afrique, 2017).

Pour résumer les grands axes d'idées et recommandations apportés dans ce travail, et dans le but de pleinement soutenir l'inclusion des jeunes dans la gestion de conflits, il est essentiel d'appliquer, parmi d'autres, les stratégies complémentaires suivantes a) inclure – ou autrement dit les gouvernements ainsi que les organisations internationales doivent mener un travail plus accentué pour la jeunesse et enfin passer de l'exclusion à une véritable intégration. De plus, il est également vital d'investir sur les capacités d'action et d'initiatives de la jeunesse ainsi qu'établir des coalitions/partenariats/initiatives/campagnes aux niveaux local national, régional et international pour les jeunes.

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## **UN and WTO efforts to protect the environment, while safeguarding an open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system: weaknesses and solutions**

Author:

BEN AISSA, Nawress

Tropical forests annihilation, deserts encroachment, land degradation, species extinctions, water scarcity, extreme weather patterns playing havoc, cities choking, and dead oceans, the WTO is accused of “trading the future” as it prioritizes international trade, at the expense of environmental concerns. In reply, the WTO Members affirmed that the WTO is not an environmental protection agency. Nevertheless, WTO environmental protection responsibility stems from the wording of the preamble to the Marrakech Agreement that established the WTO which promotes more open trade with a view to achieving sustainable development and seeking to protect and preserve the environment. It is true that the WTO does not only allow WTO Members to adopt policy measures that are necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, or if the measures are primarily aimed at the conservation of exhaustible natural resources, but also supports the environment through its specialized bodies dealing with trade and environment. Particularly, the CTE which provides a forum for negotiations to discuss environmental concerns including the harmful fisheries subsidies and the relationship between the WTO and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

However, it is undeniable that WTO efforts remain practically unsatisfactory and that much more could be done to effectively support Environmental Protection. For instance, there is a “continued failure to make any substantial progress in rewriting WTO rules”. Thus, it is crucial to green the WTO through reaching trade-related agreements dealing specifically with the environment such as an agreement on fisheries subsidies which delivers on Sustainable Development Goal 14.6, eliminating subsidies to IUU fishing and for prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies that lead to overcapacity and overfishing as well as the environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) which aimed at reducing tariffs on goods that benefit the environment to reduce costs and benefit trade. Moreover, due

to “the very unsatisfactory treatment of scientific uncertainty within WTO agreements, the DSB does not justify trade-related measures that aim at protecting the environment and consider these measures as “Green Protectionism” or «attempts at industrial protection dressed up in environmentalist clothes”. Accordingly, WTO provisions, other than the SPS rules, shall incorporate the Precautionary Principle. The latter will permit WTO Members to anticipate any environmental risks and to adopt preventive measures. Additionally, the NPR PPMs should be taken into account by the Panel or the Appellate Body to determine the likeness test to establish the GATT-inconsistency even if the latter does not leave any trace on the final product, because this will encourage WTO Members to use environmentally-friendly methods in the Product Production Methods.

As for The United Nations (UN) and, more specifically, its environmental program, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), it is in a unique position to advance global environmental protection. For example, the UN Environment, along with four other UN agencies (UN Conference on Trade and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, the International Trade Centre and the UN Industrial Development Organization), is a partner of the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS). In addition, The UN Environment Assembly, the world’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment, has the universal membership of all 193 UN member states and the involvement of UN organizations, specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. In bringing together these communities, the Assembly provides a platform for leadership on global environmental policy.

Besides, it promotes mutually supportive trade and environment policies through the Environment and Trade Hub, which mainly focuses on Trade in Environmentally Sound Technologies, Governance at Trade & Environment Nexus, Green Markets & Global Value Chains and the Reduction of the Footprint of Trade and Greening the Brown. The Hub delivers advisory services and provides analysis and tools to contribute to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

Yet, the UNEP needs to be reformed to encourage the international community to act imperatively in the pressing environmental issues. As a matter of fact, there must be legally binding commitments to ensure the effective compliance with international environmental agreements, but UNEP lacks the powers to enforce MEAs obligations. In this regard, it is important to note that academics proposed options from keeping UNEP as a UN programme and just strengthening it, to creating an independent environmental organization which is linked to the UN, similar to the WTO. Indeed, the success story of global governance of the WTO shows that international organizations are

capable of simultaneously managing and streamlining lots of multilateral agreements, making gains in efficiency.

Hence, I believe that upgrading UNEP to a UN specialized environmental agency (UNSEA) which will act as an umbrella organization and will take up and implement thousands of environmental international agreements dealing with numerous environmental concerns from protecting endangered species to mitigating climate change, and monitoring systems under one organized coherent institution would help next generations to live in a world that is environmentally friendly because there is more efficiency and more focused environmental policy as it stems from a more centralized body.

Furthermore, one of the main features of the UNEP transition from an environmental programme to a specialized agency of the UN would be the possibility to create an International court of the environment (ICE). Entering into endless negotiations without giving effect to the environmental commitments, will not contribute to environmental protection. Thus, compliance is the most important part of an international institution and the objective of the UNSEA creation. The ICE will enforce compliance of environmental treaties and agreements, similar to the Dispute Settlement Body, the WTO judicial organ or the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the UN.

To conclude, the main purpose of this project is to put emphasis on possible solutions to put an end to the Trade-Environment conflict by adopting WTO Environment-related Agreements and greening the interpretation of the existing WTO rules and to present concrete proposals to overcome the Global Environmental Tragedy, incarnated in UNSEA formation, empowered by the ICE creation. As such, pressure should be increased to create a strong international organization in the environmental sphere and to promote a more open trading system, but with a view to achieving sustainable development and seeking to protect and preserve the environment.

# The UN we want

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CENSORO, Jecel

## Introduction

“The world is not on track to deliver the global goals by 2030” – this is a common statement in several SDG progress reports since 2016 (UN ECOSOC 2016-2020, Sachs et. al, 2019). The gaps in progress is further aggravated by the Pandemic which will further push the problems on poverty, hunger and inequality. There are various reasons identified for the not being on track to deliver the goals. The concerns involve financing, countries not doing enough to achieve the SDGs, siloed implementation of the goals in organizations and in countries and issues on the design of the goals among many others (Biermann et. al, 2017). Like the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), SDGs are voluntary agreements (Barnes 2011). There are no sanctions or formal mechanism that hold entities accountable, thus making it complicated to delegate responsibilities, and demand for action (Bowen 2017). The soft nature of the SDG governance arrangements makes it hard to also direct and scrutinize stakeholders (Underdal and Kim 2017). However, the SDGs took the lessons learned from the MDGs by setting detailed indicators, setting-up voluntary reporting mechanisms and banking on partnerships particularly with private sectors. Looking at the success of the water MDGs and health MDGs that also operated on goals, learning and socialization seems to be a powerful and effective way to encourage a collective effort from various organizations to do something about the agreed goals even without formal rules (Andreson and Iguchi 2020; Yamada 2017). So far, studies on governing through goals talks about how to achieve the SDGs by improving measurements, leadership, coordination and collaboration of multiple sectors (Bowen 2017; Kanie and Biermann 2017; Fukuda-Parr 2016;). There are limited studies on how much learning and socialization is being done in relation to the SDGs and what are the effects of these learning to the stakeholders who are supposed to act on the goals. Is the progress reported in the Voluntary National Reviews of the countries because of the SDGs? Are the changes because they learned, a political move or peer pressure? Is the UN doing enough to facilitate learning and socialization among its stakeholders?

## **Proposed research project: The UN that We Want**

This research project will investigate how learning happens in the governance of development that uses goals as a framework such as the SDGs. The cases to study are two countries with governments recently making statement against multilateralism and UN Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC). The two countries are the Philippines and United States, one developing and one developed, both active in implementing the SDGs despite the current leadership making strong statement against international organizations. The ECOSOC is in-charge of the advancement of the sustainable development agenda and also the host of the high-level political forum that discusses the SDGs. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits” (United Nations, 2020). By studying how learning through goals influence the countries and what role does UN ECOSOC plays in knowledge sharing and changing behaviors of these countries, the research will be able to provide a case that can help in implementing the SDGs even with the absence of legally binding rules.

The main research question to answer is, “Does learning enable sustainable development?” To support this question, two sub-questions will also be answered by this research: (1) “What role does UN ECOSOC play in achieving the SDGs?” and “What are the conditions that affect learning in countries?”

Learning using goals looks into how knowledge exchange and socialization affects the governance in countries. Learning is defined as the “updating of skills and knowledge, acting upon experiences or detecting and correcting errors that usually results on the modification of behavior. It is a knowledge and experience exchange among actors that could mean knowledge sharing based on the experience of other countries, other stakeholders or other levels of governance (Rietig, 2018). If the country is learning, it will manifest in the changes of policies and implementation. This research investigates if the global goals can create policy changes, if policy changes in countries are because of learning and how does UN ECOSOC facilitate learning. The research will process trace key policies of the countries in a 10-year timeframe from 2010 to 2020. It will cover the first set of global goals, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) up to the first five years of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Process tracing or systematic process analysis uses “general causal inferences that can be drawn from observing the sequence and timing of events and contemporary interpretations of those events” (Hall 2006). Three sectors will be the focus of this research: environment, governance

and social protection. These three sectors match the principal features of the global goals: Leaving No One Behind (LNOB), integrated development and working together.

### **Importance of this research**

There are already a lot of suggestions and recommendations on what needs to be done in order to achieve the SDGs and improve the UN system. There is no lack of that. On the SDGs, there are suggestions to prioritize the goals rather than treat all 17 targets as equals. There is also a suggestion to encourage governments and private sectors to divert from its business as usual. Another one is to look at strengthening the accountability mechanism in order to drive policies that match the SDGs (ACCA, 2020). And there is also a suggestion to create a new norm of working towards the SDGs through partnerships and knowledge sharing (Biermann, 2019).

On UN as an organization, there are suggestions to make UN less reliant to funders but rather find a way to be self-sufficient so it will not be subjected to the politics of countries. Another suggestion to address concerns on funding is to change the business model of the organization so it will not be reliant and driven by funders. With the Pandemic, there are calls from countries to revisit the relevance of UN agencies and the possibility of re-engineering it totally. There are also more radical calls that would suggest the elimination of UN given its insufficient response to human rights abuse in war-torn countries.

There are a lot of suggestion and I can just echo what has been said in various studies. But what I propose as part of the 58<sup>th</sup> GSP cohort is a more concrete evaluation of the SDG implementation using the framework of learning. By determining if learning is behind the progress of the countries in achieving the SDGs, that would mean a change in mindset and behavior of countries that is beyond politics and image management. If it is otherwise, then efforts to achieve the SDGs will be short-lived as the existence of the goals itself until 2030. However, if UN ECOSOC and other UN agencies are able to play a key role in learning and socialization, the world will be able to create a new norm of living beyond the Pandemic; a world that leaves no one behind; a world that is not divided as first world and third world; and a world that is in a better state for the future generations.



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## **Increased partnerships for the goals, reduced inequalities**

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CHAKACHA, Purity

On September 21, 2020 the United Nations will be celebrating its' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with this year's theme being, shaping our future together by bringing into perspective the importance of global cooperation in building the future we want. The global goals can only be met if we work together. International investments and support is needed to ensure innovative technological development, fair trade and market access, especially for developing countries. To build a better world, we need to be supportive, empathetic, inventive, passionate, and above all, cooperative. The world needs each other now, more than ever before, this is truly a defining moment for the global community that is currently facing a global pandemic that has swept across all the continents. By shaping our future together, we ought to redesign the power of the communities, societies, nations and global collaboration, to make sure that nobody is left behind by endeavoring to reach the furthest behind first and eventually being able to emerge stronger and better than before.

A world of, "no haves and have nots," a world that operates like a global village, a world whose idea of development focuses on improving the lives people lead rather than assuming, economic growth will automatically lead to greater wellbeing for all. Income growth will be seen as a means to development, rather than an end in itself. A world that will improve the social well-being of human population by increasing their opportunities and freedoms to achieve is the kind of egalitarian world I'd wish to create.

Inequality within and among nations continues to be a significant concern despite progress in and efforts at narrowing disparities of opportunity, income and power. Inequality still persists and large disparities remain in access to health, education services and other assets.

Throughout the world, increased inequalities within countries pose risks to inclusive growth, economic stability and social cohesion, both in advanced economies and in developing countries. In the absence of strong and effective policy responses to citizens' call for social justice and shared prosperity, high inequalities contribute to the erosion of trust in democratic institutions and may ultimately challenge the foundation of the rules-based international cooperation system.

Echoing the sentiments of Mahbub Ul Haq and Amartya Sen who are the principal architects of human development, there's need to expand the richness of human life, rather than simply the richness of the economy in which human beings live. At the UN's 100th anniversary I envision more equitable distribution of income and assets, more investment in peoples' education and health, an increase in social expenditure by the government and a more empowered society, especially women.

25 years from now I envision a perfect egalitarian world where there would be reduced income inequalities by sustaining income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average. Current trends indicate that the richest 10 percent have up to 40 percent of global income whereas the poorest 10 percent earn only between 2 to 7 percent. If we consider population growth inequality in developing countries, inequality has increased by 11 percent. Financial exclusion is a major contributor to income inequality.

Today, 2 billion adults are excluded from the formal financial system. Financial exclusion is greatest among poor people and in emerging and developing countries, including the rural households that account for more than 70% of global poverty. Financial inclusion is an enabler and accelerator of economic growth, job creation and development. Affordable access to and use of financial services helps families and small business owners generate income, manage irregular cash flow, invest in opportunities, strengthen resilience to downturns, and work their way out of poverty.

These widening disparities require sound policies to empower lower income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all regardless of sex, race or ethnicity. Income inequality requires global solutions. This involves improving the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions, encouraging development assistance and foreign direct investment to regions where the need is greatest. Facilitating the safe migration and mobility of people is also key to bridging the widening divide.

Financial inclusion cannot end poverty and inequality on its own, but it can contribute significantly to building better lives and more resilient communities. By opening a path to empowerment and opportunity for all, an inclusive financial system is essential infrastructure for every country.

In order to reduce inequalities in all its forms there is need to increase cooperation among and within countries in implementing the sustainable development goals. In the spirit of living no one behind and fostering effective global cooperation the UN has to prioritize the Triple Nexus Approach in all its development cooperation projects. The interlinkages between humanitarian, development and

peace actors is an approach that seeks to capitalize on the comparative advantages of each sector to reduce need, risk and vulnerability following the recommendations of the World Humanitarian Summit and in accordance with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

Strengthening solidarity between people and nations through knowledge sharing and cooperation for access to science, technology and innovation Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

Rethinking the global economy, by acknowledging our interdependence and common ethical values, we can build a more sustainable, cooperative and inclusive global economy. Inclusive economies will seek to enhance the employment and economic opportunities of vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth; foster better and more inclusive governance and justice systems so that everyone can lead more secure and prosperous lives; promote the quality and accountability of health services for the most vulnerable through solutions that save and improve the health of women, adolescents, and children; strengthen think tanks in Latin America, Africa and South Asia to provide objective, high-quality research that both informs and influences policy

Last but not least, if humanity is to survive the formidable challenges that define our current generation – including inequalities, climate change, poverty and global conflict – it is necessary to forge new ethical understandings that embrace our collective values and global interdependence. We urgently need a new paradigm for human development. Integrating the principle of sharing into our economic system would reflect our global unity and have far-reaching implications for how we distribute and consume the planet's wealth and resources. Sharing the world's resources more equitably can allow us to build a more sustainable, cooperative and inclusive global economy, one that reflects and supports what it really means to be human.

## United Nations at 75: shaping our future together

Authors:

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The following report will analyze the question “What kind of a world do we want to create?” and will be discussed from a women’s rights approach with focus on domestic violence against women in three different countries; India, Sweden and Moldova. The report is created to get a better understanding of the magnitude of this issue and will deliver suggested solutions to the issue, in order to minimize the issue to the United Nations 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### Violence against women in India

*Violence against women is defined as any act of “gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of acts such as coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”. [1]*

Gender-based violence (GBV) affects 1 in 3 women. 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. Globally, 7% of women have been sexually assaulted by someone other than a partner. Globally, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner. 200 million women have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting.

There are several international Instruments to curb violence against women. The United Nations General Assembly resolution endorsed the urgent need for the universal application of women's rights of equality, security, liberty integrity and dignity. Article 55 and 56 of United Nations charter cast a legal obligation on United Nations organization to promote respect for equality and human rights.

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[1] Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 5, states that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.[2] There have been three United Nations world conferences on women. One in Mexico in 1975, the second in Copenhagen in 1980, and the third one in Nairobi, wherein strategies were framed to promote gender equality and opportunities for women. These were based on three objectives: Equality, development and peace.

The Vienna Declaration 1993 calls for action to integrate the equal status human rights of women. It stresses toward elimination of violence against women in public and private life. The Beijing conference, 1995 [3] provided a platform for concentration on some of the key issues identified as fundamental obstacles to the advancement of majority of women in the world. It focused on issues such as discrimination against women, violence against women, etc.

The Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1981 [4] to which 166 countries are members, is a landmark document because it framed violence against women within the framework of human rights. It identified female as the primary risk factor for violence and broadened the definition of gender violence (to include all aspects of women's life).

The domestic legal remedies in India is enshrined in Article 14 in the Constitution of India on equality. Article 21 explains the right to live and the right to live with human dignity. The National Commission for Women was set up as a statutory body in 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. The Act details the constitutional and legal precautions for women, remedial legislative facilities, redressal of grievances and the policy advice to the government. The Dowry Prohibition Act (DPA), 1961 [5] applies to all people, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Parsis and Jews. Giving, taking or abetting the giving or taking of dowry is an offence, which is punishable. Several states (Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab) amended the DPA to give it more teeth. The law was found to fail to stall the evil.

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[2] Das PK, editor, 1948.

[3] The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995.

[4] The United Nations Committee on Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1989.

[5] The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

More recently, during the COVID-19 Pandemic, there has been an increasing number of cases of violence against women and girls. India has witnessed an increase in domestic violence and intimate partner violence. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, called it a, ‘horrifying global surge’ and has called for a domestic violence ‘ceasefire’. India’s National Commission for Women (NCW) noticed a two-fold increase in gender-based violence during the lockdown in India. 587 domestic violence complaints were registered by NCW between 23 March and 16 April.

## **Actionable Solutions**

### Education as channel for Prevention

The UN Women along with World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WASSSGS) have introduced a global non-formal educational curriculum to educate and take preventive measures for Women and girls.

### Ratify and promote policy solutions

The implementation and promotion of evidence-based legal and policy frameworks that correct the root causes for violence against women and girls. This can be done with the collaborative effort of Parliamentarians, policymakers and key political authorities in power.

### Advocate for systemic change

Local, state and national organizations must work together to end violence against women. Signing petitions, surveys, new initiatives and rallies is a small step towards change.

## **Violence against women in Sweden**

In July 1980, Sweden ratified the CEDAW [6] and have since then worked with equality and to improve women’s rights. The country has made many changes, yet the country, like many others, experience violations against women’s rights daily. However, the world has come far with women’s rights, and it has been working progress globally ever since the adoption of CEDAW and in particular since the adoption of UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

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[6] Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979.

Despite this, Sweden as a country, have a lot to work with to fully transparent the importance of women's rights. The country faces different kinds of issues within women's rights and one of the main challenges within it, is domestic violence against women. This, as the number of violent crimes, are increasing, even though Sweden has made changes within for example the legal system. In particular, the extension within the law "On Sexual Offences" within chapter 6 of the Swedish Criminal Code [7]. The legislation of the law has contributed to the protection of women from sexual violence, especially in the sense that sex needs to be mutually agreed.

Despite this, equality and women's rights are complicated issues in Sweden and as the Swedish Minister for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination, Åsa Lindhagen, stated in January 2020:

*"Compliance with the international agreements on human rights is being challenged in a number of ways around the world, including in Sweden. There are considerable challenges regarding human rights, for example for women rights [...]".* [8]

However, as this was stated at the beginning of the year, the imprints from the COVID-19 pandemic, have made a significant change within society and in Sweden. For example, the increased number of domestic violent crimes against women has increased even more. Especially in a global context, which was mentioned by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, in April 2020. [9] However, this number has been increasing for a time in Sweden, particularly deadly violence. Since violence against women, unfortunately, tends to end up in murder and increased with 3 % between the year 2018-2019. [10] On the other hand, violence against women has an intense history and with the changing society, there is a need for a change to decrease the number of violent acts. This particularly, since many violent crimes happen through media and artificial intelligence (AI), which you may not think about or include. However, due to the significance of the COVID-19 pandemic, people are more online today than ever, which contribute to the need to secure internet and media even further.

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[7] The Swedish Criminal Code (SFS 1962:700)

[8] UN review of Sweden's human rights compliance, Åsa Lindhagen, 2020.

[9] United Nations, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, 2020.

[10] Brottsförebyggande Rådet, 2020.



By that, we need to take control of the situation and expand our work with NGOs and security forces, to prevent these crimes to happen. We need someone that is an expert in the field, that not only understand these crimes and monitor them, but that knows the magnitude of it and the impacts the violence can contribute with. Thereby with the 75th-anniversary of the United Nations, by providing potential suggestions as solutions, society could have a brighter future in 25 years, at the 100th-anniversary of the United Nations. Therefore, we suggest by providing the below solutions, nevertheless, listen and take these crimes seriously. These crimes could hopefully, be decreasing and not increasing, if we do something now. Especially if we together, both nationally and regionally, along with the United Nations, collaborate to balance and manage the best possible outcome.

**The suggested solutions are as followed:**

For Sweden

- Strengthen the laws to benefit the victims and not the other way around.
- Create a special security unit that specializes within these operations and that can manage and monitor these crimes to prevent them from happening. However, if someone experiences such violence, this unit should help to protect the person.

In a global context

- Develop an optional protocol to the CEDAW that highlights the issue and structurally point out illegal things. Nevertheless, shows women's rights from another perspective and creates this universal understanding of rights through for example media and AI and how women should be protected and have rights no matter what.
- Create a global network with the UN Women that extend the work to reduce violence against women and acts within this, such as violence in the home, sexual assault etc. This network should be designed to understand every point of view, from individual to local to regional to national to a global level. This as we need to work together to solve this issue and hear everyone's perspective.

**Violence against women in Moldova**

Violence against women and girls is a persistent human rights violation in the Republic of Moldova (Moldova). Following the break-up of the Soviet Union, the transition of the country to political

democracy and market economy resulted in economic and social difficulties, placing a heavy burden on women.

In Moldova, domestic violence is widespread, largely tolerated by society, and does not receive appropriate recognition among officials, community, and women themselves; All these resulting in insufficient protective infrastructure for victims of violence. [11]

The 2019 OSCE-led Survey on Violence Against Women “Well-being and safety of women” found significant shortcomings regarding the response to gender-based and domestic violence. [12] Forty percent of women stated they had experienced physical and/or sexual abuse at the hands of a partner or non-partner since the age of fifteen. Twenty-two percent reported that they experienced a form of physical violence at the hands of an adult before they were fifteen years old, usually slapping and beating, mainly by their parents. The survey also shows that victims rarely report experiences of violence, due to several barriers such as shame, fear, and distrust of the police and healthcare professionals, as well as a lack of support concerning the provision of housing and financial aid.

The survey also finds that in countries with a longer tradition of raising awareness of gender equality are more open to talking about intimate partner violence. Still, in Moldova, more than 55% of the interviewed women believe that it is a private matter and should be handled within the family. On a positive note, the survey shows that gender roles in society were slowly shifting, with more women going out to work and having greater freedom outside the home. At the same time, men were more likely to be involved in childcare and housework than they were previously.

Since the adoption in 2007 of the Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence, Moldova aimed to align its legislation with the applicable international human rights standards and strengthening its implementation. Amended several times, the law was revised to empower the police to issue emergency restraining orders. It also extended criminal liability to other forms of domestic violence, such as psychological and economic violence. Furthermore, it extended the definition of domestic violence to cover violence against intimate partners and, in the case of divorced couples living separately. [13]

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[11] UN Human Rights Council, 2009.

[12] Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 2019.

[13] The Law No. 45-XVI, 2007.

In 2018, the Moldovan Government adopted the National Strategy on Ensuring Equality between Women and Men 2017-2021 and National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence and Violence against Women for the period 2018 – 2023 and its Action Plan for 2018-2020. These are based on the four-pillar approach of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). [14]

Despite this, the Moldovan Government failed to effectively implement the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights on domestic violence. These cases also revealed that the authorities displayed a discriminatory attitude towards the applicants as women. [15]

**To ensure respect for women’s rights and gender equality, Moldova must:**

- Ratify without any further delay Istanbul Convention;
- Provide appropriate education to youth regarding the negative outcomes of gender inequality and violence against women;
- Ensure shelters and support services to the victims of violence against women in rapport with the number of the female population;
- Tackle the gap between the rural and urban areas and ensure that women all over the country have access to the same support services;
- Support and encourage the NGOs involved in combating violence against women by appropriate laws and financial allocations.
- Ensure a gender-sensitive approach to cases concerning violence against women, including sexual and domestic violence.
- Systematically collect disaggregated data on all forms of gender-based violence against women; These include accurate recording of the number of cases reported, investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and the sanctions imposed on the perpetrators, as well as on the remedies provided to victims.

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[14] Council of Europe, 2017.

[15] Natalia Vilcu, 2018.

## **Conclusion**

As an ending note of this paper, India, Sweden and Moldova are three completely separated countries with its laws, norms, politics, society, etc. Yet all these three countries, as well as other countries, have one thing in common, domestic violence against women. Ending violence against women is a strategically coordinated action at both the local and national level, likewise at a global level. Key policy interventions are vital to end violence and reduction of violence is an ingredient to witness lesser rates of violence. On that note, gender sensitization to civil society is important to eradicate violence both locally and globally. Male involvement and engagement programmes for abusers is a small step to make, to change the reality. Nevertheless, by engaging states, NGOs and people in this question, we could be united as to minimize the domestic violence, not only in India, Sweden and Moldova, but all around the world. Particularly, since domestic violence is a violation against human rights and it is happening right now, and it is increasing no matter how much we deny it. Nevertheless, as can be seen in for example, Sweden, the domestic violence is increasing at another level, since more cases today are not only domestic violence, but murder. Therefore, it is important to prioritize this issue until the 100th-anniversary of the United Nations. Not only because of how it violates human rights, but because women deserve better than this. Without women, there is no future, so let's be the change we wish to see and as a community we must strive to display 'Zero' tolerance towards any form of violence against women and girls.

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# A renewed global governance for fighting human development inequalities

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As we reach the 75th anniversary of the United Nations in an unusual context of pandemics, one must recognize the necessity of reinforcement and transformations in global governance, in order to respond more properly to the new reality that arises. The current crisis brings about such concerns due to its potential to deepen or accelerate many challenges faced by international community, but also to the fact that it is not an isolated phenomenon: it is rather related to the many transformations in societies' habits and in the environmental dynamics throughout Anthropocene. It is therefore deemed to re-emerge successively in the near future. [1]

In 1945, the UN was created in a context of post-Second World War. At the time, national states struggled to respond to their populations' demands and to reshape the international structure in which they would interact. Today's dynamics however have become increasingly complex as technological advances allow different actors to participate more deeply in the transnational interactions. As examples of these emerging international actors, we can cite enterprises, local authorities, associations and representatives of civil society. [2] As such, global governance must progressively "learn" how to engage and coordinate these diverse actors, together with national governments, in favor of a world capable of offering better conditions of living for all.

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[1] UNEP's 2016 Report on Emerging Issues of Environment Concern shows zoonoses threaten economic development, well-being, and ecosystem integrity. The environmental community claims that the response is to address the multiple interacting threats to ecosystems and wildlife, including habitat loss and fragmentation, illegal trade, pollution, invasive species and, increasingly, climate change. On this matter, see more at: United Nations Environment Programme (2020). Coronavirus outbreak highlights need to address threats to ecosystems and wildlife. *UNEP News and Stories*. Available at: <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/coronavirus-outbreak-highlights-need-address-threats-ecosystems-and-wildlife>

[2] See more at: Sassen S. (2004). Local Actors in Global Politics. *Current Sociology* Vol. 52(4), Monograph 2, pp. 649-670. SAGE Publications.

In this regard, one important feature revealed by the current sanitary crisis is that as long as a part of a society remains vulnerable to its effects, then the well-being of the society as a whole is under threat. This assertion may be extended to international context: as long as one country remains under the effects of such crisis, the whole world becomes susceptible to it.

Sadly, we observe in recent years the increase of economic and social inequalities in two-thirds of the globe, affecting more than 70% of world population [3], which impacts the capacities of different communities to manage the situation. Global governance must therefore improve its mechanisms to address the issue of inequalities in its many spheres, across countries, as well as inside countries, as a means to improve living standards of the populations, but also to create a more solid and sustainable basis to better respond to multiple challenges. As such, the response to inequalities must remain as one of the priorities of the international community, but giving space to new different approaches, since the existing ones have proved insufficient when confronted to the complex reality [4].

The existence of inequalities affects directly the vulnerable populations, which find themselves trapped in constraints that prevent them from fulfilling their needs and flourishing their potentials, but also the society as whole, since it creates structural contradictions that impacts the dynamics of labor markets, the production of innovative ideas, the consumption standards, and therefore its capacity to respond to challenges that require common struggles. A society in which each individual has its needs and rights sheltered, including a proper access to education, information and technologies is more capable of responding in a sustainable and predictable manner to global challenges [5].

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[3] UN News (2020). Rising inequality affecting more than two-thirds of the globe, but it's not inevitable: new UN report. *Global perspective Human stories*. Available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1055681>

For more information on inequality trends in recent years, see: Chancel L. (2019), "Ten facts about inequality in advanced economies", WID.world working paper n° 2019/15, October. Available at: <https://www.piie.com/sites/default/files/documents/chancel20191017.pdf>

[4] For more information on inequality trends in recent years, see: Chancel L. (2019), "Ten facts about inequality in advanced economies", WID.world working paper n° 2019/15, October. Available at: <https://www.piie.com/sites/default/files/documents/chancel20191017.pdf>

[5] In what concerns the response to inequalities for more economic resilience to external shocks, refer to: Nassif-Pires et al (2020). Pandemic of Inequality. Levy Economics Institute, Public Policy Brief N° 149, Avril 2020. Disponible en: <http://www.levyinstitute.org/publications/pandemic-of-inequality>. Also, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) states that in order to promote a sustainable development, underlying causes of shocks and crises must be addressed, such as the foundations of inclusive and accountable governance, gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and meeting the needs of vulnerable groups, to ensure that no one is left behind. See more at: United Nations Development Programme (n.d.). The challenges. *Three development settings*. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/three-development-settings.html>

From this point of view, it is assumed that the action to build a more sustainable, healthier and resilient future must be taken in all spheres, from an individual basis to international coordinated action. It is however indispensable that these actions and efforts are debated, negotiated and coordinated by legitimate actors: internally by national governments, and internationally by the United Nations system. On the other hand, the same way some layers of societies are overlooked in the distribution of social and economic gains, some countries remain in disadvantage in terms of enjoying the benefits of the present international structure. Therefore, the reinforcement of governance must pass through reforms aimed at mitigating the disparities of decision power among countries in core international structures, that still reflect a specific political conjuncture from 75 years ago. Such transformations must also include some adjustments in the mechanisms and rules that underpin the international economy, financial and trade flows, which have recently showed insufficiencies to prevent successive economic crisis and to better distribute gains among countries. Besides these accommodations for a more representative global governance, concrete actions in regional, national and local levels must also be taken in favor of a fairer and more equitable world. Therefore, the reinforcement or construction of new platforms allowing a deeper interaction of UN structures with local authorities, civil society and enterprises would also be of considerable interest for this purpose. It could be the basis for the creation or reproduction of projects and programmes at more local levels, responding more directly to specific populations' needs. Prioritizing programmes that grant direct financial (in the form of credit, for example) and technical support to vulnerable peoples, as well as assuring a more equitable access to technologies could be very beneficial, as some different experiences in the world have already shown. [6]

Summing up, the increasing challenges that confront the world nowadays can only be properly addressed if associated with a cautious regard to the inequalities that mark societies and the international community as whole. Recent history has proved that economic growth and development is not sustainable and durable if its benefits don't reach the groups most in need. At the same time, a sustainable transition towards a more environmental responsible society requires that the needs of every populations are fulfilled. At last, answering the needs of populations, regardless of their countries, may be the safest path for giving new impetus to trust in multilateralism.

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[6] For some exemples: Yunus, M., & Jolis, A. (2003). *Banker to the poor: Micro-lending and the battle against world poverty*. New York, NY: PublicAffairs.  
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## ONU 75 : Façonnons notre avenir ensemble

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Aujourd'hui, le monde rencontre de nombreux obstacles qui ne favorisent pas tellement la vie de ses futures générations. Dès lors, les actions que nous devons prendre en compte pour un avenir meilleur sont nombreuses et variées, parmi lesquelles figurent : l'éducation, la paix, la faim et les changements climatiques. Ainsi, pour mieux appréhender ce problème nous allons répondre aux questions suivantes : Que doit être l'impact de ces dernières pour les générations à venir ? Qui doivent prendre ces actions pour gérer les tendances ? Que doit être le rôle du Gouvernement ? De l'entreprise ? De la société civile ? Des individus et d'autres ?

Quelles en sont les formes d'actions et de collaborations dont nous aurons besoin aux niveaux local, national et international ?

L'éducation est la première action que nous devons prendre en compte car c'est le socle d'un développement. Cependant, une éducation de qualité, n'est qu'un élément du tableau car en Afrique subsaharienne, 1/3 des enfants, adolescents et jeunes n'est pas scolarisés et même si le taux de scolarisation augmente, une crise de l'apprentissage pose les débats quotidiens car 1/10 d'enfants et d'adolescents n'atteint pas les seuils minimaux de compétence en lecture ou en mathématique. En plus, le tronc commun continue jusqu'au niveau baccalauréat et est souvent théorique. Raison pour laquelle de nombreux nouveaux bacheliers cherchent de l'aide et sont obligés même de payer dans des multiservices pour leurs inscriptions en ligne car ils ne savent même pas comment utiliser un ordinateur. C'est à l'image du Sénégal où la mendicité des enfants des écoles coraniques pose un sérieux problème. Une éducation de qualité devrait aider les pays en développement à savoir exploiter leurs ressources naturelles et à gérer leurs économies.

En outre, la faim qui continue ses ravages à bas bruit, est aussi l'une des actions que nous devons prendre au sérieux car la population mondiale ne cesse d'accroître ; et chaque année près de 9,1 millions de personnes perdent la vie à cause de la faim. Dès lors, les pays sous-développés ont

besoin de financements pour cultiver leurs terres. Ainsi, l'agriculture pourrait être un bon plan pour combattre la faim et réduire les importations du riz qui est la base alimentaire de certains pays d'Afrique. Pour aider les pays sous-développés à combattre leur faim, il faut les financer à cultiver leur terre. Ainsi avec l'agriculture, ils seront en mesure de se nourrir, d'employer les jeunes et faire de l'élevage. C'est aussi une solution pour l'émigration clandestine. Prenons l'exemple de la Grande Offensive Agricole pour la Nourriture et l'Abondance (GOANA), lancée par Maitre Abdoulaye Wade en 2008 au Sénégal. Avec ce projet, on avait prévu en l'espace de 6 mois, une production de deux millions de tonnes de maïs, trois millions de tonnes de maniocs, 500 000 tonnes de riz paddy et deux millions de tonnes pour les autres céréales (mil, sorgho, fonio). Pour l'élevage, les objectifs portent sur une production de 400 millions de litres de lait et 435 tonnes de viande. Avec un coût estimé à 344 milliards de FCFA.

Hormis cet aspect, la paix est aussi une question qui mérite d'être revisitée pour le meilleur des futures générations. En effet, dans un monde où l'égoïsme est presque généralisé et où la violence devient de plus en plus fréquente avec différentes formes comme : le racisme, le terrorisme, les coups d'Etats et les guerres civiles, le rôle d'un leader est de faire la promotion de la paix. La destruction du World Trade Center (New York) le 11 septembre 2001, qui a fait plus de 3000 morts ainsi que les guerres civiles des Etats Africains et le soulèvement des noirs aux Etats Unis d'Amérique, sont des exemples assez révélateurs pour montrer que la paix est un facteur clé pour parfaire le monde. Le monde a besoin de dialogues et d'échanges pour surmonter de tels obstacles car « Jamais rien ne se produit dans la bagarre » nous enseigne Cheikh Hamidou KANE. Ainsi avec des dialogues, des partenariats, des coopérations etc., on pourra veiller sur la sécurité de l'humanité.

De surcroît, les changements climatiques sont aussi un autre défi à relever. Ils sont dus à une forte industrialisation surtout les industries de pétrole, de charbon et de gaz car elles sont les principales causes de la pollution de notre environnement. Ainsi les quantités brûlées au début de l'ère industrielle seraient les premières causes du réchauffement climatique : Exemple de la fonte des glaces. Les entreprises ont besoin de sécurité et d'accompagnement pour éviter l'exploitation abusive des ressources énergétiques surtout les ressources non renouvelables afin de diminuer la pollution. En plus, les réserves de pétrole et de gaz tariront dans la deuxième partie du siècle tandis que l'Europe est dépendante de 50% sur le plan énergétique. Dès lors, le monde peut faire recours à l'usage de l'énergie solaire, la digitalisation, la réduction des produits en plastique, le contrôle des déchets toxiques, la réduction des gaz, l'interdiction de la déforestation pour préserver l'environnement au profit des générations à venir.

Ces actions doivent être prises et gérées par l'humanité toute entière; par exemple: Les organisations internationales comme l'Organisation des Nations Unies, le Fonds Monétaire International, la Banque Mondiale, Les associations de la jeunesse comme One Young World, les superpuissances comme les Etats Unis d'Amérique, l'Union Européen, l'Union Africaine.

Chacun a son rôle à jouer pour la bonne marche en avant de ces projets. Pour les gouvernements, ils doivent communiquer avec les populations et mettre en application les décisions prises au profit de leurs populations car chaque peuple a sa culture et sa constitution.

En ce qui concerne les entreprises, l'adaptabilité et l'employabilité seraient un atout pour une formation et une intégration des individus sans le moindre problème. Les entreprises internationales sont des acteurs de l'éducation et de la paix, vu la rencontre de différentes nationalités qui ont un intérêt commun.

Quant aux sociétés civiles et les individus, il serait nécessaire de s'organiser en des associations et de lancer des campagnes de sensibilisation et aussi d'organiser des journées de reboisement et de nettoyage.

Parmi les types d'actions et de collaborations dont on a besoin au niveau local, national et international on peut citer: des bourses, des dons, des financements, des coopérations, des partenariats, des journées de reboisement et de nettoyage, des recyclages, des séminaires d'information et de formation, des journées d'intégration, des conférences de presse, des associations sportives et culturelles, des comités d'organisations, des associations estudiantines et inter raciales, des jumelages, des organisations non gouvernementales, des programmes d'échanges sans oublier la digitalisation etc..

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## **What kind of world do we want to create?**

Author:

EYAL, Maya

Video [here.](#)

# **Access, inclusion and opportunities: solving inequalities in healthcare among vulnerable populations**

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## **Introduction**

This report evaluates the future opportunities for a health system that concentrates on minimizing and addressing health inequalities. This recommends steps to integrate vulnerable communities' access and inclusion in the health sector. To define vulnerability, it seems to be a dynamic mechanism in which individual characteristics of a person or group of people place the person at risk of not, for example, receiving health care. The risk factor does not in itself trigger restricted access, but rather the factor 's association with a host of other factors external to the individual results in a lack of access. Vulnerable populations include patients who are racial or ethnic minorities, children, elderly, socioeconomically disadvantaged, underinsured or those with certain medical conditions. [1]

Members of vulnerable populations often have to deal with health conditions that are exacerbated by inadequate access to health services. Recognizing the presence of barriers to access to health care for people has significant implications in delivering equal access to health care. In this way, it is likely to achieve the best possible results in terms of well-being and social justice. Failure to access health services further exacerbates chronic health issues and puts people with activity restrictions at risk for developing new, easily avoidable health problems.

Many policy documents and health care priorities are viewed suggest vulnerable and at risk for segments of the population do not have access to the essential healthcare services. These include records relating to women, teenagers, the elderly, children and disabled people.

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[1] Waisel D.B.2013. Vulnerable populations in healthcare. *Current opinion in anesthesiology*, 26(2), 186–192).

This reinforces recognition of the possible vulnerability within societies and among certain groups. Thus, issues of vulnerability may be mainstreamed and included in all policies rather than being viewed as an individual and separate case, which makes it challenging to manage and solve the concerned issues.

Here, we raise our main concern of affordable health care facility. Restructuring existing health system structures and capitalizing on implementing opportunities-based solutions that this paper argues, will result in a reduced health inequality direction to be focused. The COVID-19 crisis has unfolded the reality that existing mechanism to tackle this pandemic has limitations, and available opportunities must be refined and reintegrated to deal with the current situation. We will highlight critical structures that provide opportunities to embed focused solutions to health equity, but only if they are actively used and established. The report would also define possible health inequality risks and gaps in priority setting for approaches aimed at ultimately reducing health inequalities.

## **Understanding Health Equity and Disparities in Healthcare**

Health Equity is about fairness in the allocation of resources and health outcomes for all individuals irrespective of their class, caste, disability and other disabling conditions. It extends in specific countries (intra-country), as well as between countries (inter-country) or regions (inter-regional), to equality between people. The World Health Organization (WHO) describes health inequalities as disparities in health status or the distribution of determinants of health among different groups of the population. Health inequalities between groups of people or communities are preventable and unfair differences in health status. Our health condition is determined by our genetics, our habits, the health care we receive and the influence of wider determinants including our physical, social and economic background comprising, for example, education and jobs. All aspects of social life, economy and finance, education, sanitation, housing, transport, job creation and so on have the capacity to affect people's health and well-being.

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[2] Davidson R. Gwatkin, 2009; Allan Baker et al, 2017; World Health Organization.

Everyone should have the right to timely access to affordable, preventive and curative health care of good quality. This ensures that each citizen should have reliable access to healthcare: it should be delivered when people need it, through a coordinated regional distribution of healthcare services provided with policies to minimize waiting times. Costs should not prohibit people or be a barrier to access the treatment they require. There are far-reaching inequalities, from the point of provision to that of reception. If good health is unattainable, though it would be tragic, it is not considered to be an injustice in many countries. Indeed, inequity is the existence of health inequalities, although they may be prevented. Addressing inequalities due to financial constraints significantly affect disease rates and health statistics in low- and middle-income countries, especially in African regions.

Health coverage mainly has three dimensions: the share of the population entitled to government funded health care (population coverage), the spectrum of health services provided (benefit package), and the extent to which people are expected to pay for these services at the point of use (user fees) (WHO, 2010). Patients must pay for benefits which are wholly or partly exempt from public coverage, either through direct private spending or through voluntary health insurance purchases. Universal health coverage, as described in the Sustainable Development goals of the United Nations, means that the whole population is provided for a broad variety of health care services and products that they are covered for the full cost. At the same time, access to healthcare is widely perceived as the extent to which an individual has to travel to reach a health facility. However, while physical distance remains a significant impediment, access to healthcare transcends geographical factors as socio-economic and socio-cultural forces play a role in the distribution of healthcare across nations. High prevalence of poverty is one of the most important obstacles to quality of healthcare globally. The fact that premiums can limit access to health care for people in need who live a stone-throw away from hospitals because they cannot afford it.

Disparities in healthcare access and inclusion for vulnerable populations: Health resources are scarce, and to the extent it is important to redistribute those resources by favoring the populations that are in the most need especially vulnerable groups (e.g. Refugees, Migrants, poor income people, pregnant woman, elderly, undernourished children etc.). Vulnerability to poor health outcomes refers to the general state, condition or attributes from which people are excluded, such as gender, race, caste, indigenous origin, ethnicity, religion, and communication barriers, diseases (e.g. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and disability), migration and displaced status. [3]

Organizational, financial, and ecological barriers within the health care system can create resistance to access. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been guided by the ethical principle of leaving no one behind, placing social justice and equity at the center of development, addressing access and benefit to health service opportunities. Consequently, social exclusion leads certain individuals to social vulnerability and further inequality. Social sustainability could build synergies with several conventions and governance strategies which are required to break down barriers to accessing and promoting responsive and inclusive health care for all population groups. The disparity in responses to the Ebola and Covid19 viruses, differences that not only distinguish a public health epidemic from a controlled crisis but are also a clear reminder of the consequences of global inequality, the deadly costs of unequal access to basic services and the implications of our inability to tackle this problem.

Access and opportunities; shape healthcare for Future Generations: World population had reached 7.6 billion in 2017 with around ‘400 million still do not have access to healthcare and 6% of people in low- and middle-income countries are tipped into or pushed further into extreme poverty because of health spending’ [4]. To provide value-based healthcare for future generation specific issues that should be monitored include: (1) addressing disparities which could affect access to health care (e.g., race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status and geographical location), (2) insuring the “the quadruple aim” of the healthcare industry, referring to improving patient outcomes at lower cost, while also improving patient and medical staff experiences, (3) monitoring the increasing use of telehealth as an emerging method of increasing accessing and delivering health care services across a variety of settings through health technology companies such as Royal Philips.

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[3] Tangcharoensathien, V., Mills, A., Das, M. B., et al. (2018). Addressing the health of vulnerable populations: social inclusion and universal health coverage. *Journal of global health*, 8(2).

[4] [http://www.who.int/healthinfo/universal\\_health\\_coverage/report/2015/en/](http://www.who.int/healthinfo/universal_health_coverage/report/2015/en/)



Reducing inequality in the health care sector calls for cooperation between stakeholders including public and private sectors. Although policies targeting health inequalities have facilitated accessing to health care for population living in the most precarious conditions, health inequalities still remain. Countries are invited to follow the "Inequality Action Spectrum (IAS)" [5], which refers to reviews of political attitudes towards health inequalities, from measuring inequalities to recognizing disparities and raising awareness of health determinants and their consequences. Health equity governance systems must consider political commitment and coherence, communication, accountability structures, local population involvement, modernized public health and innovation. The main challenges regarding inequalities in access to healthcare should be prioritized: inadequacy of the public resources allocation and investment in the health system, prohibitive user fees, in particular for pharmaceutical products, lack of protection for disadvantaged people from user fees, lack of accountability in setting priorities, inadequate delivery of resources, particularly in rural areas, problems with recruiting and retaining health professionals and complexity in reaching particularly vulnerable populations should a major concern of health care system. Significant changes needed to be introduced in countries that do not cover the whole population to provide better coverage. Nevertheless, reforms are often quite sluggish, resistance from vested interests can be considerable and financial resources are often inadequate to ensure correct implementation.

Promoting access to health services should be made one of the main priorities – alongside ensuring high-quality treatment and financial sustainability in health systems. Curative treatment in health promotion and prevention of diseases should be appropriate, affordable and efficient. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every nation in the world irrespective of their Socio-economic conditions, Health care facilities and Geographical boundaries. It has led to the new normal where everyone is uncertain about the future. The socially excluded and disadvantaged population living in poverty has been adversely affected by this crisis. We have to understand the risk of people dying from health emergencies can vary according to their age, ethnicity, socio-economic status and access to healthcare. However, access to health care is increasingly more comprehensive, assisted by expanded private provider involvement. A comprehensive approach is needed to reach vulnerable groups, such as homeless people, ethnic minorities, indigenous population, asylum seekers and refugees.

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[5] Barsanti, S., Salmi, L. R., Bourgueil, Y., et al. (2017). Strategies and governance to reduce health inequalities: evidences from a cross- European survey. *Global health research and policy*, 2(1), 18.

Keeping this in mind the entities like UN and its agencies while formulating the futuristic and possible intervention mechanism must act as a guardian of universal health care rights. The health care rights and inclusion to the health system should be considered as Human Rights where protection of each individual must be ensured. There should be a reintegrated multilateralism in Health care where countries have the option to observe and understand pandemic management system of other nations and a joint initiative would be developed through cooperation in health care emergency response related matters guided by intergovernmental agencies.

## **Recommendations**

- Public-Private Partnerships should be promoted in order to reintegrate the current structure of the health care system.
- Introducing Global health insurance policies which would lead to reduce gaps in access to health services with a coverage of greater number of disadvantaged and /or rural communities.
- A comprehensive universal health care benefit package should be introduced in which the health system serves all people, including those on low incomes or in insecure or unstable employment. It is highly recommended to include undocumented immigrants, asylum seekers and homeless people in the program.
- Reduce discrepancies in coverage which contribute to unequal access to health care. The spectrum of services provided will be standardized for all people that include cost-effective medical treatment, primary and specialist outpatient care and prescription products.
- Countries should invest enough in healthcare delivery to shorten waiting lists for medical services and ensure a sufficient supply of health care practitioners in all medical sectors. For many nations, therefore, it is also important to strengthen the working conditions of healthcare workers. In addition to this it has become essential to ensure fair compensation for health professionals.

- There should be a considerate and committed effort to ensure access to healthcare in remote and sparsely populated areas. There should be opportunities for health practitioners to settle there and facilitate continuous medical services. Countries will have to invest extensively in setting up of quality primary health care centres, in rural areas in particular.
- Pooling public funding to finance the health care establishments in the form of taxes would be appropriate and these contributions should be allocated for the health needs of population.
- On job training or continuous professional development programmes for public health care professionals in an institutionalized form should be a major consideration to governments across the globe.
- Community services schemes could be established in the initial stages of health care practices where the trainee health care professionals will have an opportunity to work with communities and groups as volunteers.
- Localized Health Index tracker and monitoring system should be established at the local community level where people can register their opinions and complaints regarding health care facilities available for them.
- Affirmative approach in the form of positive discrimination policies in health care should be adopted to accommodate vulnerable people to the mainstream health care system.
- Decentralized health care systems like Community and Primary Health care centres can be established at local level by categorizing geographical area into a cluster.

# Challenges facing journalists in the age of fake news

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*“Politicians are viewed as major creators of it (fake news), but journalists seen as the ones who should fix it”. - Pew Research Center*

## Abstract

This research project examines the challenges that journalists face in the fake news era. The research started by an introduction about emerging fake news as a new phenomenon in recent years. Then, it presents some different arguments about fake news issue, such as the factors behind emerging it, its impact on professional journalism, and how journalists can survive their professionalism in the age of digital media and fake news.

Key words: Fake news, made-up news, mainstream media, digital age, social media, journalists

## Introduction

On November 27, 2019 President of the United States Donald Trump tweeted a doctored photo of his head on Sylvester Stallone's body. The Washington Post tweeted: it is unclear why President Trump did that. In a response to Washington Post's tweet, Eric Trump also in twitter said: "Because 1) it's absolutely hilarious and 2) he knows it will drive fake news outlets like you totally nuts" [1]. This is the first time in the history a U.S president make such an announcement which is a fake photo. Despite that, one of his sons blames a "respectful" mainstream media as fake news. This is clearly a new era for producing and publishing news, and also for the relationship between journalists and politicians.

### So, what happened?

The age of publishing misinformation, false, fabrication and inaccurate news (deliberately or accidentally) is as old as the age of print press. It was originally used as soft power in conflicts, power struggles and warfare (Hendricks and Vestergaard, 2017, p. 67). However, fake news gains more attention in recent years as a new phenomenon. In 2016 the Oxford Dictionaries selected 'post-truth' as the international word of that year (BBC, 2016[2]). In 2017 'fake news' was chosen as the word of the year by Oxford University. (Reuters Institute, 2018). After that, the Chicago Tribune declared that "Truth is dead. Facts are Passé" (Hal Berghel, 2017).

Russian military intervention in Ukraine in 2014, Brexit referendum for leaving the European Union and U.S presidential election in 2016 are the most controversial occasions that fake news gets the most global attention. President Trump is still one of the foremost outspoken of the term after starting his campaign in 2015. Media outlets blame Trump for saying and stating misleading information. According to a story by Washington Post after 1000 days in office (until October 2019), Trump had made 13,435 false or misleading claims about immigration, stock market, economy, Middle East, etc. (Washington Post, 2019 [3]).

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[1] [https://twitter.com/EricTrump/status/1199838893044092929?s=19&fbclid=IwAR1\\_I\\_IKIk4OpV7caZC1nE3VsISXYEQVeczpT2MyVce5SXhx2yX6Mrh\\_Pp0](https://twitter.com/EricTrump/status/1199838893044092929?s=19&fbclid=IwAR1_I_IKIk4OpV7caZC1nE3VsISXYEQVeczpT2MyVce5SXhx2yX6Mrh_Pp0)

[2] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37995600>

[3] <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/10/14/president-trump-has-made-false-or-misleading-claims-over-days/>

On the contrary, Trump describes major mainstream media like CNN, New York Times and Washington Post as “fake news” and “liars” (Independent, 2019 [4]). Using the term fake news by President Trump every other day in his twitter makes the term more common. Now, the issue is not only between Trump and U.S media outlets, but it becomes a real problem around the world. The rival countries are also accusing each other of creating and publishing fake news for political reasons.

Half of American people believe fake news is a bigger problem than terrorism and climate change for their country. 57% of those 6,127 adults who participated in the survey also pointed out political leaders create fake news; interestingly 53% of them said journalists are responsible for fixing the issue. (Pew Research Center, Feb - March 2019 [5]). The result of this survey shows that the public has more trust on journalists to fix the problem than any other options; such as governments or tech companies. The result is good for media organization and journalists in some aspect; the first one is that people blame politicians and activist groups for creating fake news rather than journalists, and secondly, they trust journalists to tackle this new phenomenon.

## **What is Fake News?**

There are some different definitions for fake news. The obvious one is made-up news, masterfully manipulated to look like credible journalistic reports that are easily spread online to large audience willing to believe the fiction and spread the world (Holan, 2016 [6]). However, fake news is not exclusively an online phenomenon as it has existed since long before the invention of the internet. Neither is fake news inevitably a lie. It can come in the form of an outright lie that tries to portray an intentionally false story as being true (Hendricks and Vestergaard, 2017, p. 63).

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[4] <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-impeachment-behaviour-fake-news-media-whistleblower-treason-a9196376.html>

[5] <https://www.journalism.org/2019/06/05/many-americans-say-made-up-news-is-a-critical-problem-that-needs-to-be-fixed/>

[6] <https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2016/dec/13/2016-lie-year-fake-news/>

Reuters Digital News [7] annual report for 2017 noted that definitions of fake news are fraught with difficulty and respondents frequently mix up three categories: (1) news that is invented to make money or discredited others; (2) news that has a basis in fact, but is “spun” to suit a particular agenda; and (3) news that people do not feel comfortable about or do not agree with.

A piece of article by five scholars, which was published by 10th international conference in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2018, shows contextual changes around ‘fake news’ expression after the United States presidential election of 2016. “We found changes in the related vocabulary, in the mentioned entities, in the surrounding topics and in the contextual polarity around the term ‘fake news’, suggesting that this expression underwent a change in perception and conceptualization after 2016”. The research shows that fake news is seen more negative than before, because it was often linked to satirical TV shows and more general topics but after U.S election in 2016 the topic became more related to the spread of false information in the context of political activity (Evandro et al., 2018, p. 163).

## **Emerging the New Phenomena**

The existence and potential consequences of fake news is probably as old as civilization itself, (Adam Wierzbicki, 2018, p. 21). But in recent years there has been a widespread concern about the issue, mostly because of new social media platforms which makes the problem bigger and more global. A data by NOW Corpus shows that “there is almost no mention of ‘fake news’ until the first week of November 2016, and then it explodes in Nov 11 – 20, and has stayed very high since then”.

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[7] [https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Digital%20News%20Report%202017%20web\\_0.pdf](https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Digital%20News%20Report%202017%20web_0.pdf)

The total number of occurrences of ‘fake news’ extracted from the NOW Corpus on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 was 41,124. According to the author of the NOW Corpus report the reason behind bringing up the term in that time was the US presidential election, which was held in November 2016 (Evandro et al., 2018, p. 151).

16-Oct-11-20	22	45.3	0.49	
16-Oct-21-31	38	48.2	0.79	
16-Nov-01-10	107	48.3	2.21	
16-Nov-11-20	924	43.9	21.05	
16-Nov-21-30	645	41.3	15.61	
16-Dec-01-10	974	45.5	21.41	
16-Dec-11-20	978	43.2	22.64	
16-Dec-21-31	865	43.2	20.04	

Figure 1: Source: <https://corpus.byu.edu/now/help/fake-news.asp>

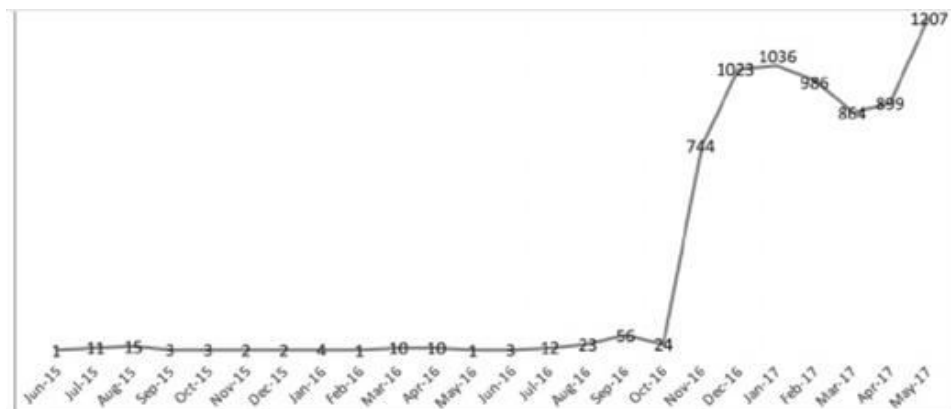


Figure 2: (Using fake news in in digital media between June 2015 to May 2017) Source: Factiva

A research shows that fake news was also used before that 2016 U.S election, but by the end of 2016 it became a common term. Hunt Allcott, New York University researcher, Matthew Gentzkov and Chyan Yu both researchers at Stanford University measure trends in the diffusion of content “from 570 fake news websites and 10,240 fake news stories” on Facebook and Twitter between January 2015 and July 2018. The result of their research illustrates that “interaction with the fake news websites rose steadily on both Facebook and Twitter from early 2015 to the months after U.S election in 2016. Interactions then declined by more than half on Facebook, while continued to rise on Twitter (Allcott, Gentzkov & Yu, 2018).



**Table 1.** Number of contexts containing the term “fake news” in our dataset according to (a) the geographical origin of the corresponding news media and (b) the year and period (before or after the 2016 presidential election in the United States of America) of publication of the news article.

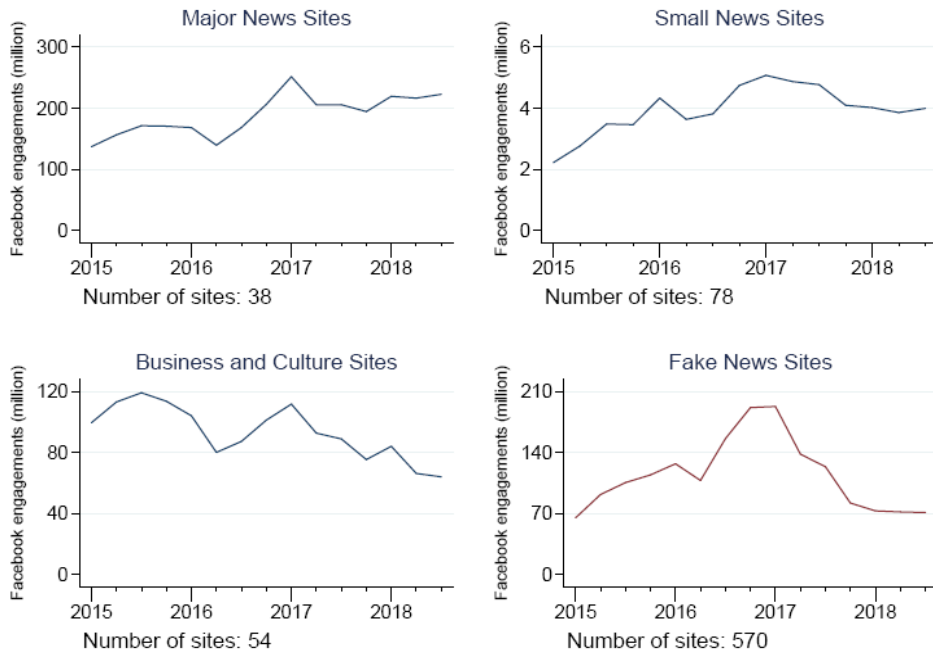
(a) Geographical origin of news media			Region	Country	Occurrences
Region	Country	Occurrences			
Southeast Asia	Singapore	3,722	Africa	South Africa	2,493
	Malaysia	3,455		Nigeria	1,974
	Philippines	3,058		Kenya	1,368
	Hong Kong	171		Ghana	300
				Tanzania	1
Total: 25,3% / 10,406			Total: 14,9% / 6,136		
The Americas	United States	6,775	Oceania	Australia	3,052
	Canada	2,960		New Zealand	1,446
	Jamaica	124	Total: 10,9% / 4,498		
Total: 24,0% / 9,859			Indian subcontinent	India	2,961
British Isles	Great Britain	4,213		Pakistan	772
	Ireland	2,035		Sri Lanka	147
Total: 15,2% / 6,248				Bangladesh	97
			Total: 9,7% / 3,977		

(b) Year and period of publication of news article										
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Occurrences	24	43	57	64	89	95	4,766	25,293	10,693	
Period	before US election					after US election				
Occurrences	494					40,630				

Figure 3: Source: Fake News as We Feel It: Perception and Conceptualization of the Term “Fake News” in the Media

*Panel A: Facebook Engagements*



*Panel B: Twitter Shares*

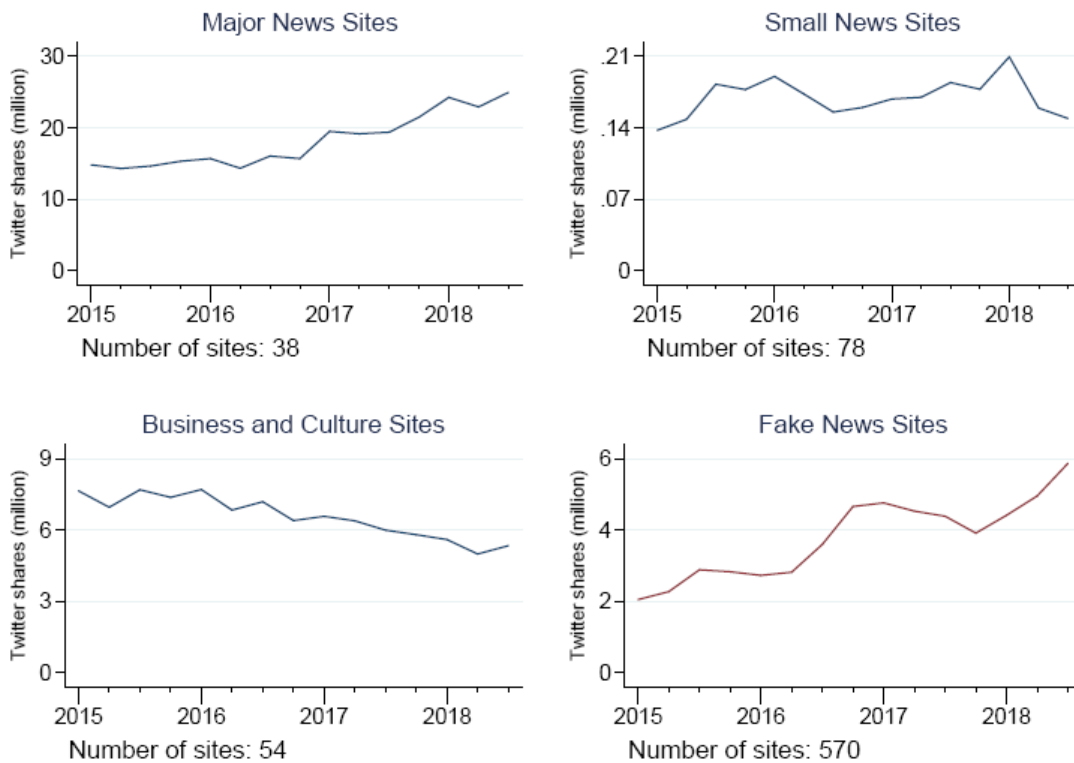


Figure4 (A and B), Source: Trends in the Diffusion of Misinformation on Social Media. Data comes from BuzzSomo

Another research paper by Hunt Allcott and Matthew Gentzkov which was published in *Journal of Economics Perspective* revealed that “fake news was both widely shared and heavily tilted in favor of Donald Trump. Our database contains 115 pro-Trump fake stories that were shared on Facebook a total of 30 million times, and 41 pro-Clinton fake stories shared a total of 7.6 million times (Allcott & Gentzkov, 2017).

Similar to U.S Presidential election, Brexit referendum to leave or remain in the EU on June 2016 was a notable time for rising fake news through digital means. A result of research by six scholars at University of Sheffield shows that the referendum was influenced by social media platforms in a “politically charged situation”. “Social media can create a skewed or biased information environment that may affect voters’ perspective” (Gorrel et al., 2018).

Some scholars and journalists believe despite any other reason, the leading factor behind rising fake news as a new phenomenon is emerging digital media, which is taking place in a new information ecosystem.

“Seasoned media professionals have tried to cool down political fever around Fake News by pointing out that it is not a new phenomenon. But there is growing consensus that it is taking place in a new “information ecosystem” driven by digital technology and novel distribution models. The news industry is no longer the preserve of journalists and editors but has become the playground for all thanks to the democratic nature of the Internet and the informational floodgate opened by social media” (Bekerman, 2017).

Vincent F. Hendricks and Mads Vestergaard in their book ‘Reality Lost’ also believe that the information ecosystem and economy offer strong financial incentives to produce and spread distorted stories, rumors, and fake news: They are highly contagious, seize attention, and generate clicks. Due to automated advertising systems, clicks on the Internet may be traded directly for cash. (Hendricks and Vestergaard 2019, p. xiii)

### **Fake News: Good or Bad?**

There are different arguments about fake news and its impacts on society and mainstream media. Some believe that fake news is not a bad thing for journalism at all. Professor Charlie Beckett, the founder of Polis [8] said fake news is the best thing that has happened for decades:

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[8] It is a think-tank for research about international journalism and society at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

It (fake news) gives mainstream quality journalism the opportunity to show that it has value based on expertise, ethics, engagement and experience. It is a wakeup call to be more transparent, relevant, and to add value to people's lives. It can develop a new business model of fact checking, myth busting and generally getting its act together as a better alternative to fakes... We see a boom in fact-checking. Tools and policies are being designed to help the user to assess the quality of information" (Beckett, 2017, p. 3).

Also, the result of Cision's 2018 State of the Media survey found that out of 1,355 journalists across the globe, 21% believe that fake news is increasing the importance of journalistic standards, while 9% said it is improving the popularity of trusted and established media brands.

In one hand, if fake news has benefits for major media outlets and professional journalism, as Charlie Beckett points out, in the other hand for public and audience only has negative impacts: "A particular danger is that 'fake news' is usually free – meaning that people who cannot afford to pay for quality journalism, or who lack access to independent public service news media, are especially vulnerable to both disinformation and misinformation". (Ireton & Posetti, 2018, p. 8)

## **New Phenomenon; New Challenges**

- Main Challenge: Anyone could be a Publisher

Digital age, in some regards, makes journalism career easier and media content more reachable and global. Unlike print and television era, now media outlets can broadcast their stories in different ways by different means. One hundred years ago a murder story only printed on daily newspapers or once week. Now, that is changed rapidly. With the help of digital and social media platforms, the same story could be published minutes after the incident occurred and updated every minute as it developed. Along their newspaper and TVs, journalists can publish that story on websites and also post text, photo, videos, sound, infographics, maps, satellite images on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and other social media platforms. "Internet brings new ways of collecting and reporting information... the functions of inquiry, observations, research, editing and writing have had to adapt the vast array of information available online" (Fenton and Witschege, 2011, P. 148).

The main challenge is that nowadays anyone can directly publish news and information on its own platforms to their audience. Grahamd Meikle and Guy Redden that the digital challenges for journalists

is real, mainly because unlike analogue and broadcast predecessors, digital media allows a wide range of actors to produce and distribute information at a very low cost and can afford free of charge:

“Anyone can now set themselves up as a publisher... It is a crisis for those who work in the news industry – it is a financial crisis of course but also an existential crisis, as journalists, accustomed to thinking of themselves as the Fourth Estate, the unelected bulwark of democracy, have to adjust to finding their continued existence questioned every day (Meikle and Redden, 2011, P. 13).

Digital and social media platforms can also help to create fake news, fake social media accounts, fake commenters, domination by a new breed of media monopoly, widespread surveillance, and threats to the privacy of journalists, reader and sources (Bradshaw, 2018).

The digitization has changed the production conditions for media: what used to be former media “consumer” are turned into potential content ‘producer’. The Internet and social media have provided an infrastructure that makes it easy and cheap to publish and spread a message or any new story. This turned citizen into potential civic journalists and made genesis of online news, debate and special interests’ platforms possible” (Hendricks and Vestergaard, 2019, P. 29).

Fenton and Witschge wrote: One challenge for professional journalists is the role of so-called citizen journalists and other writers online that offer their thoughts, witness statements and accounts of events freely and often for free, usually from non-institutionalized settings and without the pressures of newsroom deadline.

The ability that everyone can set up websites or social media platforms in a world of information overload makes the situation worse; even the audience sometimes cannot distinguish between genuine and fake news. Bloggers and amateurs can mask themselves as journalists and publish fake news. “The authority of trained professional journalists is under challenge from amateurs” (McNair, 2009b, p. 348 cited in Meikle and Redden 2011). Some argue that bloggers and amateurs should not be considered journalists, because they are not subject to same process and pressures as professional journalists (Jones and Salter, 2012).

That challenge could be tackled by taking two measures: The first one is depending on people. Richard Hornik, a lecturer in Journalism at Stony Brook University said: "Since new media such as Weibo, Facebook and Twitter have made all of us publishers in the digital era, all responsible citizens should verify information before they publish, forward, 'like' or retweet it" (CNN, 2012 [9]).

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[9] <https://edition.cnn.com/2012/11/30/world/asia/china-onion-humor-floracruz/index.html>

The second measure is that all information must be verified before it is published by media outlets. This could be achieved if journalists practice the basic journalism principles such as accuracy, honesty and veracity. Another positive point for journalists here is that “Professional editors, correspondents and producers have the time and resources to reflect on what others are reporting on and analyze the meaning of events rather than merely report on them or pass on what others are reporting about them” (McNair, 2011, P. 46).

- Data Verification Problem

One of the biggest problems in the digital age is verifying data. Because data, numbers, statistics and figures can be incomplete, biased and contain errors. Data became an important source of stories for journalists. Sometimes large collection of data would leak to media organizations, such as Wikileaks (which claimed the releasing 10 million documents since 2016) and The Panama Papers, which 11.5 million documents leaked to media outlets. These huge data and documents could not be reported only by journalists but also need the help of designers and developers, as a result many media outlets established data units and some started robot reporting, especially for financial and data analyzing stories. (Bradshaw, 2018, P. 14).

In 2014 Reuters started a project called ‘News Tracer’ to detect and verify breaking news on Twitter, before creating algorithms to surface trends in polling data in 2015, and automation for insights’ alerting journalists to ‘interesting events in financial data’. (Stray 2016). There was a hope that automated journalism could fix that problem of data, but a report into automated journalism noted that it cannot ask question, explain new phenomena or establish causality (Graefe, 2016).

- Audience’s Lack of Identifying Fake

Audience consumption of fake news without evaluating alleged facts and evidences is another real challenge. If audience do not know and cannot identify fakers and fake news, the job of real journalists will become much more difficult, both to deliver the accurate information and sell their products. “Journalists and companies that pay them will continue to help us identify lies and defuse them, but they cannot accomplish this on their own- the lies will win if we have a gullible, untrained and public consuming them” (Levitin, 2017, P. xvii).

In the same time, in a world of overload information, it is hard to audience to distinguish fake from real news, simply because it will take too much time to do that. That difficulty makes easier to political parties, rival countries and any other person or institution to spread fake news with statics, data and graphics which they look like real. Having social media platforms with very easy sharing system, lies and fake news are spread around the world and many people will believe it. In these cases ‘counter knowledge’ (which is a term used by Damian Thompson [10]) takes a vital role here. Donald Trump won the Electoral College in the 2016 against his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, but he lost the popular votes: (Trump: 62,985,134 votes – Clinton: 65,853,652 votes (US Election Atlas), but he claimed he won the popular votes as well. As a result of that misinformation, a survey revealed that 52% of Republican supporters believe that Trump won the popular votes as well, which is not true (Independent, 2016[11]). The initial knowledge of ordinary social media users with regard to manufactured fake news can be assumed to be low. This highlights the role of experts and fact-checkers: without them fake news can dominate the public opinion (Wierzbicki, 2018, p. 197).

This challenge cannot be fixed only by journalists or fact-checkers without technical help from tech companies to allow users report and ban fake news, and also regulation to ban or delete any information which is not true. But some scholars fear that the regulation from tech companies on specific news (under the fake news regulation) will undermine the right of freedom of speech and opinion.

- Satirical Websites and Comedian TV Shows

There are some satirical websites and social media platforms such as: (theonion.com) and (dailycurrant.com), which they look-like authentic and genuine news sources, but they are not. As a result, readers can be disguised by their news. Steve Bogira, Senior writer at Chicago Reader said:

As long as there's been satire, there have been people mistakenly believing it. But with the Internet, this has become a pervasive and toxic problem. One result of this—the epidemic of misconstrued satire—is the wounding of blameless politicians, and something must be done... Satire must be banned completely from the Internet. (Bogira, 2012 [12]).

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[10] Damian Thompson is British journalist and author who wrote “*Counterknowledge: How We Surrendered to Conspiracy Theories, Quack Medicine, Bogus Science and Fake History*” in 2008.

[11] <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/donald-trump-online-poll-half-republicans-believe-candidate-won-popular-vote-conspiracy-theories-a7482966.html>

[12] <https://www.chicagoreader.com/Bleader/archives/2012/12/10/parodies-lost-why-satire-must-be-banned-from-the-internet>

Alongside the satirical websites, the comedian TV shows such as The Daily Show on Comedy Central and, Saturday Night Live on NBC have also huge impacts on journalism standards as they mock mostly the daily political activities, while they do not share journalist's moral commitments.

Media researchers Sandra Borden and Chad Tew believe that The Daily Show is sometimes combine with journalism and other times seen as harm to the serious genre of news. But former presenter of The Daily Show Jon Stewart said "Satire is not journalism. That is not to suggest we are not responsible for the content that we put out there. That being said, the tools we use are exaggeration, hyperbole, puns, imitation, ridicule" (The Week, 2014 [13]). Regarding the content of The Daily Show, Jayson Harsin at The American University of Paris in his research 'A Critical Guide to Fake News: From Comedy to Tragedy' said "It was 'fake' in the sense that it sometimes imitated the style of 'real news' with news segments and reporters who were sent out to do stories or give in-studio commentaries. Even there, it was not entirely fake, if by which we mean entirely invented. On the contrary, it often (and still does with its new host (Trevor Noah) give biting funny news analysis, usually from a left-leaning perspective. It is media criticism that functions especially through satire and parody (Harsin, 2018).

- Declining Trust in Professional Journalism

One of the big challenges that fake news create for journalists is decreasing the trust of audience. Cision's 2018 State of the Media Report [14], which 1,355 journalists from six countries participated found that: 71% of respondents believed the public has lost trust in the media over the last year, underpinning how important it is for communicators to provide journalists with reliable, newsworthy information. The majority of UK journalists agree fake news is making people more skeptical about the content they read.

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[13] <https://theweek.com/articles/441666/why-jon-stewart-doesnt-daily-show-fake-news>

[14] <https://www.cision.com/us/resources/white-papers/2018-sotm/>



The result of the Cision's survey also shows that: 28% of journalists consider number one challenge facing their industry is staffing and resources. 25% said social networks and search engines bypassing traditional media is the second challenge, and fake news is mentioned as third challenge. Reuters Institute Digital News Report of 2017 also revealed that "The internet and social media may have exacerbated low trust and 'fake news', but we find that in many countries the underlying drivers of mistrust are as much as to do with deep-rooted political polarization and perceived mainstream media as bias".

The internet and social media may have exacerbated low trust and 'fake news', but we find that in many countries the underlying drivers of mistrust are as much to do with deep-rooted political polarization and perceived mainstream media bias.

One of the key step editors can take to tackle fake news and keep audience's trust is fact-checking before publishing information and documents. 75% of journalists believe being accurate is more important than being the first to publish any news. And the majority of editors still trust the press releases the most (Cision, 2018). But there is a problem with fact-checking to tackle fake news. "Once the Fake News item is out, the damage has been done, and we are only left with damage limitation measures. Factchecking is precisely that: a reactive, or retroactive measure which paradoxically sometimes only boosts the impact of a Fake News story" (Bekerman, 2017).

### **What to Do to Stop Fake News?**

In October 2019 anti-fake news law in Singapore came into force. Under the "Protection from Online Falsehood and Manipulation Bill" it is now illegal to spread false statement of fact. Under the bill government ministers can decide whether to order something deemed fake news to be taken down, or for correction to be put alongside it. They can also order technology companies as Facebook and Google to block accounts or websites spreading false information (CNN, 2019). [15]

Some critics warn that fake news laws could be used to suppress free speech by governments. Damian Tambini at London School of Economics and Political Science said "Some fake news problems do require action on the part of policymakers as well as media and tech companies, but the approach must be cautious, proportionate and protect free speech.

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[15]<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/10/02/asia/singapore-fake-news-internet-censorship-intl-hnk/index.html>

He insisted that no action is required by government, because governments may succumb to the temptation to create media system that suits their political interest. Tambini also said new fines and changes in liability are not required and legitimate media should be protected from accusation of fake news. But he suggested that in a small number of cases, which deliberately misleading news that attempts to undermine elections or pose national security, intermediaries such as Google and Facebook may be required to take such content down, but not in most cases fact checking and monitoring will be sufficient (Tambini, 2017).

### **Conclusion:**

Given the result of almost all the researches which conducted in the last two years; it is clear that 2016, which Brexit referendum and the U.S presidential election were held, was the birth date of ‘fake news’ as a new phenomenon. And the emerging digital and social media platforms were the main factors behind spreading fake news more easily and more global than ever.

Fake news has become a challenge for journalists in the digital age. The main impact of fake news is declining the trust of people in mainstream media as audience become more skeptical for any new information they read online. Another one is the massive engagement of fake news stories by social media users, partly because fake news is unusual information which attracts more people than real news does. Despite the emerging of fake news websites, and a world of information overload, this research suggests that journalists “partly” can tackle some fake news stories by abiding journalism principles such as: accuracy, verify, impartiality and fairness. But to overcome fake news in a greater scale, support from governments and giant tech companies are required, in the condition of protecting freedom of press and speech.



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**What action should we take now to make a better world for future generations?**

Authors:

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Audio recording [here](#).

# Shaping schools of tomorrow through digital citizenship

Author:

GHEMARI, Arby

## Introduction:

It is easy for us to look at the problems of the world and tell ourselves that no one can really make a difference. War, terrorism, crime, unemployment, poverty, climate change, and the list goes on. Sometimes we feel helpless and we're not always sure where to start or even if it actually matters to try. Then we think of people like Gandhi, the Dalai Lama, and Mother Teresa, so we know that one person can make a difference. All these people were world leaders, and each one of them left an incredible legacy. History tells us that maybe these were extraordinary people, but I am not an extraordinary person. Then I read several articles about more ordinary people. People like Jadav Payeng, who alone planted an entire forest in India and regenerated a whole ecosystem. He alone helped create a better future, not just for himself, but for his family, his community and his country. As a young leader, I believe that I can make a change and help shape the schools of tomorrow through digital citizenship.

## Technology, Schools & The Learning Gap:

According to an article published by the world forum in January 2020, globalization and rapid advancements in technology continue to transform civic space and the world of work. Adding to that, education systems have grown increasingly disconnected from the realities and need global economies and societies. In this new era, education models must adapt to equip children with the skills to create a more inclusive, cohesive and productive world. However, not all schools around the world have access to technology. For me, Schools of the future should provide books and tech tools to teachers and students.

Technology has become a key component of today's classroom and is here to stay. Technology will almost always be a force for growth, but technology is not automatically a force for inclusion. Without deliberate effort to include everyone, digital technologies can end up entrenching existing inequality. Indeed, according to the Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring

Educational Quality, half of the classrooms across six countries studied in Sub-Saharan African have no textbooks at all, because of cost and logistical issues. Only 1 out of 19 countries has adequate textbook provision at close to a 1:1 ratio for all subjects and all grades. Books and technology just aren't getting to Sub Saharan Africa. Adding to that, the vast majority of research and documentation related to the use of educational technologies around the world is generated from within 'highly developed' countries (most of them in Europe, North America and East Asia), animated and informed by research questions and the needs of education communities and education systems in these same countries.

During the Pandemic, distance learning has been proving itself to be the best way of learning, especially in cases in which teachers cannot be present in what we call "presential classes"! The best example lies in those countries which go through a developing phase and still don't have technological devices to work with. They just have a blackboard, paper books and a teacher in the classroom, using a conventional way of teaching and learning.

### **Digital Citizenship and The Schools of Tomorrow**

Technology has revolutionized learning. Tablets and laptops have unlocked opportunities for students to explore and continue learning in exciting new ways. Implementing tech in the classroom is not only having a profound impact on learning, but it's also equipping students with much-needed digital skills to succeed and thrive beyond the classroom. (Mather, 2018). It also helped in creating thousands of digital citizens. "A Digital citizen is a person using information technology in order to engage in society, politics, and government. " As defined by Karen Mossberger, one of the authors of Digital Citizenship: The Internet, Society, and Participation, digital citizens are "those who use the internet regularly and effectively."

Addressing the 21st century skill of digital citizenship plays an important role in shaping schools of tomorrow as it helps students learn, communicate and collaborate safely and responsibly. Being a best digital citizen in the community includes having email etiquette, reporting and preventing cyber bullying and learning how to protect private information.

When we look at schools around the world, we notice that Schools of Tomorrow already exist but only in first world countries. Augmented and Virtual Reality for example have been used in different classrooms across the United States and Canada. Yvonne Rodriguez, an elementary teacher

in Texas, argues that augmented reality tools reduce the time and effort required to set up gaming activities while allowing teachers to break through the noise and engage students with the type of immersive content they find in their daily lives.

When creating virtual experiences, teachers can easily add multiple choice and open-ended questions, characters and speech bubbles, web pages and Snapchat-like filters and also embed YouTube videos. They can require students to take photos of objects to demonstrate their understanding of the material or allow them to access content with an inexpensive VR viewer like Google Cardboard. Platforms like Metaverse also have hundreds of ready-to-use, free learning experiences, with thousands of teachers collaborating on creating additional content. (Crews,2018).

### **Brining Digital Citizenships to Developing countries**

I have been working for a global education company based in Southeast Asia for the past 4 years while pursuing my doctorate degree in Education Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Vermont. My goal as a leader and educator is to raise awareness on digital citizenship and to bring tech tools to developing countries where access to technology can sometimes be difficult.

There are many steps that we as leaders have to take in order to help shape today's youth into the digital citizens our world needs:

- First, we need to identify the leaders that we work within our educational institutions (library leaders, teachers, school tech leaders, etc.
- Second, we need to train and encourage our local teachers to use more technology into the classrooms, (i.e: videos and creating online lesson plans)
- Third, we need to check that the students have the right skills like basic level of understanding or application of skills.
- And finally, we need to work on a Digital citizenship plan to ensure the students fluency and competency through encouraging the student to demonstrate by doing and living as a digital citizen through the creation of materials.



## **Conclusion**

Shaping our world and creating Schools of Tomorrow is certainly challenging but it's not impossible. Whatever technologies we have access to, there are ways to learn the key concepts and competencies of Digital Citizenship. The core of Digital Citizenship is how to be a responsible, respectful and empowered person. Our real life and online life are merging at a rapid pace and we're trying to figure out how to do that really well. Promoting Digital Citizenship around the world and sharing the common definition of what it means to be a Digital Citizen with people would bring leaders together and share the systems around. It's true that AR/ VR technologies aren't available in all countries, however, we need to use whatever technology we have access to, learn through doing, living and being connected.

## **What actions should we take now to make a better world for future generations?**

Author:

GJOKA, Alessandro

Complexity can undoubtedly be regarded as an attribute that well defines today's world. As time passes by, the number of events that shape global dynamics and the complexity that characterizes the latter contribute to render the world increasingly tangled. Today, more than ever before, we are experiencing a period of rapid changes that are revolutionizing global structures. The global pandemic that is now occurring has made these changes more acute and an action plan is needed in order to ensure global stability, especially for future generations. The actions that need to be taken for future generations must continue in line with the principles of multilateralism promoted by the United Nations and must keep the universal common good as the primary objective. As rightly remarked by the former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in 2013 during the first International Day of Happiness, "when we contribute to the common good, we ourselves are enriched". This principle requires that global society organizes itself in a way that allows every citizens of the world to develop their potential in the best way. In this context, personal fulfilment depends on everyone's commitment to seek the common good. Indeed, the development of peoples must concern everyone both for the present generations as well as for handing a better world to the future ones.

The actions that await to be taken for developing a better world must be underpinned by a twofold root, which is also at the basis of universality. This root embraces both ethical and functional aspects. The ethical aspect is based on the indisputable right of dignity of every human person and it requires to build a world in which everyone can live a fully human life without exclusions of race, origin or religion. The functional aspect is based on the premise that if development is not universal and fails to include all peoples, it is not effective because it lacks the active contribution of the ones who are left behind. A development that is not universal is also not effective because, in the long run, the underdeveloped areas will cause imbalances and pitfalls to the general dynamics of development. In light of this, we must undertake actions aimed at delivering an inclusive development that takes into

consideration the different stances of all. Respectful dialogue is a fundamental prerequisite for inclusion, and we must prioritize it in every action we take. We must not be afraid to freely exchange ideas and perspectives with each other. Dialogue is crucial not only to empower and support each other, but most importantly it contributes to connect with who can be erroneously identified as 'diverse'. As humans we all share a common ground, we must always remember it and act in accordance with it. Actions that foster dialogue between peoples must therefore be strengthened in order to break the barriers that more often contribute to misjudging and impede to know people from different backgrounds. The encouragement and consolidation of dialogue between us at present time will stand as a steppingstone for more dialogue for next generations in the future.

Once established sincere connections with others through dialogue, another fundamental action for building a better world is the one of sharing. Since the most striking feature of globalization is the acceleration of patterns, there is a pressing social problem: the increase of inequalities, not only among countries but also within countries. In fact, the disparity between rich and poor people has become more evident even in developed nations and the feeling of precariousness seems to spread, especially among the younger generations. Social measures that contrast inequality are needed in order to alleviate the disparities and avoid that future generations will be faced with even greater inequality. It is now universally recognized that the key to development lies in science and technology and that, on this front, the main problem is the significant obstacles to the transfer of the "know-how" connected to technological progress by the more developed area to the less developed ones. In this context, ensuring that these transfers and share of knowledge run smoothly would also guarantee the rightful development opportunities for future generations in disadvantaged environments.

Intensifying the use of the principle of subsidiarity in order to achieve an effective global governance can facilitate the aforementioned actions. Actions at the international levels must also proceed gradually with reforms that enhance and encourage local actions in line with multilateralism.

This can happen if all the various levels of governance, both at the global as well as regional and sub-regional levels, cooperate with each other in order to accomplish their tasks and jointly work towards the common objective: building a better world. Now is the time to contribute all together to a constitutional engineering of humanity that would provide a better world for the future generations. In light of that, public forums that sees the participation of concerned actors have to be promoted. This

would ensure that current challenges are being transparently debated and solutions are constructively found. We must continue to deepen an already ongoing process of dialogue between all international actors at all levels. The cause for a better world, which today needs to address problems that take place both at the global and the local levels, requires it.

In light of all the increasingly changing global scenario which renders solutions extremely complex, a thoroughly reflection on a revision of the UN structure may also be needed. We must find a way that allows not only the member states of United Nations but also civil society, young generations, NGOs etc. to find sufficient guarantees of being respected in their interests. All these stakeholders can play a crucial role in delivering actions that would benefit future generations. The priority is to build up a system that is based on a framework of shared values and, as it has been previously mentioned, that see the participation of all. We must acknowledge that actions that guarantee inclusivity and dialogue lead to peace and are therefore instrumental for the construction of a better world. It falls upon us to act now.

## **What action should we take now to make a better world for future generations?**

Author:

GOMES DA SILVA, Camilla

As for this year, the United Nations is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the theme 'The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism.' The topic is presented in a time full of uncertainties and worldwide challenges. A time where, more than ever, it is necessary to collectively act so the world can recover and move forward. In this context, actions from our generation must be taken fast and efficiently so we can guarantee a better world for future generations.

Propose feasible and realistic actions are complex, and it is subject to deep debates. There is no consensus on what measures would be the best to achieve that. Some moderate groups believe that only less consumption and the adoption of measures to reduce pollution would be sufficient. Others think that more radical measures urgently need to be implemented. However, the bottom line is that any action is better than no action.

Among all the potential actions, I believe that firstly it is urged to learn how to share. Our society has been short-sighted about the consequences of our actions. The reason it is because our contemporary society is marked by the constant and fast changes in our life scenarios. These changes occur at a fast pace, and we need to be able to adapt ourselves at all times. Because of that, we focus our lives to achieve this sold success, and we somehow become single "units." With that life, there is no time to perceive society as a whole, which means, as a result, that we are not willing to compromise time or needs. China showed us an important example of human dedication. The past generation worked hard so the future generation would have a better life, and as we can see, it worked.

Compromise and share have to be in every single aspect of our life. Volunteerism is an immediate action that all of us can do to make a better world for future generations. Voluntary work is one of the ways of achieving active and participatory citizenship, materializing social solidarity. Therefore, it should be encouraged as a means of strengthening class integration, promoting equality, and inclusion. Although volunteer work requires time and dedication, it doesn't have to compromise

our daily routine. Find something you like and give a chance. It will not only be made the individual better yet will bring benefits for society.

Another essential action we must take is to solve food poverty. Currently, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the number of undernourished people in the world has been on the rise since 2015, with around 822 million. One of the actions we can take is the acquisition of food locally: in this case, the government and the society need to be encouraged to give preference to the purchase of local agricultural production, originated from small family farmers. This has an impact on the short and medium-term. Domestic acquisitions are beneficial for communities as they encourage production, generate more jobs and thus increase the distribution of local income to the families. Finally, support local agriculture business also have a direct impact on the protection of biodiversity.

For so long, cities have been the example of what a successful person would desire to be and that lead us to lose our connection with the environment. As a consequence, the importance of the environment became less and less, and it started to lose priority in the political agendas and our lives. As a priority action, it is essential to reflect on the importance of nature and gradually get in touch with nature more often. It is an urge that we develop a positive relationship with the environment surrounding us. Our relationship with the environment goes further and that it is also fundamental for our general well-being, which includes both body and mind.

Avoid excessive consumption is the solution, which means, do not use or waste what is not necessary. Firstly, because everything we consume, directly or indirectly, comes from natural resources, and some are not renewed. Secondly, because consumption produces waste and, as we know, some materials take time to decompose. We need to start to look at our environment to guarantee that future generations will be able to exist.

Education is another important topic that needs careful reevaluation. Nowadays, jobs require that people are more specified people, therefore, we spent most of our education live studying one specific topic, and we stopped being curious about other things. However, our life is not a straight and straightforward line like a job. It's imperative to learn about different things because, somehow, that will affect our lives and decisions. The reading exercise became superficial and less critical. As a result, our capacity to see the world as complex as it is becoming bias. Our generation needs to read more and engage in debates so we can exercise our critical analysis of our surroundings.

Knowledge helps humans to become aware and brings us ideas to find our role in society. It helps us to collaborate for a more tolerant life in society, with social and intellectual transformations that aim to reduce the problems of society. Education is one of the pillars of society. A cultured people are more prepared to create, plan and execute projects to make our society a better place.

There are many people in poverty or in a difficult situation, facing difficulties, to have no education and have to undergo any situation that appears. We would have a better and more egalitarian society if the majority dedicated ourselves to study, even with difficulties that most of us face building a better life.

Finally, it is critical to understand that the actions we made now it is not necessarily limited to the above points. Make a better future for our future generations; it is a constructive and constant action of each individual looking for our current world and wishes yet seeking the best for them for future generations.

# United Nations at 75: shaping our future together

Author:

GRANATH, Felicia

## Introduction

The theme of the 58<sup>th</sup> GSP is “United Nations at 75: shaping our future together” and the title refers to the United Nations celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an intergovernmental organization working towards greater collaboration between nations, communities and cultures. One of the most central aims for the United Nations is bringing humanity closer together and working towards a universal protection of peace, security, freedom and development. Both the preambles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all people have equal rights which they contain from being human. This means that the future we are all working towards is one where all people are treated as equals in freedom and dignity, with the right to live in peace and security. It is this future that the UN, through immense cooperation and determination, must strive for. In this report I will focus on how to work towards this future, which major obstacles the UN is facing and who the main actors should be.

## Obstacles

Human rights are in theory universal, but unfortunately not in practice. All over the world there are people living in slave like conditions, people who are stateless and people who are forced to live in ways contrary to their freedoms and undivided dignity. Although many areas of human rights are improving, such as the decreasing amount of people being killed in wars, decreasing maternal and infant mortality rate and the fact that more people than ever are attending education, other issues are becoming an alarming threat.

## Climate change effects

Climate change effects everyone, not just the environments closest to the polluters. The IPCC raises concern to the irreversible effects on the environment, lack of resources and risk of human rights abuses and poverty due to climate change. Yet there is still, from states and powerful groups, hesitancy towards climate change and reluctance to work against it. Drought, pollution, melting ices and limited



resources will lead to conflict, human rights abuses, famine and displacement. So called “climate refugees” is a group that will increase if climate change is not combatted and whom have very little protection for their rights.

The UNDP, and other UN bodies, uses a human rights-based approach when working with development issues. However, there is a lack of integration between human rights, development and climate change in the sense of language and focus on interception. Neither the UNFCCC nor the Kyoto Protocol makes references to human rights specifically and most international treaties on refugees disregard climate change and natural disasters as legitimate reasons for seeking asylum.

There are accountability issues regarding negative impacts on our climate. States report their emissions differently and since multinational corporations can divide their activities over several countries their actual carbon emission is hard to trace. Many western companies are placing their distribution in developing countries due to cheaper labor costs, which causes damages to the nearby environment and the people living there.

### Inequality and extreme poverty

Even though the world is more developed than ever, economic inequality has increased. The UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty, Philip Alston, raises concern over the implications of the income gap between those who live in extreme poverty and people living in wealth. In a report, he argues that economic inequality leads to unequal opportunities and access to power, political influence and health. There is a close link between extreme poverty and human rights abuses as well as between economic inequality and integrity rights, especially for women. IPCC reports that extreme poverty and economic inequality also makes people more vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change. Climate change such as heavy rainfall or drought can lead to already marginalized peoples being pushed into poverty. Equality and combatting extreme poverty is crucial for securing several rights, especially in regard to climate change.

## **Different actors and their roles**

The United Nations is built on partnership and dialogue. Only sovereign states are UN members but, in many cases, it is not the governments who has the closest contact with citizens of marginalized groups or who are mostly responsible for actions leading to human rights abuses. In a global partnership it is vital that all the actors are informed and engaged in the matters at hand. States are most needed for this, but also others.

### NGOs

Non-governmental organizations are central actors in creating a more equal future. Since they are separate from governmental impact, they have a closer relationship to victims of human rights abuses and knowledge of situations that are not being reported.

NGO's working with human rights are used to establishing trust. Many NGO's have a close connection to specific cultures and therefor an important connection to groups with lesser recognition in the global arena. NGO activism is important and although the UN listens to NGO's at hearings they are not given the same amount of time and impact as governments. There is also a risk of lack of representation due to funding issues for NGO's acting from the Global South or with issues regarding indigenous peoples and minorities. During the UPR process NGO submissions are important for recognizing parallel views and voices.

### Companies

Private companies are becoming a greater actor in the global partnership, both as a resource for development and as a violator of human rights. Carbon emissions come mostly from different industries which in many cases are private companies. A lot of companies are trying to reduce emissions and take social responsibility, but many others aren't. In the UN system, companies cannot be held accountable the same way as states. Since private companies are becoming more powerful and, in some ways, have a greater impact on the everyday lives of individuals, companies should have a bigger role as partners to the UN.

In combating climate change and economic inequality companies can, and should, make a difference. The UN Global Compact is a good start but since it is not legally binding the question of accountability is difficult.

## **Conclusion**

The United Nations is a powerful and important organization for global cooperation and collaboration. Human rights, development and sustainability effects everyone and therefore guaranteeing equality and liberty cannot be left to the future or solely rely on the willingness of states. More actors need to be involved and held responsible, as climate change and inequality are global matters whose harm impacts the entire world. Human rights and development issues must be closely integrated through actions and language in order to strengthen the rights of those most marginalized – and future generations. Trust needs to come from below, where respect for cultural diversity is fundamental. NGO activism is an important factor but requires the UN to give NGO's a greater opportunity to speak and report abuses of human rights. Private companies are impacting the world more and more and must therefore play a larger role as actors within the UN, both as duty-bearers and promoters of human rights and development.

The theme of this report is “Shaping our future together” and in conclusion: a future where people are living in freedom and equality can only be achievable if everyone acts together in a spirit of brotherhood.

# Climate change in Georgia

Author:

GURGENDIZE, Tekla

Climate change is recognized as the most serious problem that humanity is facing. Georgia joined in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1996, which in the country is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. 3 national reports have been prepared on climate change during this period, reflecting current changes, as well as the impact on ecological, economic and social factors. The data for over the last 50 years (1961-2010) from 33 stations of hydro-meteorological network across the country has been analyzed to assess the climate change. The study showed that the average annual temperature throughout the whole territory of Georgia has increased over the last 50 years. The maximum temperature increase was 0.7 ° C (Dedoplistskaro) in the eastern part of the country and in the western part 0.6 ° C (Poti). In addition, the total amount of precipitation, the character of its distribution, and the frequency of extreme climatic events have also been changed. The change in the country is observed in the long-term (multi-year) climate data. We are dealing with the frequent repetition of extreme climatic events, i.e., the frequency of occurrence of these negative events has increased.

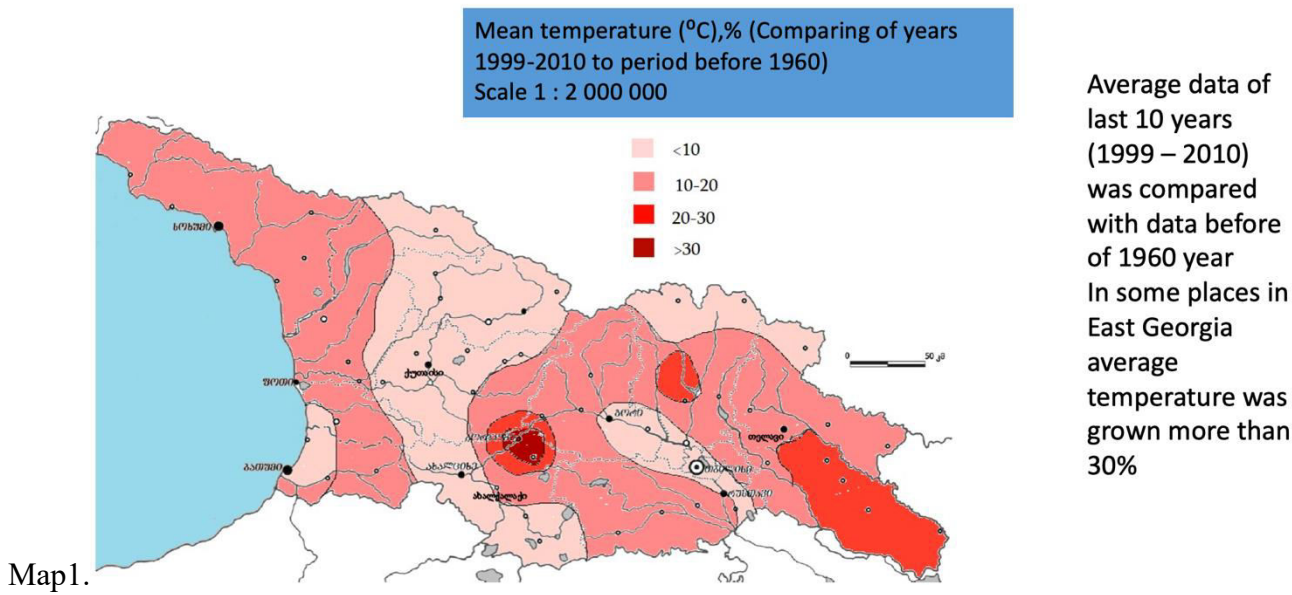
Georgia is distinguished by its climate diversity. Out of the existing 5 major climates of the earth (polar, boreal, sub-boreal, subtropical, tropical) we have 4 (except for the tropical climate). The climatic anomalies of recent years in the country are so essential that we will witness many important changes in the near future. Three analyzes of climate change variation in the country have carried out: average temperature (0C %), vegetation period (IV-X) precipitation (mm), and average temperature in January (0C %).

In all three cases, the average data for 1999-2010 was compared to multi-decadal (in some cases century-old) data. The average temperature has increased throughout the country, in some cases by 10-20%. It is noteworthy that in some places the average temperature has increased by more than 30%.

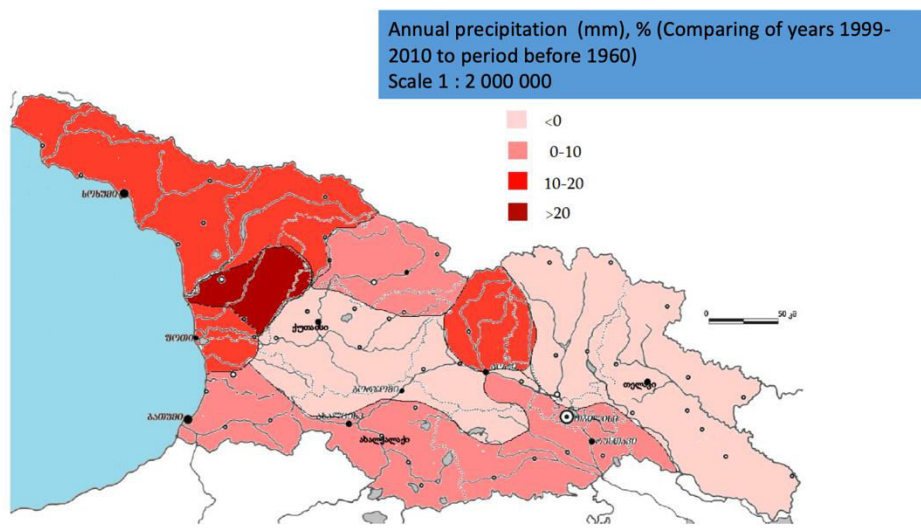
The variation of precipitation during the vegetation period (IV-X) gives a rather variegated picture; precipitation volume in some eastern and southern parts of the country is decreasing. This takes place where the shortage of precipitation is observed.

During the vegetation period the amount of precipitation in the western part of the country significantly increases. The fluctuation of the average January temperature is the most worrying. The comparable 10-year data has increased across the country compared to multi-year data, in some cases reaching 100, 200, 300 and even 400%.

Such change of climate can lead to uncontrolled change of environmental conditions and, consequently, to irreversible change in the conditions of cultivation of major crops.

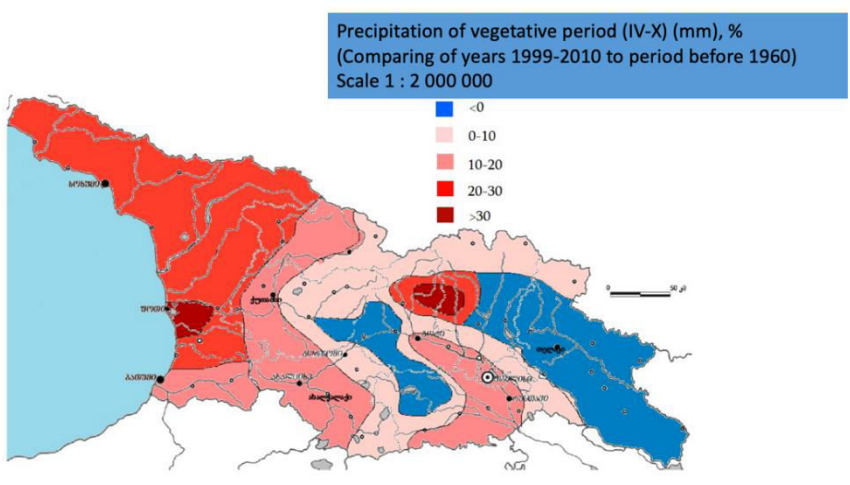


Map2.



Precipitation during year in same places In East Georgia were less than normal

Map.3

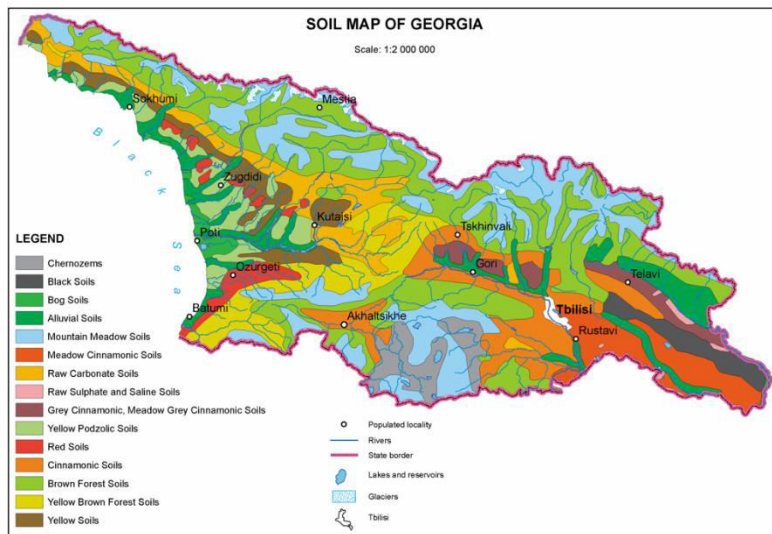


Precipitation in vegetation period in some places of East Georgia are less than normal

Climate change in recent years should most effectively affect soil properties and its geography.

First of all, it concerns the reaction of the soil area and the content of carbonates. Soils, widely distributed in the world, can be grouped into two main groups: acid and alkaline areas of reaction.

The diversity of Georgian soils is well known. Georgia has all European soils, including those not present in Europe.



This map is prepared based on national soil classification

Despite this “abundance”, the possibility of soil comparison is limited only to the contact points of carbonate and non-carbonate soils. All this is possible on the border of Cinnamonic and Brown Forest soils (i.e. alkaline and acid soils).

Cinnamonic soils are perhaps one of the most distributed soils common to our country. These soils are distributed in East Georgia, mainly between 500m (700m) and 900m (1300m) above sea level. Cinnamonic soils, as an independent genetic type, were first described in Georgia.

I have studied the impacts of climate change on the soil in recent years, namely, on their area and the current state on the border of the cinnamonic and brown forest soils. This issue has been studied in the vicinity of Tbilisi. I have conducted my research in 2019, June.

I explored the 5-year old borderline data between these soils - that is, between cinnamonic and brown forest soils at 1150-1210 meters above sea level. Thus, below this altitude the soil was cinnamonic (carbonated), and above this altitude - brown forest soils (acid).

I studied the present (2019) borderline between these two soils and found out that it had moved 50-100 meters higher. Presently, the border passes at an altitude of 1200-1310 meters above sea level.

This means that below this altitude the soil is now cinnamonic (carbonated), and above it the soil is brown forest soil (acid). If such tendency persists, this will result in the disruption of ecological

balance of these soils and it will become necessary to review the existing agricultural and forestry approaches and take effective measures.

In soils were investigated content of hydrological water, pH, content of humus and CaCO<sub>3</sub> and texture by the adoption methods.

According to my investigations of brown forest soils (exposition north) they have alkaline reaction (pH=7,7-8,3), carbonates (0,62-5,96) - as a result we have cinnamonic carbonate soil, but not the brown forest soils. This soil has a middle loam texture, but this parameter does not have diagnostic meaning.

In other point (exposition south) we have soils with alkaline reaction (pH=7,8-8,3), carbonate 1,56-11,09) and texture light clay. In this point we have cinnamonic carbonate soils, but not leached carbonate soils as 5 years ago, but cinnamonic carbonate – with carbonate from surface.

I have studied the certain climate indicators using the following approach – the average temperature of 1999 – 201- years was taken and compared with data up to the 1960s. It was estimated that the average temperature of 1999-2010 years was increased by 10-20%. This was a good reason for moving the borderline between cinnamonic and brown forest soils 50-100 meters higher. This regularity is confirmed by the fact that the average temperature at the object of study in January was increased by 100-200%.

In 2019 (just 5 years later) the situation changed dramatically. The areas of brown forest soils and cinnamonic soils changed substantially. The elevation of the bordering zone of the soils shows increasing trend.

Alkaline soils with carbonate content along with acid soils were identified at the northern exposition. This pattern has not been established in all places, which indicates that we are dealing with a "crawling" pattern.

Each climate indicator shows a sharp change in its basic characteristics and these changes cannot but affect soil properties.

In all cases, the “familiar” and at the same time “unknown planet” studied by us, like many others, require further study and, above all, the study of their nature in the face of changed climatic conditions. We should shape our future together!



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## **What action should we take now to make a better world for future generations?**

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In a world experiencing rapid globalization and third wave of industrialization, many nations are left behind. Issues such as economic welfare have been prevailing on the agendas of international actors since the end of World War II. Even though, multilateralism, in the face of institutions such as the United Nations and the World Bank, has been increasing its importance in international affairs, there is still a lot to be done to create a world with no poverty and conflict, no racism and discrimination, no environmental degradation, etc.

To improve the conditions in the world, we need to work together and start from the most vulnerable – the poorest of the poor. And even though there are still extremely high levels of poverty in some countries in Asia and Latin America, the most vulnerable are situated in the African continent, specifically in sub-Saharan Africa where more than 50% of the population experiences multidimensional chronic poverty (UNDP, 2020). To tackle multidimensional poverty, we need to focus on issues such as health and education as well as access to necessities such as water and electricity. To do this, international organizations, headed by the UN as the leader in the “fight against poverty”, need to put aside their differences in functions and structures and work together to achieve this goal. Additionally, as well as cooperation between multilateral organizations, there needs to be cooperation between states where developed and developing states work together and with international organizations for the sake of the most vulnerable. This, I believe, can be achieved once states, specifically the most developed ones, overcome their prejudice towards each other and put aside their differences in interests and policy. Moreover, to create a better world for future generations the international agenda needs to shift from issues such as economic growth and focus on social development.

Despite UN’s many efforts, seen through programmes such as the Millennium Development Goals and the consequent Sustainable Development Goals, there are still parts of the world which suffer immensely. This is due to both lack of international cooperation and lack of government intervention. The UN can do so much as to create an agenda which can be recommended for implementation by national governments. And while some countries, such as Ghana, by applying these targets to policy

at the local level, have achieved impeccable results and have reduced the levels of extreme poverty, others, such as Nigeria, have failed to do so and still experience extreme levels of multidimensional poverty seen through lack of health infrastructure, education and other basic services.

Unfortunately, 21st century has been marked by the emergence of new global priorities of pressing importance to nation states, such as terrorism, climate change and trade, increased issues of security and sovereignty and shifted countries' sight towards preservation of national self-interests. With the current pandemic of COVID-19 I expect for many countries to heighten their nationalism and put emphasis on issues such as security, which will put the development agenda on the sight for a while. This is what we, as global citizens, cannot and should not let happen.

We need to work together in order to achieve our goal of global development. This said, I believe that the UN and other international organization do have the power to guide countries in their international agendas and even advise them on their foreign policy in order to facilitate international cooperation which is so very important for our goals. Once the international and the local start working together towards meeting the goals, we will start seeing the difference in the world. The most vulnerable will experience the social and economic development they have been deprived of many years ago.

As an advice to the UN, I would suggest for the organization to increase its links and work towards better and bigger cooperation with regional organizations such as the European Union (for Europe), ASEAN (for Asia), OAS (for Latin America and the Caribbean), African Union (for Africa), etc. Along this, many international and regional non-governmental organizations can help coordinate the work of the UN with local governments. NGOs can be used to track the progress of the goals in a specific country up-close and in-depth since regional NGOs provide on the ground expertise and work up close with local communities. This being said, the next step will be the achievement of coordination and cooperation with local communities and businesses. Again, this can happen either through on the ground UN staff or through NGOs. Additionally, as most countries in Africa are non-democratic with high levels of corruption and client-patron relationships on both high and low levels, the best approach for the UN and other international organizations is to either have their own people on the ground or to have access to transparent and real information which most of the time is provided by local NGOs and/or private companies.

Another suggestion concerns the bureaucratic aspect of the UN. The fact that there are currently 193 countries but only 5 of them (which are also the most developed countries in the world) have veto power in the Security Council makes the organization less democratic. The main problem with

international organizations often is the lack of democracy and the presence of heavy bureaucracy. To overcome this, I would suggest giving more power to smaller, less developed countries. For example, the so called “emerging markets” in the face of China and India, which also have the two biggest populations in the world, should be given more power in deciding and vetoing potential policies and reforms in the UN which may be considered harmful for smaller and underdeveloped countries. And since Africa is still the least developed continent with constantly rising poverty levels, it needs to be given more power in deciding policy and determining goals.

Both the MDGs and the SDGs have been created by UN staff and represent general goals which all countries should meet by the end of a given time framework. However, as countries differ from each other in aspects such as governance, economy, society, etc., these goals, in my opinion, should be made less general and more specific from country to country. To do this, again I believe that working closely with people on the ground or with NGOs and regional organizations will help the UN understand more closely the specific needs a country has and then come up with the most appropriate policy or programme to meet the goals.

Last but not least, we as a civil society, need to help international organizations such as the UN with everything possible. This can be done through volunteering, on the ground in countries of interest, through participation in events and conferences as a place to make your voice heard, or even online through social media and blog posts for raising awareness among our families, friends and local communities. Overall, I want to conclude by saying that in order to create a better live for future generations we need to spread development around the world and this, as I have already outlined, can be done through cooperation and coordination on and between the local, regional and international levels.

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# **Achieving environmental and social goals together: how environmental policies can help in the fight against poverty?**

## *A brief parallel between the FAO report on Viet Nam and Brazil*

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The year of 2020 will be remembered for the impacts of SARS-CoV-2 on the deepening of an already fractured system. The virus is not only linked to the current climate emergency, even being predicted in some degree by experts [1], but it also disproportionately impacts countries and minorities, [2][3] increasing pre-existing inequalities. These impacts can be seen by the correlation in the fatality rate with social and health spend indicators. The selection bias is not, however, in the structure of the virus but in the structure of society.

In this regard, even if the SARS-CoV-2 has been linked to local immediate benefits where the pollution stopped and has shown imbalances in countries previously regarded as equals, its role as a game-changer is not a guarantee. This outbreak and others that will come have the potential to grow into wider crises, potentially weakening systems and initiatives that are in reality preventing the worse-case scenario.

In this regard where institutions are weaker the social security net tends to be weaker (or virtually inexistent), affecting thus access to a health system, employment and, for small business, bankruptcy. In this sense, the sanitary crises can quickly lead to an economic crisis resulting frequently in migration and, not mutually excludable, marginalization [4]. These social problems can result in the return to polluting activities and the halting of transition policies, thus having a negative impact on the environment completing a vicious cycle.

The link between poverty (monetary and non-monetary) and the environment is not new. In the Stockholm Conference, Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India in the occasion says, « Are not poverty and need the greatest polluters? » [5] One can interpret this question as that one can only aspire to live in harmony with the environment once the basic needs are met. This idea was translated in the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities” introduced through the

article seven in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) and reinforced in the Paris Agreement (2015). After this principle, even though the atmosphere doesn't separate emissions coming from developed and not yet developed countries, the political reasoning does.

In this context, the Sustainable Development Goals represent a reference point especially in terms of the indivisible nature of social and environmental that inescapably collide in the development studies. This can be seen most clearly perhaps in agriculture. While being a great force of deforestation, it's a fundamental part of society bringing in one side of the supply chain food, and in the other providing livelihoods for 40 per cent of today's global population. Agriculture thus represents the single largest employer in the world – and being especially important for poor households as a source of income and job [6].

The debate then gravitates on what is the role of and what kind of agriculture do we need. Trying to answer these questions the FAO has been for years an instrument in bringing innovations to the field. In this context, not only FAO but also the creation and continuous work of the UN and all its agencies remind us of the potential in finding solutions together in the field and being able to compare them. The work of FAO in Viet Nam [10], for instance, are besides all specificities, in many ways relatable with the challenges that Brazil faces in the Amazon [7][8][9]. Essentially, both regions demonstrate the importance of intensification [11] in agriculture and the implementation of environmental-friendly practices. This is not only motivated by environmental reasons but also by its social effects.

The dissemination of good practices to smallholders and family farming can be achieved through technical assistance. This procedure has the great potential in bringing good quality products at an accessible cost while improving rural wellness. Thus, it represents an important factor for food safety on both ends. On this note, a lot can be done in the scientific field, but a great part remains in the political sphere where the demand-side can have a great role. The Brazilian Soy Moratorium is an example, this agreement stopped the purchase of soybeans produced in areas that were deforested after 2009 in the Brazilian Amazon and has proved that it's possible to engage the society, the productive sector, and the government, in the solution [12].

Even in a globalized world, we have a tendency to look local, national and international as opposites to each other, but a great potential waits in the between. Comparative exercises between territories in different regions of the globe and the interaction between international institutions with local actors have the potential to tackle these world problems. The knowledge from one project can be help construct new revenues that are environmentally friendly opening opportunities for the local

communities on the other side of the planet. Multilateral institutions are known for this role par excellence.

The work of international institutions with local actors can translate in a more accurate and refined approach. The former can more easily get funding, public attention and have experience knowledge built-in, while the latter have field knowledge and are those living in the territory and whose lives we aim to improve. This is especially true where initiatives [13] and advocacy are already present but for a number of reasons don't get support from local government. Guiding policymakers through the sustainable path seems thus of great importance for an effective change.

Thus, the only development possible is sustainable development, otherwise, the effects caused by climate change and locally imbalanced ecosystems will be felt disproportionality throughout the society deepening pre-existing inequalities. In this scenario where the local is a catalyst for the global arena common and integrated solutions are faster and better solutions.

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# Emerging artificial intelligence and our common future

Authors:

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## Introduction

*Emerging Technologies: What kind of future do we want to create?*

In our turbulent time, new circumstances make us rethink the way we live and imagine in what world we want to live tomorrow. With a COVID-19 pandemic, the world has gone to a new level of digitalization, a new level of privacy and transparency, and a new level of relationships with technologies. The consequences of it are difficult to predict, but for sure, it will change the way we work, study, educate our children, consume, and live. The question of privacy is opposed to individual and national security, and more importantly, to the issue of regulation of the emerging technologies.

Our team has chosen to focus on emerging technologies. There are many fields in which advanced technologies will play a pivotal role in the near future: industrial and military espionage, digital data regulation, cyber threats connected to COVID-19. We emphasized the key points, such as artificial intelligence and regulation issues; cybersecurity, and international relations; privacy and transparency of medical data issues, strengthened by pandemic; and environmental impact assessment of emerging technologies.

### 1. Artificial intelligence and regulation

Artificial Intelligence technologies are developing very fast, and the national legislations and international regulations are not ready for developing and legally implementing the governance of AI. While some companies banned using face recognition, the others roll out facial recognition at schools, or develop contract tracing apps.

Many countries agree on the point that the ideal AI should have trustworthiness and fairness and underlines the importance of human values and control. With this, the key players in the AI

industry disagree on what the AI governance should be like: according to the European Union, AI should be human-centric, UK policy is placing the ownership of responsible innovation by companies, in China the policy verifies all stages of AI development, and the United States approach is more focused on international competition and self-regulation of private companies.

Since the industrial era, states have entrusted the legitimate use of physical force by militarized professionals to maintain the dominant position of the power. The technologies, to which the industrial revolution gave birth, have transformed the manifestation of political violence. Now, AI is being militarized not only in terms of the development of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) and nanotechnologies. Besides the visible material damage, there is an invisible danger in a virtual space, including cybercrimes, global scoring systems, absence of privacy, use of marketing technologies for political propaganda. We can argue that technologies are neutral: the strategies of technology development depend on which hands it will appear. But the most important problem is the multiuse issue of technologies when civil technologies can be very easily implemented in the military sector. In working papers on LAWS in recent years, it is possible to observe the following “military” trend: 1. The transition from general terms to very concrete military vocabulary, such a target, operator, commander, soldiers, civilians; 2. Emphasis on use, precaution and order; 3. Focus on functions and control of the system . However, Human control is an ultimate component in a process development & deployment of LAWS.

Pierre Curie's famous words during Nobel Prize lecture: “It can even be thought that radium could become very dangerous in criminal hands, and here the question can be raised whether mankind benefits from knowing the secrets of Nature, whether it is ready to profit from it or whether this knowledge will not be harmful for it”. This for us to decide, could we profit from AI or will this knowledge be harmful for humanity. It is impossible to predict where human curiosity will lead us, what kind of catastrophes it will deploy.

The international landscape is more and more permeated by technology in all its aspects. From AI applications in the warfare scenario to cyber-influence connected to national elections, the role that emerging technologies will have in shaping the forthcoming IR system is undoubtedly crucial. In the next section, we concentrate on the concept of “cyber diplomacy”, briefly analyzing its evolution and the implications it could have on the broader society.

## **2. Data, cybersecurity, and international relations**

Relations between states, like any other human activity, witnessed a radical change in their nature during recent years due to the surge of emerging technologies, most notably the Internet and its appendix of applications. Since diplomacy is a critical element of inter-governmental exchanges, it also has undergone a series of changes and adaptations to this new environment. Cyber-diplomacy could be defined as “diplomacy in the cyber domain or, in other words, the use of diplomatic resources and the performance of diplomatic functions to secure national interests concerning cyberspace”. While the early stages of Internet governance, in the 1990s, were predominantly focused on its technical dimension, from 2003 (in conjunction with the World Summit of Information Society promoted by the United Nations) there has been a shift towards a sustainable transnational governance model for the Internet. A defining feature of this revised method is multi stakeholder inclusivity. This model enables the secondary and tertiary sectors to play a more proactive role in Internet governance next to state actors.

Since then, the massive expansion of digital infrastructures and the subsequent dependency on connectivity has increased the exposure to cyber threats. As a matter of national security, states are therefore increasingly taking control over the governance of cybersecurity, moving debates over safe and stable connectivity infrastructure ever more toward intergovernmental fora and bilateral agreements among governments. Along this line, the UN has formalized a multilateral approach to cybersecurity, specifically through the establishment of the UN Group of Governmental Experts (UNGGE) intended to “advance responsible State behavior in cyberspace in the context of international security.” This transition represents a shift of narratives in international cooperation in the cyber domain, from Internet Governance as one of the main challenges of Global Governance, to Cyber Diplomacy where dialogue among countries is mostly in line with state-based approaches adopted in the domain of international security.

In order to strengthen a coherent and coordinated cyber diplomacy dialogue and avoid a fragmented approach in the domain of cybersecurity, it is crucial to take into consideration the fast-changing geography of the Internet, which is increasingly moving away from its original concentration in the wealthiest areas of the planet. Given the expectations that by 2025, 75% of the Internet population will be living in the global south, there is a significant need to develop a Cyber Diplomacy dialogue beyond the global north. In this context, the development of global cybersecurity goes together with the launch of strategies aimed at supporting states in their efforts to develop cyber capacities. Examples of such initiatives include the formalization of an EU Cyber Capacity Building

strategy with the release of the Operational Guidance for the EU's International Cooperation on Cyber Capacity Building back in 2018.

Given the current climate with the pandemic, governments need to fight the virus by testing or asking doctors/hospitals to test and then provide data to the public health organizations. What level of transparency is acceptable? Will this data be deleted after the pandemic?

### **3. Data ethics, medical data, contact tracing apps**

Modern society as we know it is on the verge of a new revolution. Increasingly, data and data sets are being collected and mined for vital predictions and insights. We are witnessing what specialists call the “Big Data” revolution. This big data phase of the information revolution, depending on how we look at it is promising or hindering a bigger scale of social change. Factors such as the COVID 19 global pandemic are proving to be accelerators of this social data transformation. In the wake of the pandemic, many governments such as Belgium and France have launched what is called a “Contact Tracing” project destined to collect the personal medical data of patients with COVID 19 and their families. The collection is to take place through tracing applications as well as medical specialists and medical infrastructures to then be centralized, in the effort to deal with the health crisis caused by the pandemic.

The “Contact Tracing” project is problematic on multiple levels and raises critical questions related to data governance, data ethics, data protection and data privacy. Who will have access and be responsible for the data? Will the data be stored and handled by third-party providers? Is there a legal framework for this project? Will the data be permanently deleted after the pandemic? How will the collected data be used during and after the pandemic?

Moreover, this project presents a threat to the foundation of modern medicine, the medical secrecy. Furthermore, beyond data governance and data ethics issues, the collection and centralization by the State of personal medical data may potentially lead to the violation of fundamental human rights. Poor supervision of the project could see patients' data shared with third-party institutions such as banks or insurance bodies making it impossible for a portion of the world's population to get loans for education or medical insurance thus digging the pit of social and economic inequalities.

Initiatives such as the Contact Tracing project are symptomatic of a lack of multilateralism in present international spheres. Each State believes that their single action will erase the virus and forgets that the world in its entirety is dealing with the health crisis.

There is no doubt that data can bring positive change on a social and economic scale but in the case at hand, the effort must be global.

The digitalization of our future must not be a synonym of unsustainability, on the contrary, ensuring a sustainable Data Revolution is key. This newfound dynamic is explored in the following section.

#### **4. Environmental impact assessment (EIA) of emerging technologies**

Emerging technologies are the major innovation projects of recent decades and the main vector of the new industrial revolution. Environmental Impact Assessment is a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, considering inter-related socio-economic, cultural, and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse.

##### *4.1. Impacts of Emerging Technologies on the Environment*

The era started during the 1980s and is characterized by the massive construction of large infrastructure such as data centers, submarine cable, satellite, etc. The advent of 5G and the explosion of data stored on the "cloud", the data centers are multiplied. But these devices consume a lot of energy. Emerging technologies are equated to slow ecological disaster that would accelerate global warming.

Indeed, the data center is the dark side of the internet. There are nearly 400 in France and thousands around the world. Data centers are computer servers that run day and night at full speed with an estimate of 91 billion kWh in 2013 and 56 billion in Europe of energy consumption. By 2025, they could consume 20% of the world's electricity with almost all fossil energy. Data centers are a threat to the green economy and an exonerating cause of climate change. Data Centers alone account for 17% of the technology's carbon footprint. With 2-5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, their carbon footprint is similar to that of the aviation industry. It is, therefore, crucial for digital giants, political decision-makers and challengers to think of an energetic source conversion solution for a sustainable future.

Li et al, 2016 showed that Convolutional Neural Networks, which are widely used in image classification and object detection, are very energy intensive. While Strubell et al, 2019 made a case study in the field of automatic language processing by comparing 4 states of the art models. They estimated the energy cost by considering the memory, processor, and graphics processor consumptions of the computing center and showed that the energy consumption was very high and very variable depending on the model. Emissions for the model drive ranged from 18 kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq to 284T CO<sub>2</sub>eq. The most commonly used model, without any specific parameterization, emitted 652 kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq, i.e.

about one Paris-Hong Kong flight. They were thus able to estimate what deep learning methods consume, in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, based on the average energy mix in the US (17% renewable energy, 35% gas, 27% coal, and 19% nuclear).

#### *4.2. The Importance of Conducting EIA*

The emergency is here. The direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with the growing use of digital are systematically underestimated, given the miniaturization of equipment and the invisibility of the infrastructures used. However, technology companies need to integrate EIA approaches into innovation processes. It aims to predict environmental impacts at an early stage in innovation projects planning and design, find ways and means to reduce adverse impacts, shape projects to suit the local environment and present the predictions and options to decision-makers. By using EIA both environmental and economic benefits can be achieved, such as reduced cost and time of project implementation and design, avoided treatment/clean-up costs and impacts of laws and regulations.

#### **Conclusion**

AI Governance is only possible on the national level, but each country is taking this issue differently. The regulation had always been difficult, countries were afraid to turn up into vulnerable positions. Shaping our future together is our own responsibility. We all need to stop the competition and start a cooperation at the global scale. Every country should be engaged in sustainable development.

In this critical juncture for global cybersecurity governance, it will be essential to diversify participatory practices and to ensure that transnational non-state actors and governments from the global south are included in core circles and debates. By expanding cyber capacity-building efforts, we may enhance the prospects of an inclusive and robust governance model that will endure the current securitization of cyber policies.

More than ever, the world needs to unite and forgone the fundamental contradiction of living in an interconnected world and at the same time retreating from global cooperation. Multilateralism must be rejuvenated by gathering the voices of the people. States and populations must refocus on key global challenges. We must reimagine multilateralism by reexamining and redefining where we stand as a human race, through modest multilateralism. Unity is the only way out, we do not have a choice,

we owe it to past generations who have fought for a better world, we owe it to ourselves and most importantly, we owe it to our children.

To reduce the impact of emerging technologies on the environment, digital companies should explore the following Solutions: Artificial Intelligence researchers have an interest in better calculating the environmental cost of the models they use to learn their algorithms, but also try to use less data-intensive and energy-intensive programs. Machine learning software developers need to use computational-saving techniques, such as Bayesian optimization and random optimization. Also, a concerted effort by industry and researcher is needed:

- To search for more computer-efficient algorithms, as well as hardware and software that require less energy,
- To convert heat produced by data centers usable for other infrastructures in need of heating,
- To build the data centers in naturally cold environments (sea and the icy areas).



# **The future of West Africa's renewable energy sector for 2050**

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## **Introduction**

The successive report has been composed regarding the lectures and discussions that emerged from the United Nations 58th Graduate Study Programme, with the theme bring 'United Nations at 75: Shaping Our Future Together.' The report analyzes the positive potentiality COVID-19 entails for sustainable development mechanism development in Western Africa as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its correlation to climate change. Case studies of Ghana and Nigeria's party and non-party stakeholders are analyzed to decipher their actions in correlation to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number (7) - affordable and clean energy by 2030. The combination of both the public and private sector's sustainable development mechanisms' approach can put forward the path into an envisioned 2050.

Also, the measures taken by all parties in Ghana and Nigeria as previously noted are analyzed in correlation to our group's envisioned reality of rapid eco-climate mitigation mechanisms from the public and private sector.

## **Analysis of Current Eco-transformation in Ghana**

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the complex potentiality of Ghana's sustainable economic development transformation as the result of their estimated GDP growth rate falling to approximately 2.6% from 6.8% in 2020. Entrepreneurial SMEs in the renewable energy sector reveals the potentiality to further implement a cooperative model towards eco-sustainability in our group's envisioned world

on the UN's 100th anniversary. Therefore, we have identified potential complex eco-transformations within Ghana's non-party and public stakeholder sectors of business enterprises that partake in climate adaptation strategies to fulfil SDG number (7) by 2030.

### **Role of the eco-private Sector (non-domestic) in Ghanaian non-party sectors**

Presently, the analysis of COVID-19 lockdown measures in Ghana indicates positive experimentation for a paradigm shift in diversifying adaptive climate measures in a time where the Ghanaian Cedi experienced a 10% currency loss due to the oil price shock amidst COVID-19. The oil shock provides an opportunity for foreign investments in Ghana's renewable energy sector for businesses severely affected by the economy; foreign investment renewable energy stakeholders can, therefore, accelerate Ghana's SDG (7).

As a result of climate change, as 15 - 20% Ghana's rivers in 2020 are prone to stress and the flooding of coastal regions will affect the potency of the sole hydro-dam in Ghana which generates 80% of the country's energy. Water stress amongst Ghana's river basin during COVID-19 can result in multiple sectors experiencing increased stress in water and energy management. However, international solar energy companies with solar plants in Ghana have the jurisdiction to implement renewable energy relief packages to private-sector enterprises affected by COVID-19's energy impacts to the economy.

In April 2020, Redavia, a German private-sector solar energy enterprise established the COVID-19 Resilience Lease. The lease provides solar power plants to long-term Ghanaian sustainable enterprises for a free six-month trial period. As a result, Ghanaian businesses and civil societies such as Mankoadze Fisheries Limited (Ltd.), The Royal Senchi Hotel & Resort, Emigoh Ghana Ltd and Methodist University College Ghana joined Redavia's programme.

Redavia's initiative reflects an environmental paradigm shift of reinforcing renewable energy as a gateway for clean energy amid COVID-19. Also, the action strengthens the hybrid mixture

between the renewable energy market and foreign investment towards private sector climate adaptation through periodical free trials to permit the non-stakeholders to assemble their enterprise sustainably, while contributing to the country's NDCs of a projected BAU of 73.95 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030.

Although, for Ghana to re-innovate its renewable energy economy, the role of the public and private sector must be emphasized to stimulate entrepreneurial renewable energy markets into becoming regional competitors. COVID-19 has unraveled the opportunity for Ghana, combined with domestic and foreign investors to construct a hybrid model in which Ghanaian environmental entrepreneurs can flourish from a niche, off-grid community market to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) involved in supporting off-grid impoverished communities suffering from the factors of COVID-19. Therefore, strategic innovation planning of encouraging niche renewable energy enterprises and initiatives through competition can flourish into a regional West African competitive market which can attract further investment and cooperation once COVID-19 subsides.

During COVID-19, government implementation programmes in Ghana's NAP, environmental cooperation with non-party stakeholders through charitable initiatives under the framework of SEED can prepare the country's envisioned SDMs until 2080. Hence, the next section analyzes renewable energy entrepreneurial enterprises that can be enforced within Ghana's non/party stakeholder sector. The shift into supporting sustainable entrepreneurship may result in a number of diverse avenues for promoting sustainable innovation within Ghana's renewable energy sector. Despite no access for monetary funding during the period of COVID-19, a strategic development plan can emerge from the pandemic that revealed the instability of the oil sector - revealing an opportunity to significantly diversify domestic markets.

## **The Pathway towards achieving sustainable energy transition in Ghana**

### Transitioning entrepreneurial renewable energy markets through domestic competitions

Strategic sustainable implementation programmes during COVID-19 correspond to the development of creative solutions in the form of promoting sustainable entrepreneurship. The promotion of sustainable entrepreneurship is a factor to fill the discrepancies between the private sector and renewable energy investment. Therefore, a strategy effectuating solar panels and biofuel to SMEs through cooperative entrepreneurial competitions such as the framework of SEED is the first pathway

towards SDG (7) by 2030. Ghana Climate Innovation Centre is an institution that can further administer increased innovative competitions under SEED's framework that resides within the renewable energy sector. Thus, through competition, the development of competitive entrepreneurial renewable energy markets with the development of niche competition, propels the transitioning from niche enterprises to regional SMEs can be the catalyst for Ghana's transformation into solar energy until the year 2050.

The next section analyzes, under the framework of SEED, the second strategy to diversify Ghana's export sector during and after COVID-19. The potentiality for a competitive renewable energy market signals a call to action to aid vulnerable communities affected by SDGs (1), (2). Ghanaian communities affected by climate change and COVID-19's aftereffects - thence can attract non-party stakeholders and foreign investors to cooperate with the enterprises which can generate further initiative to create a sustainable and cooperative framework of SDGs for Ghana by 2030 and 2050.

*UNEP NAP: correlating entrepreneurial SMEs with SDGs*

Under the circumstances of COVID-19, Ghana's government has initiated the development of the UNEP's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) initiative, which develops domestic resilience to the effects of climate change up to the year 2080. Under the framework of the UNEP, was inveterate under the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF), which establishes two purposes:

1. Decrease the fragility to the repercussions of climate change by designing supply mechanisms and durability.
2. Integrate climate adaptation measures into current legislation and programmes.

The current process of Ghana's NAP can involve the apparatus of developing programmes which under the framework of SEED and the Ghana Climate Innovation Centre, can correlate renewable energy SMEs to SDGs through charity programmes by 2030 and fulfil 2050 objectives. Renewable energy enterprises such as The Tema Cooperative Sunflowers Association (TCSA) and N.A Energy Solutions Limited (NASL) are examples of two Ghanaian SEED initiatives under SDG (7) while promoting SDGs (1) (2), (4) and (8). For example, N.A Energy Solutions, their design of clean cookstoves and solar-powered lamps to poverty-stricken communities in West Africa (Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone) resembles a reflexive structure of charitable and environmentally sustainable mechanisms.

N.A Energy Solutions' exports in Liberia and Sierra Leone signify a dynamic of the company diversifying its exports amongst the West African region; therefore Ghana's NAP along with the Ghana Climate Innovation Centre, can implement domestic entrepreneurial competitions which can result in increased exports in renewable energy for off-grid communities during and after COVID-19 - extending its demographic to aiding communities while abiding with SDGs.

Therefore, government strategic management is crucial for socio-economic entrepreneurial renewable energy companies in correlation with charitable initiatives to flourish. As a result, government-sponsored sustainable business initiatives may result in partnerships between renewable energy entrepreneurs and non-party stakeholders in Ghana (e.g. civil societies, and SMEs) that can collectively join SDG initiatives. Hence, partnerships between non-party stakeholders may flourish into diverse avenues for the distribution of affordable renewable energy accessible for non-party stakeholders during and after the effects of COVID-19. For example, TCSA's framework for processing sunflowers into biofuel abides by SDGs (1), (4) and (8) - through the promotion of education and job creation through the association, both initiatives unveil positive outcomes within the non-party stakeholder sector for partnerships that reside under the framework of SEED.

Therefore, Ghana's NAP programme of designing charitable initiatives through the Ghana Climate Innovation Centre, can unleash different non-party stakeholders to partake in renewable investments with entrepreneurial enterprises through the form of charitable initiatives that correlate with SDGs of 2030 and the future of 2050.

### **Pathways towards achieving sustainable energy transition in Nigeria**

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and related measures have ushered the world's economy nearly to a total standstill. The Nigeria Development Update, Nigeria in Times of COVID-19: Laying Foundations for a Strong Recovery states the intercontinental spread of the pandemic and the subsequent collapse of international oil prices are destabilizing Nigeria's macroeconomic balances.

The energy transition of developed nations appears seamless, not only because of their financial strength; but it is more attributed to the enabling policy structure, favorable legislative rulings and legally established competitive yet regulated market environment. Energy democratization and sustainable energy transition across the globe are fundamentally politically motivated.

Using the Indian model, achieving a smooth energy transition requires a socio-political crusading that guarantees viable and consistent structure for both government-owned, privately-owned and community-owned energy systems. The Nigerian government can introduce a profit/benefit-

oriented investment environment with beneficial policies and legal documentation that will promote environmental sustainability while pursuing energy sustainability. These requirements will easily interest both regional and foreign alternative energy source investors with low excessive financial and socio-political implications. The domestic consumers will also be prompted to get connected in any way possible since the existing policies, and the legal framework will protect their national and individual rights and interests.

### **Increase investment plan for hydroelectric power technology**

About 17% of substantial hydro resources and about 2% of accessible small hydro resources are disposed of in Nigeria. Hydropower persists as one of the most reliable energy sources in terms of returns on investment, operation, and maintenance. Hence, more investment in hydro generation facilities can be of immense advantage towards accomplishing both energy and environment sustainability.

Also, an elevated hydro energy storage system (PHESS) can be another way of extending the sufficiently available hydro resources within the country. In a pump-hydro energy system, a reversible pump-turbine system pumps water to a reservoir positioned at an ample height from the regional level. As a result, the expense of energy production from either the renewable or non-renewable electricity system is low.

There are reputable sites and high/elevated lands for establishing the PHESS facility. However, extensive geographical, hydrological and topographical surveys/mappings of the suspected regions need to be analyzed.

### **Energy resource management and energy supply conservation**

Energy resource administration requires establishing accessible energy resources into the most salutary techniques. Periodically, possible energy transporters are disregarded and permitted to decay and often constitute environmental nuisances. Thus, a reliable model for energy resource management is the gas-to-grid model. The success story of Italy and other developed countries is a model that can be adopted towards achieving a sustainable environment and energy goals in Nigeria. Different aspects of energy resource management, such as the deployment of efficient waste-to-energy models for the disposal of agricultural and some non-toxic/organic biological wastes from domestic and industrial

wastes are worth considering. The University of Nigeria Nsukka has championed this course through the recently installed 100 kVA refuse-derived fuel gasification power plant on their main campus.

Energy conservation is concerned with getting the maximum benefits from the available energy production through curtailment of wastage and rational uses of dispatched energy. To sufficiently achieve this in Nigeria and the entire West African region, cutting edge technologies for advanced energy auditing, monitoring and metering are to be invested upon by energy enterprises. By doing so, SMEs in energy generation through the distributed generation approach, net-zero energy building design and demand-side management through consumer demand profile inducement can be deployed.

## **Conclusion**

A sustainable means for achieving an environmentally friendly and economical energy framework is regarded as the core element for the secure and time-efficient drive of an all-inclusive economy in Nigeria, Ghana and other countries in West Africa. The development of the proposed regional electricity grid, such as the West African Power Pool (WAPP) in hybrid to entrepreneurial SMEs in the renewable energy sector can develop into a collective network of regional and foreign partnerships by 2050. Through socio-economic innovation, the development of accessible renewable energy while simultaneously aiding poverty-stricken communities through SDG initiatives and charities affected by climate change signals a call to action for West Africa to diversify investments after the COVID-19 oil shock.

However, discrepancies in the reliability and cost-effectiveness of renewable energy technologies are well-proven, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the reliance of Nigeria and other West African states on energy from conventional fuels for electricity and locomotion may remain unchanged. The existing research and development centres and technology development institutions should be strengthened to support the shift towards increased use of renewable energy. Human resource development, critical knowledge, and know-how transfer should be the focus for project development, project management, monitoring, and evaluation in the region. Together, domestic and foreign cooperation/investment in entrepreneurial RE competitions, combined with the R&D of energy technology for West Africa can signal the necessity for facing climate change adversities for not only the upcoming future but by 2050.

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# ONU 75: façonnons l'avenir ensemble

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## La naissance de l'ONU et ses objectifs

L'ONU est une organisation internationale universelle créée en 1945. De nombreuses autres organisations internationales ont vu le jour dans un monde globalisé, pour ficeler les Etats afin de les empêcher de faire la guerre. Le rôle des organisations internationales est aussi important dans la paix, la stabilité et la construction d'un monde inclusif de demain. Les objectifs de l'ONU sont de :

- Maintenir la paix et la sécurité internationales par des moyens pacifiques conformément aux principes de la justice et du droit international.
- Développer entre les nations des relations amicales fondées sur le respect, l'égalité des droits des peuples à disposer d'eux-mêmes.
- Réaliser la coopération internationale en résolvant les problèmes d'ordre économique, social, intellectuel, humanitaire et éducatif.

## Les critiques

Il est évident que les Etats les plus puissants ont toujours cherché à imposer aux autres leur volonté, comme le disait Hans Morgenthau dans *Politics Among Nations, the struggle for power and peace*, "toute politique est une politique de puissance, la finalité de toute politique étrangère est la recherche de l'intérêt national, ce qui amène les Etats à se doter des moyens d'assurer leur puissance [1]", surtout dans les domaines les plus sensibles, comme le maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales. Dans certains cas, l'appartenance des grands Etats à des organisations internationales a été conditionnée par cette reconnaissance d'un statut privilégié au sein de l'organisation. Le principe de l'égalité souveraine des Etats connaît par conséquent une série d'exceptions. Malgré ses actions, l'ONU elle a plusieurs faiblesses.

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[1] H.J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1948.

Le conseil de sécurité de l'ONU a toujours été contesté, surtout les pays qui détiennent le droit de veto, car ils l'utilisent pour servir leurs intérêts et opprimer les nations faibles. C'est le cas de la destruction de la Libye en 2011 par l'OTAN avec la complicité des pays disposant du droit de veto. La résolution 1973 de l'ONU qui autorisait la création d'une zone d'exclusion aérienne en Libye a permis d'assiéger ce pays par les troupes d'occupation. Aussi, Ils ont plongé la Libye de Mouammar Kadhafi qui était stable, confessionnel dans le chaos afin de piller son pétrole et ses richesses sous prétexte que le régime de Kadhafi était totalitaire, mais cette déstabilisation n'a pas apporté la démocratie en Libye, encore moins la paix, d'où le rôle de cette organisation supranationale dans le maintien de la paix et la remise en question du principe de "la non-ingérence dans les affaires intérieures des Etats [2]". La France a armé les milices terroristes de Misrata et de Zintan en Libye, avec le parachutage d'armes en 2011. Cette action n'a jamais été condamnée par l'ONU qui a pour objectif de maintenir la paix. Les conventions internationales interdisent la vente d'armes aux groupes armés. Le conseil de sécurité de l'ONU est parfois un lieu d'affrontement verbal entre les chefs d'Etats de la planète. Plusieurs pays appellent donc à la réforme de l'ONU. Aussi, les organisations internationales ont failli, car elles sont un instrument au service des Etats forts et contribuent parfois à maintenir les Etats faibles dans la dépendance.

La persistance du sous-développement et de la pauvreté dans le monde, a montré à la fois l'inefficacité des outils multilatéraux existants et la nécessité de créer de nouveaux mécanismes. La critique est venue, non seulement des pays du Tiers-monde, non seulement du mouvement altermondialiste, mais également de l'intérieur des institutions internationales. On note la critique violente et la remise en cause du FMI et de la Banque Mondiale faites par Joseph Stiglitz, ancien économiste en chef de la Banque mondiale, "La Grande Désillusion [3]". Des crises récentes, ont été spécialement dommageables et ont eu des effets terribles sur les pays en développement. Le rapport procède à un diagnostic parfois extrêmement critique des politiques menées par le FMI et la BM. Il critique également durement l'OMC et propose de réformer en profondeur les institutions internationales.

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[2] La Charte des Nations Unies

[3] J. E. Stiglitz, *La Grande Désillusion*, Paris, Fayard, juillet 2002.

Bien des gouvernements du Sud et surtout les mouvements sociaux et les populations ont vécu les conditionnalités du FMI et de la BM [4] comme une atteinte à la souveraineté nationale et davantage encore comme une attaque frontale contre les conditions sociales d'existence des populations. Il en a résulté une prise de conscience de ce que la dépendance financière était un prétexte pour détruire les politiques sociales, car les pays dépendants de ces organisations n'ont pas accédé au développement.

### **La réforme de l'ONU et des institutions internationales pour une meilleure gouvernance mondiale**

Si l'on veut que l'ONU retrouve une crédibilité suffisante pour endiguer et enrayer la contagion de l'unilatéralisme et de la guerre préventive, tout en répondant mieux aux aspirations croissantes, à une meilleure gestion du monde, c'est au Conseil de sécurité [5], à son mode de prise de décision qu'il faut s'attaquer. Les menaces sont parfois globales : changements climatiques, épidémies, terrorisme, fraude fiscale, problèmes de développement économique, mondialisation et souveraineté de l'Etat, néocolonialisme, crimes organisés, trafics illicites, prolifération nucléaire, crises identitaires ont des origines et des répercussions d'ampleur internationale. Ces défis amènent les Etats à coordonner leurs actions et d'assurer ainsi une sécurité partagée. Les organisations internationales jouent un rôle important dans l'élaboration d'un système de gouvernance où les Etats faibles pourront participer à la prise de décisions et faire entendre leurs voix, un système efficace au service d'une économie mondiale durable. Il est donc crucial de veiller à leur qualité, de la mise sur pied par l'Organisation Mondiale du Commerce de nouvelles règles pour permettre aux Etats faibles de résister à la concurrence déloyale et de s'en sortir face au néolibéralisme, au cas échéant, la montée des populismes, les conflits entre Etats au sujet de l'ordre économique mondial, l'émergence du protectionnisme, la coopération Sud-sud comme moyens alternatifs.

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[4] Y. Tavernier (2001) « Critiquer les institutions financières internationales » in *Dans l'Economie politique*, 20 n°10, p p 18-43 .

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Les nouvelles règles des institutions internationales et de l'ONU doivent faciliter surtout la planification, à la conception et l'élaboration des normes internationales qui favorisent une activité normative fondée sur des données probantes et promeuvent des discussions sur les bonnes pratiques en matière de réglementation. Leur activité d'élaboration des normes doit s'appuyer essentiellement sur des instruments non contraignants.

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## **UN75 – shaping our future together**

Author:

KHAN, Mohammad Samir

### **Concern One- Sustainable Agriculture and Youth**

I was born in a family of farmers in a small village situated in Rajasthan, India. A state which is regarded as arid and is extremely water distressed. And thus, due to the challenges my family faced to continue our agricultural activities, I developed a strong desire to promote sustainable agriculture which I believe is not only the key to end hunger and improve the level of nutrition but also has the potential to improve the way of living of farmers and people employed in this sector, which overall will lead to the making of the world a better place.

As per a recent report by the Food and Agriculture Organization, there are more than 1 billion people employed in the agriculture sector across the world, and as of India, around 52 per cent of the total population and 70 per cent of the rural population is dependent mainly on agriculture for their livelihood. And thus, the one significant global change that I would like to see addressed by the United Nations 100th anniversary is related to the field of agriculture. As when we carefully analyze the impact of agriculture and the associated sphere of subjects on our society and the world. We can see that agriculture in a way is connected not only to the issue of food shortage and hunger but also to climate change, sustainable use of natural resources, poverty etc. And to say, even the 2030 agenda for sustainable development by the United Nations and the world, that includes the Sustainable Development Goals describes food and agriculture as one of the significant core issues of 2030 Agenda.

As for the impact of agriculture on my country, we have to consider the fact that a large share of working poor are engaged in the agriculture sector, and this is proven by the latest agriculture census conducted by the government of India, which shows that nearly 70 per cent of total farmers in India are small scale. And when we look into the reports by major world agencies like the World Bank, FAO etc. we find the status of farmers same throughout most of the developing countries. So, what we can conclude here is that development in this sector is very much important not only to achieve the goal of zero hunger or sustainable usage of natural resources but also the development here will have a major impact on welfare and status of farmers throughout much of the world.

## The role youth can play

As per a United Nations report, there are nearly 1.2 billion youth as of today, that means 1 out of every six people worldwide. And what is important to note here, is that the youth of today is more aware and connected, when we discuss the internet and social media. And in this era of information and technology, these platforms have outgrown in their outreach and accessibility and have the power to generate an impact. And as a fellow youth, who has prior experience in harnessing the power of social media for constructive purposes, I believe that the youth of today has the resources in the form of access to various social media platforms, through the medium of which they can easily share and generate awareness about the importance of this sector initially among themselves, then in their respective countries and localities.

## How did I bring the change?

I personally led a campaign in my village with the help of my uncle to make the villagers more aware of the various government initiatives and policies regarding sustainable agriculture and water conservation. I can proudly say I was able to help and motivate them to start moving toward practices that not only were more economically beneficial for them but also promoted water conservation, and by this way, we also contributed toward surcharging the already depleting water level. Later on, farmers from the nearby area also adapted to these new practices, and as of now, we have built a system of water reservoirs that conserve water and irrigate fields more than hundreds of acres. Overall, the change is achievable, but what is needed is the will.

## **Concern two - inclusion of other genders in the United Nations System**

Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights says that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." Additionally, the UN document entitled "Combatting discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people - A Programmatic Overview" provides a snapshot of the work of OHCHR, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN-Women, WHO and the World Bank in combatting discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, sex characteristics, and related work. Although work continues to be done and is in the process to achieve gender parity between male and female, the objective is still far when we mention "other genders". I feel pathetic when such a broad set of the population has been left behind to suffer, and even the flag

bearers of human rights have little to say about their inclusion in the UN system, which can give them a platform to be a part of the action for a better world and provides representation to their voices and concerns. Thus, I believe the United Nations as a system is not gender inclusive when it comes to other genders. We have many papers and research data showing the percentage of male and female working in the organization and the work done to increase the participation of females in the UN. However, I am still to see and was unable to find any study that reports about the representation of other genders in the UN system. At one hand, we have included gender equality as a Sustainable Development Goal. Still, unfortunately we shy away from speaking about the rights of those genders other than male and female. Even I was shocked to observe that neither UN Inspira nor OHCHR PHP has an option for other genders in Sex category option, it was either male or female only. In the case of India, it took us 70 years to recruit our first other gender police officer and only a few countries around the globe allow them to be part of the uniformed services. Thus, I would be happy to see a day in the near future at least by the UN's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary where they also serve as part of uniformed services and the UN system in various departments and peacekeeping missions.

Thus overall, I believe that actions taken now in the field of sustainable agriculture and gender equality that is inclusive of every gender will make a better world for future generations. And My ideal society would be where no one dies due to shortage of food, and no one has to compromise with his/her dignity, honor because of the limitation and access of resources and how the society perceives them and their gender identity.

## **Community participation and collective action**

Author:

KHAN, Huma

It is an urgent emergency to address the issue of climate change globally, and the United Nations has been working on this goal by setting up the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in the year 1988 (IPCC, 2007). IPCC identifies the issues related to climate-induced changes and publishes reports which play a significant role in the international negotiations dealing with climate change. Multiple reports published by IPCC, the United Nations and many civic societies express the concern and stresses over the urgency to ACT NOW! To save this planet, which is home to billions of people, wildlife species and other natural habitats. The global climate change is resulting in sea level rise, and many phenomena such as frequent climate hazards, increasing global temperature. Many coastal countries and communities are at more substantial risk because of climate change than compared to other countries, mainly due to the sea-level rise. Which is what I would like to highlight and focus upon in this paper. I would like to start by giving the example of Bangladesh, which is home to more than 163 million people (World Bank Data, 2019) and who are at extreme risk due to sea-level rise. It was ranked sixth on the Global Climate Risk Index (2017) due to its vulnerability and the constant battle with climate change since 1995 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, 2018). It is predicted by the climate scientists that Bangladesh and many coastal countries like Bangladesh (Myanmar, India, Vietnam) will bear the high cost of climate-induced changes and can have considerable disturbances in social, political and economic structure due to the same issue soon.

The governmental structures internationally, nationally and locally are continuously trying to deal with the more significant problem of climate change in their own 'innovative' way, but somewhere there are still discrepancies in the way these 'innovative strategies' are implemented. The primary issue that comes up in this debate is the contribution of stakeholders and their participation in climate-related policies mainly at the national and local level. It is always felt that many 'communities' and their 'indigenous knowledge' is often excluded from the climate policy implemented in a country. In response to that, many of those communities come up with their own grassroots innovative movements, but often these movements fail due to less co-operation, funding and support from the government. The United Nations sustainable development goals are pioneer in including these aspects internationally, but by the time these targets set up under the SDGs have to be implemented at the local



level, the element of communities' 'inclusivity' fades away. I would like to stress the importance of 'social innovation' concept here. Social Innovation (SI) according to Moulaert, MacCallum, & Hillier (2013) refers to -

"SI means fostering inclusion and wellbeing through improving social relations and empowerment processes: imagining and pursuing a world, a nation, a region, a locality, a community that would grant universal rights and be more socially inclusive." [1]

The concept of social innovation does not only foster community development but also enable them to take their ideas to a local and national level, which from national level also has prospects to be presented at the international level (United Nations Conferences over climate change). I have introduced the topic of social innovation by Moulaert, MacCallum, & Hillier (2013) in this paper to back it up with the example of "Floating Farms" in Bangladesh. It is a hundreds-year-old agricultural activity where farmers set up farm fields with the help of seaweeds and soil and do plantation over it when there is high tide in the sea. Now it is mainly being used as a climate adaptation strategy by the farmers to earn a livelihood. It is an excellent example of how communities by their own understanding and co-operation come up together and work to better their lives. But what this technique lacks are support from the government and other National Organizations as it is considered as an 'option' but not as an 'urgency'. Many technologies like these are present all over the planet and what it needs is a strong partnership of international agencies like the UN and national and local governments as well as including the aspect of SI and community involvement. Such participation can be improved by including frequent local meetings where specific individuals from the national and international bodies sit together with individuals from local communities and take their advice and opinions at international conferences to assure that there is a clear and transparent participation process. Climate change is happening and increasing at an unprecedented high rate, even if we stop our emissions today itself, it'll still take earth's equilibrium years to be stabilized.

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[1] Moulaert, MacCallum, & Hillier, 2013, p. 16

What we need to do now, is to switch to sustainable energy alternatives, follow the targets set up by the UN SDGs and understand the importance of local indigenous communities' strategies and respect all the stakeholders irrespective of their race, gender, ethnicity and embrace social equity. Collective action, which means all stakeholders coming together and participating in decision making dialogues and coming to an effective collective solution, needs to be urgently included as a priority at national and local levels. As the United Nations celebrated its 75th anniversary this year and the theme for this year's 58<sup>th</sup> GSP is "United Nations at 75: Shaping Our Future Together" I would like to stress over the importance of "together" in the climate change policy and decision-making process. There is no one selective individual responsible for climate change so the responsibility to action against it shouldn't be the sole duty of anyone organization but should be a collective action taken by all stakeholders at an international, national and local level. This transition to a more collectively taken actions against climate change will not only improve social inclusivity but will also hone the skills of communities which are usually forgotten, and their voices fade away in the debate of climate change adaptation and policy-making processes.

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# Rationalisation des ressources en eau d'Afrique

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## Contexte général et justification

De nos jours, nombreux sont les populations de l'Asie et de l'Afrique qui sont les plus touchées par les problèmes liés à la ressource « EAU ». L'Afrique ne manque pas d'Eau, mais les Africains en particuliers manquent d'eau malgré le grand potentiel en eau que regorge ses réservoirs souterrains et de surface. Dans le cadre de ce projet pilote, nous allons nous baser plus précisément sur la partie de l'Afrique subsaharienne qui est celle qui est plus exposée aux problèmes sanitaires, et de mal gouvernance de la gestion des ressources en eau.

La question de l'eau constitue un problème majeur pour les populations d'Afrique subsaharienne. En effet, la situation dans la région reste caractérisée par l'accès difficile à cette ressource, la mauvaise gestion des points d'approvisionnement et les coûts élevés des branchements. Par exemple au Bénin, un ménage sur trois n'a pas accès à l'eau potable et le problème se pose avec un peu plus d'acuité en milieu rural. Les ménages ayant accès à l'eau potable sont ces ménages qui ont l'eau potable à domicile ou bien à moins de 200 m d'une source d'eau potable. Est considérée comme eau potable : l'eau courante de la société de distribution d'eau potable, l'eau de la fontaine, l'eau de la pompe du village, l'eau de la citerne et l'eau des puits protégés etc.

La crise de l'eau dans les villes fait de plus en plus l'objet d'une attention particulière dans tous les dialogues internationaux sur l'eau. L'alarme a été donnée à Dublin et à Rio de Janeiro en 1992, puis la situation a pris de l'ampleur dans d'autres réunions, à Beijing et à Istanbul en 1996, au Cap en 1997 et lors du second Forum mondial de l'eau tenu à La Haye en 2000. Dans la plupart de ces réunions, la crise de l'eau dans les villes africaines a constitué une des préoccupations principales.

Globalement, l'Afrique s'urbanise à un taux annuel d'environ 5%, soit le taux le plus rapide au monde. La population urbaine en Afrique pourrait passer de 138 millions en 1990 à 500 millions en 2020, et les villes africaines de plus d'un million d'habitants devront alors en accueillir près de 200 millions. Pour ce qui est de l'eau, une enquête effectuée en 1990, dans 29 pays d'Afrique

subsaharienne, avait montré que huit de ces pays souffraient d'une insuffisance ou d'un manque d'eau. Selon les estimations, en 2025, ce nombre devrait passer à 20 sur 29.

La gestion de l'eau est complexe. S'agissant de la ressource, elle est transversale car elle concerne aussi bien la santé que l'aménagement urbain, l'agriculture, l'industrie ou les loisirs. Elle est aussi multi-acteurs et territoriale...

Cette complexité se trouve aussi dans la gestion des services de l'eau. Celle-ci requiert une grande technicité, une constante adaptation aux évolutions, ainsi qu'une mobilisation de capitaux importants en raison du coût élevé des infrastructures et des équipements d'une part, de leurs besoins permanents d'entretien d'autre part.

Bien que la compétence de la gestion de l'eau ait été transférée aux collectivités locales, les moyens n'ont pas été transférés. Ce sont toujours les sociétés des eaux qui assurent, pour la plupart des cas, la gestion de l'eau dans les villes africaines, sans concertation suffisante avec les autorités locales.

Dans certaines régions d'Afrique nombreux sont les maladies d'ordres hydrique qui ne cessent de fatiguer nos parents dans les zones rurales. La plupart du temps, ces personnes se contaminent eux-mêmes sans le savoir par l'utilisation des eaux qui sont déjà polluées et ou contaminées naturellement ou par les activités anthropiques de l'homme. Dans la majeure des cas, ces sujets contaminés sont ignorants des risques et manquent d'informations sur la qualité des eaux qu'ils utilisent

A travers ce projet, nous allons contribuer à la résolution de nombreux problèmes que tant de jeunes africains et ceux du monde continue à se poser.

## **Objectif général et résultats**

Ce projet multisectoriel dans son intégralité, est un projet pilote qui aura comme objectif de faire une grande campagne africaine d'évaluation des ressources en eau, de fixer les mesures barrière pour atténuer la contamination ou la pollution par les activités humaines, mais aussi de combattre les maladies hydriques qui vont de la santé humaine.

## Objectifs spécifiques/ressources

Etant pour objectif de travailler sur le continent, dans un premier temps il est questions de :

1ère étape : rassembler ou encore d'identifier des jeunes étudiants motivés et qualifiés dans plusieurs domaines à savoir :

- La santé ;
- Le droit ;
- La géographie ;

Et dans les sciences de l'ingénierie comme ;

- La géologie ;
- L'hydrologie ;
- Le génie rural ;
- Le génie civil...

Après avoir trouvé et où identifie les potentiels ressources humaines,

2ème étape : la deuxième étape du projet consistera à l'expédition des terres africaines pour « recenser » toutes les eaux, dans toutes les petites parties de cette Afrique qui depuis des temps manque des données fiables sur ces propres ressources en eau.

Les tâches de ces ingénieurs et experts seront de répertorier toutes les sources d'eau, avec les caractéristiques naturelles, pour prévoir soit les épidémies, soit les demandes ou besoins en eau par rapport à la source d'eau donnée.

3ème étape : Autour de cette grande expédition, de nombreuses activités comme des sensibilisation de masse, de proximités ou de porte à porte ; des programmes d'émissions télévisés seront mis en œuvre pour aider les populations locales, les collectivités et même les gouvernements à prendre des mesures pour lutter contre la pollution de l'environnement, de l'eau et voir même la contamination par l'Homme.

D'une autre part, après chaque traversée, il se fera ce qu'on appelle une Base des données du sujet d'études, pour permettre aux générations futures de s'acquérir de ces données pour des besoins professionnelles.

## **Recommandation :**

Alors pour ce faire, ledit projet, pour sa bonne mise en œuvre, a besoin d'être soutenu par des organismes internationaux, des structures des Nations Unies comme :

L'UNICEF,

L'OMS ;

PNUD ;

Et bien d'autres qui peuvent contribuer en d'autres termes.

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Atlas de l'Afrique

## **The future we want, the UN we need**

Author:

KORI, Naveen Kumar

United Nations is set to celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September this year. It is an inter-governmental organization founded in 1945 post World War II to maintain peace across the world. It has currently 193 member states working together towards this common objective. The past 74 years have been both challenging and rewarding for the UN. After back to back wars in the 1900s, the establishment of the UN has resulted in creating a new world order which has kept countries united till now. There was no world war since World War II and the UN is ensuring that there will be none in the future through its global diplomacy and peace operations. UN has been working to promote global development and provide humanitarian assistance to the needy along with upholding international law, protecting human rights, and promoting democracy. Currently, a special focus is being made by its member states to fight climate change. Youth Environmental activist Greta Thunberg is being actively supported by the UN to raise awareness about this issue to world leaders and citizens.

UN consists of several programs, funds, and specialized agencies. The General Assembly consists of each of its 193 member states but along with it exists - the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat. UN is headed by The Secretary-General, currently being Antonio Guterres from Portugal since 2017. UN is headquartered in New York City and has six official languages - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

Till date, UN has been able to provide food assistance to more than 80 million people in over 75 countries, assist nearly 59 million refugees, authorize 72 international peacekeeping operations, work with more than 140 nations to mitigate climate change, assist about 50 countries per year with their elections, provide vaccinations for 58 percent of children in the world, help about 30 million women a year with maternal health efforts, protect human rights with 80 treaties and declarations among many others. The eight Millennium development goals (MDGs) instituted by the UN in 2000 has helped many countries overcome development challenges. In 2015, a new set of goals, named the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) replaced the MDGs. The 17 SDGs cover issues from poverty

to equality. The target year has been set to 2030 as like the MDGs which had 15 years to achieve its objectives.

After all these efforts by the UN in these past decades, suddenly emerged a flu-like disease called the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) or SARS-CoV-2 in 2020 which turned out to be a pandemic. It is said to have been originated from a wet market in Wuhan city of Hubei province of China in December 2019. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) – a UN entity, worldwide infections have risen to more than 11 million with deaths crossing 5.2 lakh as of 5th July 2020.

This pandemic has brought great distress to the health, livelihood, and economy of people of almost all countries in the world. Various countries were already grappling with various issues and the UN was actively engaged in helping resolve them. The Rohingya refugees' crisis in Myanmar, decades of the continuing war in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan, the passing of controversial Citizenship amendment act in India, the passing of new security law in Hong Kong by China, the plight of Kashmiris between the territorial fight between India and Pakistan, violence on Black communities and now this pandemic has put huge responsibilities on UN.

The current decade is the most challenging one in the history of the UN with all these issues and responsibilities to help solve them. UN is already underfunded along with its SDGs plan for the world. United States is the highest contributor and has threatened to pull out its funding to WHO due to its dissatisfaction with the pandemic response by WHO. An estimate by IMF indicates that achieving the SDGs in a subset of 49 developing countries would require additional spending of about USD 520 billion a year. These developing countries are already struggling to get these funds. All 193 member states contribute mandatory payments to the UN general budget, which runs operations, and the peacekeeping budget through a controversial equation. Along with funding being one of the major issues, the UN also loses many of its staff like Sérgio Vieira de Mello on-field during its peace operations across conflict countries.

But the UN has made its way through all such problems from its 74 years of existence and increased its reach and impact. The suggestions to advance the mission of the UN for the next 25 years until 2045 would be:

- Funding: Make UN entities self-sustainable by finding innovative ways to generate at least some amount of revenue by utilizing the design thinking process and reduce dependence on external grants.



- **Role shift:** The UN has to restructure its bureaucratic structure and reduce bureaucracy by providing more space for innovation and intrapreneurship to its staff. Active engagement of Young professionals through all its entities is also the need of the hour.
- **Accountability:** The UN has to become more accountable and transparent by taking appropriate actions in situations that should be more strategic and diplomatic. The WHO pandemic response, UN peacekeeping force response in the times of crisis, etc. have been heavily criticized by various governments and an atmosphere of bias is visible which should be dealt with. UN should hold governments accountable and take stricter actions if they violate the UN Charter.

Youth engagement, trust building, usage of digital tools and future pandemics preparedness are other factors which need to be considered by UN to build a solid ground for its future. With the current pandemic situation, all countries are directing their funds for domestic employment and economic growth. With all these challenges lying for the current and future world, the UN has to focus on implementing the above three suggestions to help achieve the target of SDGs by 2030 and also make its presence more impactful than ever before by 2045.

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**Do you expect to live in a more or less healthy natural environment? How might the environment be different? Do you see any of the following as having a significant impact on progress?**

Author:

KWASHIRA, Namatai

Audio recording [here](#).

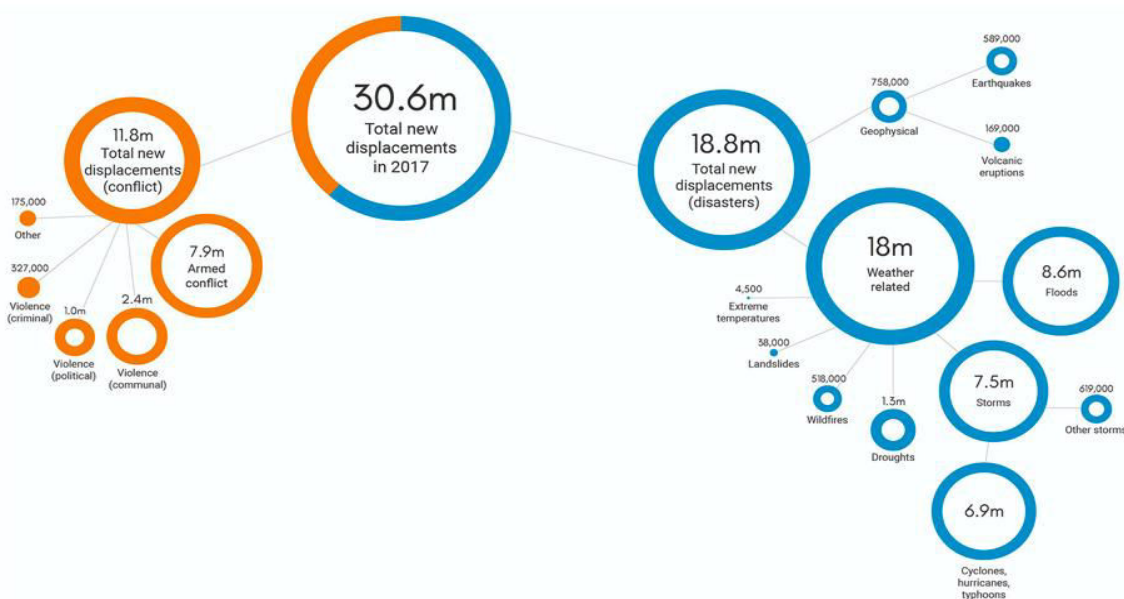
## **Note politique sur le besoin urgent de reconnaître les migrants climatiques comme éligibles au statut de réfugié dans le droit international**

Author:

LE BARS, Marine

Instrument juridique principal en matière de protection des migrants, la convention de Genève de 1951 permet, à travers diverses appellations, l'identification des migrants en fonction de leur cas : réfugié, demandeur d'asile, ou encore personne déplacée à l'intérieur du pays d'origine. Depuis l'entrée en vigueur de la convention, un migrant est éligible au statut de réfugié si ce dernier fuit la persécution, la violence, ou un conflit. Être éligible au statut de réfugié permet au migrant qui fuit une de ces raisons d'être sous protection internationale dans un pays d'accueil. Or, malgré les nombreux débats au sein du Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement (PNUE) depuis les années 80 et l'urgence climatique, les personnes forcées de migrer à cause du réchauffement climatique ou désastres naturels (sécheresse, tempêtes, ouragans, inondations, etc.) ne rentrent pas dans les critères cités dans la convention de Genève ce qui les empêche d'être protégés par le droit international. Actuellement, l'argument phare qui contredit la nécessité d'inclure le climat comme un critère « perturbateur d'ordre public » dans la convention de Genève est que contrairement à une personne fuyant la persécution, la violence, ou un conflit, un migrant climatique peut compter sur l'aide et le soutien de son gouvernement. (Parlement européen, 2018) C'est ce qui est aujourd'hui observé à travers les flux migratoires internes dans des pays fortement impactés par le réchauffement climatique, comme le Soudan. (IDMC, 2020) Cependant, cet argument peut être contredit sur la question du non-refoulement, principe clé de la convention de Genève. Ce dernier protège les réfugiés d'être renvoyés dans leur pays d'origine seulement si la sécurité pour leur vie est optimale. Le réchauffement climatique, favorisant la fonte des glaces et par conséquent la montée des niveaux de la mer, condamne des pays côtiers ainsi que des îles comme le Bangladesh, Kiribati ou les Maldives à disparaître. Dans le cas où ces pays venaient à disparaître, leurs habitants ne pourraient compter sur l'aide et le soutien du gouvernement et seraient donc forcés de migrer vers un autre pays pour survivre. Malheureusement, comme la convention de Genève ne couvre pas les migrants climatiques, ces personnes pourraient se retrouver apatrides.

C'est pourquoi si la condition des migrants climatiques n'est pas revue par le droit international rapidement, la question de non-respect des droits de l'Homme pourrait être abordée. En étant dépourvu de toute ressource, un migrant climatique fuit dans le but de survivre. C'est le problème que soulève Scott Leckie qui caractérise cette non-reconnaissance dans le droit international comme une violation des droits de l'Homme : droit à l'eau, à la nourriture, à la sécurité, au domicile, à la santé ou encore à la vie. (Leckie, 2009) Cependant, l'agence de l'ONU des réfugiés a reconnu avoir conscience de la situation actuelle rencontrée par les personnes déplacées à cause du réchauffement climatique et des désastres naturels dans son Pacte mondial pour les réfugiés de 2018. Bien que les migrations dues au climat et à l'environnement soient pourtant plus importantes aujourd'hui que les migrations liées à un conflit (voir schéma ci-dessous), les organisations reconnaissent seulement l'importance de la situation. Est-ce pour autant suffisant ?



IDMC, 2018

Afin d'améliorer le monde pour les générations futures, la question des migrants climatiques et de leur éligibilité au statut de réfugié doit être une priorité de l'agence de l'ONU des réfugiés, car cette crise est décrite comme la plus grosse crise migratoire que le monde connaîtra, et ce, pour 2050. Pour ce faire, il est important qu'une collaboration internationale solide soit établie. Selon moi, deux possibilités s'offrent à l'ONU des réfugiés : soit de créer une nouvelle convention sur les réfugiés climatiques soit d'ajouter un amendement à la convention de Genève déjà existante. La première

option se verrait être la plus longue, car il est connu dans le droit international que les négociations sont très longues et une convention peut prendre des années à entrer en vigueur. Également, il pourrait y avoir des États signataires qui ne ratifieraient pas la convention, ce qui empêcherait une réelle collaboration internationale. L'option de créer un nouvel amendement qui modifierait la définition d'un réfugié dans la convention existante pourrait être une solution faisable à plus court terme. Cependant, avec la montée des idées nationalistes ainsi que les États climato-septiques comme avec les États-Unis qui se retirent de différents accords et commissions (ex : accords de Paris), nous ne pouvons assurer que tous les États déjà membres de la convention de Genève accepteraient ce nouvel amendement. Ces deux options, pourtant faisables, restent incertaines et pourraient prendre des années. Néanmoins, il y a un réel besoin de revoir cette convention ou de trouver une solution durable et viable pour protéger les personnes actuellement impactées par le réchauffement climatique et/ou les désastres naturels ainsi que les personnes qui le seront à l'avenir.

Si l'ONU finit par adopter un nouvel instrument juridique sur la question des réfugiés climatiques ou que la définition des réfugiés vient à être modifiée, il sera également nécessaire de revoir d'autres aspects essentiels de la question des migrations. Dans un contexte inédit où le réchauffement climatique et les désastres naturels pourraient perturber le principe de non-refoulement, avec l'éventualité qu'un pays puisse disparaître, il sera nécessaire d'élargir la notion de non-refoulement aux pays enclins à disparaître afin de protéger les réfugiés de l'apatridie mais également de leur assurer un accès à la citoyenneté, aux droits et devoirs du pays d'accueil. Dans le cas où l'accès à la citoyenneté serait une option trop contestée par les pays d'accueil, auquel cas, l'option qui pourrait être adoptée serait le retour du passeport Nansen, anciennement utilisé pour protéger les réfugiés russes de l'apatridie en 1921-1922. Ce document fut le premier instrument dans le droit international à protéger les réfugiés, et il pourrait être, dans un premier temps, la solution au problème afin de laisser le temps aux organisations internationales de créer, négocier, signer et ratifier une nouvelle convention et/ou un nouvel amendement à la convention de Genève tout en protégeant les migrants climatiques.

Enfin, le message clé de cette note politique est que l'ONU a besoin de mettre cette problématique en liste prioritaire de ses futures actions et mesures. La question des réfugiés climatiques se situe à l'intersection parfaite entre une question environnementale et humanitaire et ces deux secteurs ne peuvent être dissociés. C'est pourquoi le manque de reconnaissance des migrants climatiques dans le droit international pourrait en venir à une violation des droits de l'Homme

fondamentaux. Ainsi, il est nécessaire qu'une collaboration internationale solide soit mise en place afin de faciliter les négociations et de trouver une solution rapidement.

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## **What would your ideal world look like in 25 years - the UN's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary? What is different from the world you see today? What kind of future do we want to have created with and for our children and grandchildren?**

Author:

MAHTANI, Karenza

In considering the creation of an ideal world in 25 years, I am immediately confronted with the multiplicity of ongoing, complex challenges that face us today. Whilst there is not space to discuss all possible futures or presents, in recognition of the UN's Global Conversation I will share here some of my key aspirations, fears and some ideas of what could be done. These cover many areas, but this piece will focus on education, gender equality and "positive peace"; restoring and protecting the natural world; technology, surveillance and civil liberties and lastly the status of the UN over the next 25 years.

### **Education, Gender Equality and "Positive Peace"**

Firstly, in 2045, I wish us to be speaking of women's education as an intrinsic good and key to human flourishing, not just a route to greater economic outcomes or familial health [1]. Women must be an end of development itself, not just instrumental to it. Within this, an ideal world is one where receiving an uninterrupted, quality education, particularly as a girl, is no longer a privilege, it is a right. This means governments taking responsibility to provide sufficient sanitary facilities, schools free from disciplinary violence and removing unofficial fees for items such as uniforms, that prevent the poorest students from attending. It will also require teachers to be valued, well-trained and well-paid for their work. Moreover, quality education must stretch beyond the immediate needs of the community or economy and enhance creativity and awe in the environment around us. This means that arts, languages and humanities are valued and globally prioritized. This may require substantial support, both within and between countries, to share expertise and pedagogical good practice. Whilst networks of collaboration between educators already exist, in 2045 I would like to see these amplified as a source of pride within regions. This is especially important if good practice is to lead to the realization of opportunity for millions of children, who have previously been denied it.

Moreover, it is imperative that schools be places of safety, not places of militarization or violence. According to the GCPEA, 74 countries experienced more than 12,700 attacks on education between 2013 and 2017, with 9 countries experiencing over 1000 individual attacks. This does not account for the ongoing occurrence of school shootings in the United States [2]. This paints a picture of a world where the provision of education itself is at risk, especially for girls who experience specific challenges. In 2045, whilst conflict may still occur, I hope that governments around the world have committed themselves to protecting schools and education as a matter of urgency. This includes increased pressure or incentives for governments, especially those with significant power, to endorse and implement the Safe Schools Declaration. Furthermore, an ideal world is one where governments ensure that the flows of arms around the world are tightly regulated and gradually reduced. Instead, budgets must be re-appropriated towards the creation of “positive peace”: the tackling of structural violence expressed in poverty, inequality and environmental degradation. [3]

### **Technology, Surveillance, and Civil Liberties**

Secondly, in 2045 I want to see technology harnessed to tackle some of our most pressing medical, educational and logistical needs. However, this should not come at the cost of privacy and other civil liberties. Whilst the march towards automation in some industries may lead to greater efficiencies, I am concerned about the social sustainability of removing the dignity of work from various sectors of the population. Over the next 25 years, I hope that global wisdom and restraint are exercised to ensure that technology continues to serve all of us, not just those with existing privilege. However, recent trends in terms of surveillance technology and use of social media by governments are particularly concerning in terms of privacy and the right to freedom of expression, protest and belief. Whilst crime and terrorism must be tackled, robust safeguards against over-reach must be enacted at an international and national level to protect ordinary people in every nation.

In particular, I am concerned by the extent of persecution against Christians around the world, especially the growing use of digital technologies to target people of faith. Whilst the number of Christians killed for their faith in 2019 decreased from 2018 (2983 and 4,305 respectively), it is reported that over 300 million Christians are experiencing extreme, very high or high levels of persecution across 73 countries in 2020 [4]. I am concerned that this specific issue seems to get less global attention than some other examples of persecution. I would like to see the UN speak more directly and challenge nations about this issue specifically, alongside the important work of tackling persecution in all its other forms. Therefore, in 2045, I hope that people of all faiths are free to practice openly, as well as change faiths freely, no matter what country they live within.



## **The Natural World**

Thirdly, I am profoundly concerned by the continued destruction of our planet, especially in relation to its biodiversity and natural habitats. When I think of a legacy for our children and grandchildren, I am anxious that rainforests and oceans are still thriving. I am anxious that species such as the Northern Right Whale, the orangutan or the Sumatran Rhino are supported to recover, not consigned to history books as ecological memorials. Whilst recent international or governmental regulations are encouraging, such as the creation of Marine Protected Areas, I feel that the language of international agreements must be made stronger and less anthropocentric. Sustainable development must truly mean that environmental concerns are at the forefront of our discourse and transformations. We must model simpler, more environmentally-just living, despite the opportunity to consume or live resource-intensively.

## **Role of the United Nations**

Finally, I wish to see the UN stepping up more publicly and with boldness to showcase the work they already do and the more that needs to be done. In my own life in the UK, those who have studied politics, international relations or human rights generally comprehend and hold the UN in high regard. It is seen abstractly by my teaching colleagues as the organization responsible for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Yet, outside of these two contexts, the UN seems to be poorly understood and under-appreciated. Recent videos released by the WHO countering false narratives about their pandemic involvement are a good start, this now needs to be built on. The United Nations has a vital place within the international community, especially in maintaining a vision of global cooperation and equality. In 2045, this should be heightened not diminished, especially in the face of growing isolationism, misinformation and unmet challenges. In the next 25 years, I hope that the UN invests in promoting its work amongst the global publics, especially in nations like the UK, and subsequently that UN 100 will be a golden age of cooperation.

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# L'avenir de la gouvernance des risques climatiques

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Dans le cadre du Sommet sur le Climat 2019, le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies Antonio Guterres a souligné la multitude de conséquences que le changement climatique en cours aura à l'avenir, citant la montée des eaux, l'acidification des océans, les sécheresses plus longues, ainsi que les catastrophes naturelles plus fréquentes. Or, si la lutte contre les causes du réchauffement climatique, émissions de gaz à effet de serre en tête, a fait l'objet de nombreuses conférences comme les COP, la question plus épineuse de la gestion des risques engendrés sur les populations a longtemps été le parent pauvre de la lutte contre le changement climatique, étant limitée pour l'instant à un fonds d'aides. Pourtant, la gravité de la situation appelle à une révision de la gouvernance des risques climatiques.

## De quoi parle-t-on ?

Si l'Accord de Paris a pour objectif de maintenir sous 2°C la hausse de la température globale à la fin du siècle par rapport à l'ère préindustrielle, ce scénario optimiste n'est pas sans conséquences pour des centaines de millions de personnes de régions climatiquement vulnérables. Pire, des scénarios à 3, 4 voire 8 degrés (trajectoire si aucune réduction des rejets de CO<sub>2</sub> n'a lieu) laissent entrevoir des problèmes graves à l'échelle de pays entiers, nécessitant une réponse globale. En termes d'eustatisme, les projections du GIEC tablent sur une augmentation jusqu'à un mètre du niveau des mers du globe d'ici à 2100 par rapport aux années 2000, tant du fait de la fonte des glaces que de l'expansion thermique. Pareille projection suppose la perte de nombreuses terres pour l'homme, à commencer par les îles comme les Maldives ou de vastes zones du Bangladesh, comme les participants du GSP l'ont rappelé durant la session de l'Organisation Météorologique Mondiale. Au niveau alimentaire, la tendance lourde de baisse de la malnutrition s'est inversée ces dernières années selon le FAO, possiblement à cause de phénomènes climatiques, et le changement climatique accroît les inégalités de rendements agricoles entre différentes régions du monde, notamment du fait de l'aridification de sols de régions sous stress hydrique. Ajoutés à l'accélération des catastrophes naturelles, ces

phénomènes mènent nécessairement à des migrations de populations, estimées par le GIEC à plus de 200 millions de personnes d'ici à 2100 si la température globale augmente de 4°C.

### **Une approche pour l'instant économique :**

Jusqu'à aujourd'hui, le principal outil à disposition des pays touchés par le réchauffement climatique a été le Fonds Vert pour le Climat, dont une partie des sommes mobilisées sert à aider les pays en développement à faire face aux problèmes engendrés par le réchauffement climatique. Créé en 2009 lors de la Conférence des Parties de Copenhague, il est destiné à recevoir 100 milliards de dollars d'acteurs publics comme privés, il est d'autant plus pertinent que les pertes économiques liées au changement climatique ne cessent d'augmenter, passant de 50 milliards de dollars entre 1965 et 1974 à 1000 milliards entre 2005 et 2014, comme il a été montré lors de la session de l'Organisation Météorologique Mondiale. A ce titre, on ne peut que souhaiter un renforcement de ce type d'outil, puisque la somme actuelle paraît encore faible par rapport aux enjeux. Bien que les Etats soient frileux dans leurs dotations depuis la crise du Covid (situation déplorée par nombre d'institutions de l'ONU), ce système de fonds peut avoir un avenir s'il est généralisé à tous les pays, et non plus uniquement aux pays en développement. En effet, en ce qu'il constitue une sorte d'assurance, chaque Etat peut avoir intérêt à faire partie du dispositif pour bénéficier d'aides en cas de désastre.

### **Des problèmes plus structurels appellent une nouvelle gouvernance des risques :**

Toutefois, les risques engendrés par le réchauffement climatique ne sont pas tous résolus par une aide financière. Difficile en effet de répondre au problème de perte de rendements agricoles ou même de perte de terres arables par des fonds, aussi importants soient-ils. La nature-même des désastres, engendrant non plus de simples pertes économiques sinon des pertes de vivabilité sur des territoires entiers impose de repenser les mécanismes d'aide pour améliorer les conditions de vie de millions de personnes.

Au niveau des migrations, la situation future exige a minima la création d'un statut de réfugié climatique (par le biais d'une nouvelle Convention de Genève par exemple), permettant de faire valoir et protéger un droit à la migration définitive en raison d'une trop grande dégradation du lieu de vie

initial. Ce système, au vu de l'ampleur des migrations, risque d'être insuffisant. Aussi serait-il souhaitable de voir émerger une gouvernance mondiale du risque climatique, ayant pour but de créer un système de dédommagement matériel et territorial aux populations sinistrées, en plus d'aides financières éventuelles.

Pareil système nécessiterait de repenser la coopération internationale en l'enrichissant de la notion de solidarité, pour créer un système de dédommagement à échelle mondiale. Parmi les défis auxquels ce mécanisme devra faire face se trouve le principe de souveraineté des Etats. En effet, l'arrivée dans des pays hôtes de centaines de milliers de personnes ne serait parfois pas consentie et perçue comme un viol de la souveraineté. Aussi paraît-il pertinent de poser l'espace comme une richesse comparable à des fonds, afin de créer une responsabilité commune et différenciée, où les Etats les plus vastes aux terres exploitables seraient tenus de céder une petite partie de leur territoire aux nouveaux réfugiés du climat, comme les Etats développés sont tenus aujourd'hui selon le principe de responsabilité commune mais différenciée de réduire davantage leurs émissions de GES que ceux en voie de développement. En termes de participants, cette gouvernance nécessiterait un nombre critique d'Etats pour fonctionner correctement. Cependant, et contrairement à la gouvernance du climat où les Etats rechignent à participer en raison des contraintes importantes que les réductions de GES font peser sur eux et des bénéfices incertains (la non-dégradation du climat n'est pas un but politique pour nombre d'Etats en ce qu'elle n'est pas visible avant des décennies), ce système d'assurance pourrait rencontrer un plus grand succès, en ce que nombre de pays du monde se trouvent confrontés au problème et risquent de pâtir du réchauffement climatique. Sensibilisés à ces problématiques, ils pourraient être volontaires pour entrer dans un système de compensation offrant une assurance "territoriale" à ses membres et des débouchés pour la population sinistrée.

Au niveau de l'ONU, un système de dédommagement matériel et territorial comme celui-ci nécessiterait la mobilisation de nombre de ses programmes, HCR en tête, pour faire respecter les droits de l'homme des populations, ainsi que du FAO, pour le bon approvisionnement en nourriture et l'amélioration des récoltes. Politiquement, la situation nécessiterait de nombreux sommets et la médiation de l'Organisation pour la répartition des migrants au cas par cas, pour éviter le réveil de tensions géopolitiques latentes.

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## **What kind of future do we want to have created with and for our children and grandchildren?**

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On the occasion of 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations many experts contemplate the role of the institution and raise the question of its efficacy in the world politics trying to answer whether the organization has truly contributed to peace preservation. William Schabas, an internationally renowned international criminal law and human rights professor, once wrote in his book “Unimaginable Atrocities: Justice, Politics and War Crime Tribunals” that the UN oftentimes does not receive a lot of credit for its work. Nevertheless, he argues the following:

“Since 1945 the prohibition of on the use of force has contributed to the effective prevention of world wars and made the second half of the twentieth century considerably more peaceful than the first. Admittedly there have been terrible conflicts in the six decades since 1945, but nothing to compare with the two conflagrations that engulfed the planet in the first half of the twentieth century. Cherif Bassiouni has estimated the deaths attributable to armed conflicts in the years since 1945 at about 92 million. That means an average of approximately 1.4 million every year or slightly less than 4,000 per day. It is an extraordinary and terrifying figure, a rather cold statistic that conceals within it imponderable personal tragedies at the individual level. But juxtapose the numbers with the Second World War, when somewhere between 62 to 72 million people perished in slightly fewer than six years, with most of the killings concentrated in four years. That’s an average of 10 to 13 million per annum, or between 28,000 and 35,000 every single day. When the two world wars are taken together, the total number of deaths is somewhere between 78 and 94 million, roughly equivalent to the figure for the entire period since 1945. The comparison is even more dramatic when note is taken of the world population in the first half of the twentieth century of around 2 billion, compared with 7 billion in 2011. In other words, the world is a far, far safer place than it was before the United Nations was established.” [1]

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[1] Schabas 2014: 120-121

Such opinions supported by evidence inspire hope and strengthen the will to work further in cooperation with other states which stand for the rule of international law. However, the international law is relatively young and there are multiple loopholes and inconsistencies in codes and practices. This has led to disagreements on some joint actions on ending conflicts and preserving peace. It can be exemplified in the situations when governments cannot agree to pass a resolution and employ forces to put an end to genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity. This happens mainly because there is no agreed position on whether one can meddle into other state's affairs since the UN Charter explicitly promotes non-interference in state affairs (Article 2.4, UN Charter) whereas such conventions as Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948 calls for prevention of genocide (Articles I and VIII) which can sometimes take a form of a humanitarian intervention. This is just one example among many. Lack of harmonization between international agreements leads to lack of action and coherence on the international arena. International law should be harmonized for the sake of a better and rapid action on the part of international community. I believe this is something we should work on now for more justice and rule of international law in the future.

Living in the age of sustainable development makes us look at every policy and action we take through the sustainability lens. It goes without saying that we have to live in such a way that meeting our present needs must not diminish the ability of our children and grandchildren to meet their needs. It is important to mainstream the idea of sustainable development in every business and institution by making their everyday work much more sustainable without losing profits. The title of this paper reflects however a more elaborated idea of sustainability and makes us also think what we can do to leave this world a better, more just and fairer place for our children. I would even say to amplify the effects of our actions today for tomorrow. Sustainable Development Goals have incorporated both approaches described above and include not just environmental concerns but also social ones. Goals number 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities) as well as 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) address the notions of justice, social prosperity and are future-oriented. The first idea which comes to mind while talking about the kind of future we want to have created for future generations would be that these goals have become our new normality and have been removed from the agenda. I believe it should not take more generations to reach at least these goals.

Given my personal background, I would also want to see an increased role of civil society in the places where freedom of speech, thought and political pluralism have been suppressed for years. Ensuring basic human rights can prevent a lot of potential bloodshed for freedom. We have witnessed multiple times when people were denied basic human rights and as a result they went to the streets and oftentimes even opted for violence in order to achieve their goals. While it has been the most popular method to bring about change, it does not mean it should stay so. Governments should be more inclusive and ready to listen in order to make societies more meritocratic, democratic and peaceful. This is where international cooperation and scientific exchanges might be of use to develop ideas for other, less free countries, on how to build a fairer and more just system. Systemic discrimination and unequal distribution of economic resources have been stable components of injustice. Most of states have a long history of statehood which oftentimes have been built on unequal distribution of power based on discrimination. It will take a long time to tackle the root causes of injustice and build a more inclusive society without power abuse and where people's voices are heard.

To sum up, while acknowledging problems and their existence is the first step of tackling them, one should show more commitment to eradicating them on the individual and collective level. The UN serves as a great platform for states where they can engage multilaterally in a joint manner and it should keep providing this platform for international cooperation.



# The global problem of plastic pollution: towards a coordinated regulatory approach

Author:

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## Introduction

Is this the ‘age of plastic’ [1]? The European Union (EU) environmental commissioner’s affirmation that ‘we have a situation where one year you can bring your fish home in a plastic bag, and the next year you are bringing that bag home in a fish,’[2] aptly provides us an answer to this question.

The rise in global plastics production has induced a massive increase in plastic waste over the last few decades. The marine plastic pollution has been attracting significant campaigns, media attention, and inter-State actions.[3] Actions include China's 2017 measures to address plastic management, the EU's Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy [4], and the organization of a plastic-centered World Environment Day in 2018. Erik Solheim, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), declared plastic pollution as ‘a global emergency affecting every aspect of our lives’ [5]

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[1] UNEP, ‘*Single-Use Plastics: A Roadmap for Sustainability*’, (2018)

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/single-use-plastics-roadmap-sustainability>, (visited 2 June 2020).

[2] Karmenu Vella – the Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs, and Fisheries. European Commission - Press release, available at [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6867\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6867_en.htm) (visited 5 June 2020).

[3] For example: ‘*UN Declares War on Ocean Plastic*,’ UN Environment, 23 February 2017, available at <http://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-declares-war-ocean-plastic-0> (visited 15 June 2020); *G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter*, G20, 8 July 2017, available at [https://www.g20germany.de/Content/DE/Anlagen/G7\\_G20/2017-g20-marine-litter\\_en.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile%26v=4](https://www.g20germany.de/Content/DE/Anlagen/G7_G20/2017-g20-marine-litter_en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile%26v=4) (visited 20 June 2020); ‘*Commonwealth Unites to End Scourge of Plastic*’, 15 April 2018, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commonwealth-unites-to-end-scourge-of-plastic> (visited 12 June 2020); “*Ocean Plastics Charter*,” G7, 9 July 2018, available at <https://g7.gc.ca/en/official-documents/charlevoix-blueprint-healthy-oceans-seas-resilient-coastal-communities/> (visited 18 June 2020); ‘*Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a giant vortex of floating plastic in the Pacific Ocean*’, available at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/09/1018862> (visited 10 June 2020).

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[5] Information is available at <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-environment-and-bnp-paribas-partner-bring-private-capital> (visited 12 June 2020).

This paper emphasizes the idea that any aspiration to obliterate plastics from the economy is unrealistic. Plastics are ubiquitous in modern life. Regulatory measures need to recognize the different types of plastics and ensure that used plastic products are directed to the appropriate route for reuse, recycling, or disposal.

### **UNEA- Driving the Plastics to the Future**

The current international framework provides a piecemeal approach to the governance of the life cycle of plastics. There are only a few examples of bottom-up (plastic grocery bags and microbead products). [6]

Tackling plastic pollution is part of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-SDG 12. Anchored by the SDGs, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) has recognized the plastic crisis as a ‘rapidly growing and severe issue of global concern, which requires an urgent global response’. [7]

UNEA adopted resolutions on marine plastic pollution and advanced the discussion on the adoption of new measures.

At the second meeting of the UNEA [8], three options to address marine litter have been published and presented: (1) to maintain the status quo; (2) to strengthen the existing framework; (3) to establish a new framework. UNEA-3 [9] resolution makes it more precise and identifies numerous gaps in the global governance of plastic pollution. The first gap is the lack of a global institution whose mandate focuses on the coordination of existing efforts and the management of the marine litter and microplastics across its life cycle. Second, there is a lack of globally binding standards to mitigate plastic pollution, in particular plastic waste originating from land-based sources. [10]

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[5] Information is available at <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-environment-and-bnp-paribas-partner-bring-private-capital> (visited 12 June 2020).

[6] Dirk Xanthos, Tony R. Walker, ‘*International Policies to reduce plastic pollution from single-use plastics: a review*’, (2017), *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 118, 17–26, p. 17.

[7] Information available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=243&men> (visited 24 June 2020).

[8] United Nations Environmental Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEA), ‘*Marine plastic litter and microplastics*’, UN Doc UNEP/EA.2/L.12 (23 May 2016).

[9] UNEP ‘*Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme*’, 3<sup>rd</sup> session (Nairobi, 4-6 December 2017), UN Doc A/72/25 (21 March 2018).

[10] Raubenheimer Karen, McIlgorm Alinster, Oral N., ‘*Towards an improved international framework to govern the life cycle of plastics*’, (2018), *RECIEL*, 27:210–221.

In March 2019, at the fourth session of the UNEA, governments adopted a declaration entitled 'Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production,' that commits to significantly reduce the manufacturing and use of single-use plastic products by 2030. The UNEP agreed that the 'current governance strategies and approaches provide a fragmented approach that does not adequately address plastic pollution'.<sup>[11]</sup>

### **Possible Solutions**

Uncontrolled post-consumer disposal is the primary pathway of plastic into the ecosystem. The awareness amongst the public and the changes in behavior are the key to efficient and effective measures.

The effectiveness of a global agreement that combines voluntary and binding measures would likely be higher than that of a fragmented governance system containing variations in standards. The regulatory approach needs to recognize the different types of plastic in order to reuse and recycle them. For a treaty to be successful, it must fit in the socio-economic context, so there also needs to be alternatives to oil-based plastics.

Lessons can be drawn from treaties like the Montreal Protocol for ozone-depleting substances. Like the Montreal Protocol, a plastic treaty can ban the production and use of certain types of plastics (the ones using Phthalates, Bisphenol-A, PVC). The single-use plastic items can be subject to an immediate ban. The treaty should focus on a move to plant-based plastics and the oil-based plastics intended for recycling.

Furthermore, the promotion of industry commitment is a crucial element. International, regional, and national associations exist for various sectors within the life cycle of plastics, from resin producers to waste management and recyclers. These associations can build on existing guidelines and industry initiatives, such as committing to using single resins in products to improve recyclability. Global guidelines and codes of practice can assist companies in preparing for testing of new products and make certification or recognition more cost-effective. <sup>[12]</sup>

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[11] UNEP, 'Progress on Plastic Update, Issue 10: UNEA4', available at [www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Progress-on-Plastics-Update-Issue-10-UNEA4-Mar-2019-1.pdf](http://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Progress-on-Plastics-Update-Issue-10-UNEA4-Mar-2019-1.pdf) (visited 28 June 2020).

[12] Carlini G, Kleine K, "Advancing the international regulation of plastic pollution beyond the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution on marine litter and microplastics," (2018), *Review of European, Comparative and International Environmental Law*, 27:234–244, p. 242.

Under the Montreal Protocol [13], developing and developed countries have equal but differentiated responsibilities, and both groups of countries have binding, time-targeted and measurable commitments. Concerning plastics, the 'common but differentiated responsibilities' principle approach may not be appropriate. The differentiation in deadlines set to eliminate the production of certain types of plastics is more appropriate. Developing countries should receive more time and help to meet the phase-out targets. The costs and benefits of the approaches need to be carefully evaluated.

## **Conclusion**

While the awareness of plastic pollution continues to grow, the existing agreements lack a coordination mechanism and have resulted in a fragmented governance structure. A new global agreement that combines voluntary and binding measures can be a possible solution to tackle the problem from different dimensions- public, private, and individual behavior.

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[13] Information is available at <https://www.unenvironment.org/ozonaction/who-we-are/about-montreal-protocol> (visited 20 June 2020).

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## **What kind of world do we want to create: global health and women's rights**

Author:

MILLER, Samantha

When I think of the world we want to create from my post as a global health policy scholar, I envision a world where global leaders protect women's rights and value their contributions as a priority in global health. Women's health and well-being is indicative of a nation's health. From a global public health perspective, particularly one that increasingly values the lives, work, and perspective of women and girls, the UN must prioritize just that. From New Zealand, to Taiwan, to Germany, many have noted that some of the most effective leaders against Covid-19 have been women. However, it is not necessarily imperative to include women in global health because they have an innate quality that makes them better leaders, rather that they make up 50% of the world and deserve decision making powers on that basis alone. My work is finding solutions to unique problems at the intersection of health and oppression of women because my goal is to create a world where women's issues are seen as the human rights issue that they are.

Issues of women's rights and global health permeate into every office or affiliate with which the UN works. Addressing one of the oldest axes of oppression means creating a healthier, safer future globally. Women suffer great physical, mental, and emotional violence to the detriment of their health. However, especially now, more time and energy is poured into other public health matters from national governments. Additionally, the risk of unsafe pregnancies poses a major health threat to women, especially when governments like the US and Poland try to restrict access to contraception or abortion care.[1] The world I want to create prioritizes the needs of women when making healthcare policy decisions. After being excluded from policy decisions, even when making healthcare decisions for their families, for so long, lawmakers and international organizations should aim to elevate the voices of women. This creates a health policy vision that lifts up half the world that is already marginalized and suffers negative health consequences because of this.

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[1] "In Poland, Being a Woman Can Be Bad for Your Health ...." 6 Jun. 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/06/poland-being-woman-can-be-bad-your-health>. Accessed 5 Jul. 2020.

When we envision the world we want to create to better the outcomes of women and global health: I offer three suggestions for what the UN and its various agencies should put its weight behind. First, listening to women. On its face, this is obvious. When women offer words about their own experiences, these are inherently valuable and worth listening to in order to understand their lived experiences. I suggest taking this a step further, and observing and understanding women's healthcare patterns, and finding the underlying reasoning behind it; as the world's women know what is best for themselves and their bodies when it comes to making healthcare decisions. For example, the introduction and increasing popularity of birth control, including long-acting reversible birth control, indicates that when there is an option to delay or avoid pregnancy, young women happily embrace this, rather than taking chances starting a family young. It is a story of more and more women having the option to delay childbirth and choosing, overwhelmingly, to do so. As such, organizations like the WHO should promote access to birth control as a means to grant women reproductive freedom. The UN and global health policymakers should aim to actively create a global health system that takes into account women's real lives and experiences when developing policy and conducting activity abroad, as well as promoting this way of looking at women's health to national governments. Coordinating public health efforts that takes into account the real needs and wants of women is an essential aspect in shaping the world I want to create. We should endeavor to create listening to women's lived experiences central to policy making.

The world I want to create also reacts quickly and swiftly to oppression, especially that which is the root of poor health outcomes. In order to rectify a problem, it must be addressed with the appropriate level of seriousness. The UN and its affiliates must work to designate violence against women and girls a public health crisis and react appropriately, and this includes reproductive coercion and lack of access to reproductive control. Issues of access also includes the inability to afford or pay for contraception and abortion care, as well as cultural and religious stigmas against birth control and abortion. I envision a world where misogyny is treated as an imperative public health crisis, with as many resources dedicated to eradicating it as eradicating a pandemic; because violence against women and girls kills and wounds as brutally as any disease. I envision a world where resources are poured into combatting violence against women, including early interventions and the support systems in place to encourage women to leave violent situations. Violence against women and girls prevents so many people from leading healthy, fulfilling lives, and it is imperative that we work to create a world where it is no longer endemic.

Thirdly, protecting women's rights around the world as not only a human rights agenda, but also an agenda of global health as well. In doing this, we create a world where going backwards on legal protections for women and girls is as antithetical to improving global health as promoting smoking would be. This is equally important in higher-income countries as well as underdeveloped ones, as misogyny and women's oppression transcend borders, and one could find as many examples of anti-woman laws in wealthy countries as in poor ones. It is no coincidence that the US states with the highest rates of child mortality [2] have some of the most stringent anti-abortion laws in the country. States or nations that actively oppress women, including placing restrictions on their reproductive and economic freedom have poorer health outcomes, and acknowledging this and keeping this in mind when promoting law or policy is the first step towards creating a world that values all women, especially for the sake of global health outcomes. This is especially pertinent towards the health and well-being of children, who are often dependent on their mothers. A child growing up in a more just society will have a healthier life than one who does not. Through my work, I want to create a world where the health and well-being of children is tantamount in every decision by lawmakers, and this includes protecting the rights and freedoms of their mothers.

Envisioning a healthier, more equitable future means granting women their place at decision making tables and acknowledging the link between health and development and women's rights and freedoms. As a global health student, I know that a more equitable, liberated world for women would result in a healthier world. Creating a healthier world means listening to women's lived experiences, taking on women's rights as a public health issue, and endeavoring to protect women's rights globally.

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[2] "Infant mortality rate by U.S. state 2018 | Statista." 7 May. 2020, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/252064/us-infant-mortality-rate-by-ethnicity-2011/>. Accessed 5 Jul. 2020.



## **UN75: shaping our future together: youth of today - leaders of tomorrow**

Author:

MOHAMED, Amran

As we are reminded by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, our world will drastically change in the next decade – but only by the choices that we make today. A sustainable future can only be possible if we continually strive to make changes and take swift action. With 1.8 billion youth worldwide, there has been no other time in history that there have been so many young people with so much potential for social and economic progress, it is crucial now more than ever that the needs of young people are met to set the tone for the future. [1]

In the early 1990s, my mother sought refuge in Europe, fleeing from a country on the brink of a civil war that would span the coming decades. Her choice of leaving home was based on the idea that she would have access to opportunities that would have been hard to come by if she remained in her motherland. She hoped that by the time that her children grew up, she would be able to provide them with better access to education and that the world would take them in with open arms. More so, that through globalization, society would discriminate less against minorities and oppression of individuals would be a thing of the past. This view in this day and age is optimistic, but she held onto to the hope that by leaving her motherland that was in turmoil, her children and grandchildren would be thriving in a prosperous world.

Although I had the privilege to be educated in the West alongside my siblings, we fought tooth and nail for the same opportunities as our native counterparts. Sadly, the stories of access to basic human rights are not the same for many young people across the world – with many of the youth suffering as a result of this. Without equal access to basic human rights for everyone, our world will not prosper. The youth of today face a hefty burden. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we do our best to unearth the solutions needed to address the world's biggest problems – issues that our parents' and grandparents' generation were unable to crack.

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[1] Gupta MD. The Power of 1.8 Billion: Adolescents, youth and the transformation of the future. United Nations Population Fund; 2014.

Across the world, inequality is on the rise, a major refugee crisis is ongoing, and the provision of education remains to be poor. On top of this, a pandemic and the climate crisis are holding us all by the collar – and sadly without the voices of the youth and a growing concern for the world, time is running out and thus the major risks threatening our future will have devastating effects on the generations to come.

Challenges faced by the youth in regard to employment are rampant and issues include working poverty, skills mismatch and the school-to-work transition that is often referred to as suboptimal. [2] Compared to previous generations, young people are up to four times more likely to be out of work, and if they are lucky enough to find employment; it is often insecure or within the informal sector. Such sectors see employment conditions to be variable, pay is often low and any form of benefits are non-existent. [3] The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that one in three youth within some form of employment live on less than 4\$ a day – suggesting that many remain in poverty. [4]

In order to build a strong foundation in society, economic empowerment and youth employment should be on the forefront for the agenda for change. It has become highly evident that access to decent work for youth is crucial for the future and in providing so, it will have a positive ripple effect on a local, national and international scale. An estimated two-thirds of youth across the developing world today are not fulfilling their economic potential. If given the opportunities with the right tools and education, the youth of today can work whilst securing safer and more productive livelihoods in green and agriculture jobs to drive economies throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century. [4]

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[2] United Nations. Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.2018.

[3] World Economic Forum. Global Risks, Ninth Edition. Geneva: World Economic Forum. 2014

[4] Elder S, Rosas G. Global employment trends for youth 2015: Scaling up investments in decent jobs for youth. International Labor Organization. 2015.

A critical aspect for young people is education - with the shared belief that education has the power to change their own lives', their families' lives and ultimately their communities for the better. However, with 1.8 billion young people occupying all corners of the globe and an estimated 85% living in the developing world – the contrast is stark as they are faced by further constraints and potential differences as a result of socio-economic status and where they live. [5] To name only a few, these factors play tremendously on whether or not young people have access to education, as more often than not, potential cannot be fulfilled unless this basic human right is met.

Political, social and economic inequalities are profoundly intertwined and thus greatly influence the ability of the youth to take part in the very discussions and decisions that are made that affect their lives. Growing inequalities within countries further threatens development, social stability and governance structures that reinforce these processes. [6] More often than not as a result of youth not being consulted in pressing matters, their insight and perspective are not enabled to inform and drive change, dissuading them from taking their future into their own hands. Thus, in the coming decade of attempting to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, it is crucial that the youth are integrated within the very structures of society to help design, execute and evaluate sustainable policies and programs that will make a lasting impact on this world.

The youth of today are the most connected in the history of humankind and in turn are representing a large portion of the emerging middle-class. If given the space to act and the voice necessary – they can combine their purchasing power with purpose, networks and ideas to create a major movement for social impact, environmentally friendly consumption and responsible management of waste. To alleviate some of the biggest issues facing the youth, governments and their allies need to need to invest in youth-led social action, sustainability and innovation. [7]

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[5] Goldin, Nicole. *Toward Solutions for Youth Employment: A 2015 Baseline Report*. Geneva: International Labour Organization. 2015.

[6] International Monetary Fund. *IMF Fiscal Monitor: Tackling Inequality*. World Economic and Financial Surveys. Washington, D.C. 2017.

[7] Aceleanu MI, Serban AC, Burghilea C. "Greening" the Youth Employment—A Chance for Sustainable Development. *Sustainability*. 2015 Mar;7(3):2623-43.

On a daily basis, youth are risking their safety and voicing their anger at the corruption and injustices of the world – a world where the older generation remains to be collectively silent upon crimes against humanity. From protests and strikes on climate change, to calling out war crimes and acts of terrorism. The young generation is not apathetic and if I dare say so, the youth of today are one of the most civically engaged groups this world has ever seen.

A stark reminder for us all is that although young people may be leaders of tomorrow – more importantly they hold the power to bring ideas, skills and energy to change the world right now. What is necessary are the right tools and the platform to amplify the youth voice where it is most needed. The world needs to stop failing to listen to young people and recognize their ability to make a difference today and tomorrow.

## **How can evaluation help in accelerating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) this remaining decade?**

Author:

MULOBI, Mark

It is the last decade to achieve the 2030 vision and with just 10 years to achieve the sustainable goal, the UN Secretary general has called on all actors to mobilize for a decade of action and delivery. It is an ambitious global effort to deliver the 2030 promise this is intended to be realized by mobilizing more governments, civil society, businesses and calling on all people to make the Global Goals their own. This last decade will be a vital period to save the planet and to achieve sustainable and inclusive human development.

The current situation with the achievements of SDGs so far is that in some areas there has been progresses while others stalled. According to 2019 report there is unevenness in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Areas of progress are:

- Global poverty continues to decline but at a slower pace
- Maternal and child mortality rates have been reduced
- More people have gained access to electricity
- More countries are developing national policies to support sustainable development and signing international environmental protection agreements.

Stalled or reversed areas are:

- People suffering from hunger are on the rise.
- Number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million, the highest level recorded by UNHCR in almost 70 years.
- Slum dwellers reached over 1 billion in 2018, which represents 24% of the urban population, this rose slightly from 23% in 2014.
- Climate change is occurring much faster than anticipated.
- Inequality continues to increase within and among countries.

Covid-19 Pandemic has had impacts and implications on all 17 Goals. As at July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the coronavirus had spread to more than 210 countries and territories. The number of confirmed cases rose to over 11.1 million, and the global death toll passed 528,204 [1]. The effects of the pandemic and the measures taken to mitigate its impact have overwhelmed the health systems globally.

It has caused businesses and factories to shut down and severely impacted the livelihoods of half of the global workforce, kept 1.6 billion students out of schools, disrupted global value chains and the supply of products, and is expected to push tens of millions of people back into extreme poverty and hunger.

The poor and most vulnerable people are affected disproportionately by the pandemic, including women, children, aged, persons living with disabilities, migrants and refugees and informal sector workers. Similarly, vulnerable countries, including least developed countries (LDCs), land-locked developing countries (LLDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), and countries in humanitarian or fragile situations, stand to be hit hardest in the long term due to the fragility of their health systems, limited coverage of their social protection systems, limited financial and other resources, vulnerability to external shocks, and excessive dependence on international trade. Covid-19 has also highlighted further the already existing Inequalities in our society, the minority who don't have access to health facilities are losing their livelihoods and lives.

There has been gaps and challenges as far as achieving the SDGs they include the following; the evidence and data focus areas require urgent attention to realize the 2030 Agenda vision. Global problems that require global solutions through multilateralism and multi sectoral approach which is not yet fully realized. Other challenges and gaps include; climate change, migration, technology, trade, partnerships, data collection, capacity-building and commitment to achieving the agenda.

The pandemic has provided a platform to restart some the conversation around evaluations and how to integrate the considerations of "no one left behind." Looking at the DAC criteria, each criterion provides a more comprehensive picture of the interventions, process of implementation and results. As evaluators we need to build knowledge on what to implement as we go along.

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[1]  
[https://covid19.who.int/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw9IX4BRCcARIsAOD2OB29zv7U6Sg5raKXVpfa8aVqcJNicSjokspIM8U0u2Dly6-xx\\_EXbkkaAt7PEALw\\_wcB](https://covid19.who.int/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw9IX4BRCcARIsAOD2OB29zv7U6Sg5raKXVpfa8aVqcJNicSjokspIM8U0u2Dly6-xx_EXbkkaAt7PEALw_wcB)

People are left behind because of geography, discrimination, fragility, governance and social economic status and finally there are people who fall in multiple intersections of these categories. Evaluators need to ask critical question right at the early stage of an intervention whether the intervention will stand; and this will include planning for sustainability right at onset. Conventionally, most of the interventions are homogenous. Evaluators need to start to think how to address heterogenicity over time in the interventions.

As we implement the issue of adaptability and nimbleness is very key. We have seen adaption especially around Covid-19. As we embark on this journey, we pledge no one will be left behind and that we endeavor to reach the furthest behind. Evaluators need to view adaptation and nimbleness as part of our evaluation criteria, we need to go beyond protocols and experiments and express dynamism during the intervention.

We need not to forget the youth who are the engine of activism and social change and help them keep their energy and focus on action for justice, equity & sustainability. Young and Emerging Evaluators (YEE) can advocate for professionalization and inclusion well as to remind policy makers that voices of youth matter in achieving the SDGs.

As evaluators we need more humility on how we go about to bring change. By being more unambiguous about our own incompleteness right at start. We don't know the future and by recognizing this we will be able to be nimble and adaptable instead of sticking to protocols. We need to be realistic and less superficial, plan for sustainability as part of our theory of change and pay attention to issues of intersectionality and power which are not usually focused.

Finally, we need to ask deeper questions around what within the intervention works? How does evaluation plan to learn about mechanisms and are they scalable? What timeline and trajectory for impact are? What are the synergies between different interventions? What are the distribution impacts and what lessons from intersectionality of the intervention? What mechanism works for the most disadvantaged? What learning system can be modified to be nimble and adaptive? By addressing these questions, we will be able to accelerate the achievement of SDGs this last decade.

# **Peace and prosperity for all**

Author:

MUSTAFA, Azheen

We are currently living in a world which is full of challenges from all aspects, challenges such as poverty, lack of education, climate change, war between countries, gender inequality and most importantly injustice. All these issues mentioned above need to be fixed in order for individuals to live in peace and if all nations work together there is a possibility to face these challenges and create a better world. I want to create a world that believes inequality, humanity, in justice and in the power education. I believe that United Nations has been able to work towards a more peaceful world for the past 75 years and they have been very successful in moving forward and working towards an equal world. Through their different agencies UN has been able to defend the many, whether they are refugees, women, youth or people in need of humanitarian aid. In addition to that, creating the sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has had lots of positive impact on our world today, but that's not enough for a more prosperous world.

I believe in the next 25 years the UN should work mainly towards ending the fights between countries or different groups within a country. The way the world is seen today is continuous fights in the world, where innocent people become victims of major powers. These fights and bombardments of civilians has increased the injustice and poverty. In 25 years, I want my children to live without waking up to the news of war happening around them. I want them to be able to receive quality education despite our economic situation and I want them to be treated fairly despite their nationality.

Growing up as a Kurd, I always woke up to bad news, hearing my people were dying, whether they were in Iraq, Syria, Iran or Turkey. Some were killed because they spoke in Kurdish, others because they wanted to have an independent state, and some were killed simply because they referred to themselves as Kurdish and they did not want to hide their identity. A population of 40 million people without a state of their own is unjust. If they are facing bombardments, genocide and killed for simply being Kurdish then there is something wrong with the world. It's everyone's responsibility to justice to those people, because injustice in one country means injustice in all countries. bombarding civilians in one part of the world means increasing migration, poverty level and higher



In 25 years, I want to be able to say that I am Kurdish without being scared of dying, I want to be proud of my Kurdish identity and be able to have Kurdish nationality and not be referred to as an Iraqi. Being Kurdish has been hard because not many know our past and our story, sometimes people don't even know about our existence. I believe that this has changed throughout the years and Kurds are more known today than they were 10 years ago. Thanks to technology and social media we have been able to raise our voice and make people hear our story. This has helped us and now there are many people who respect us, know about us and want to support us but more support is needed from the UN security council, and Court of Justice. The UN security council should work to ensure that no country is bombards or kills the Kurds and the Human Rights advocates at the UN should also work on protecting stateless people or people who are minorities in the states they are in.

When I look think of creating a better future, I don't want it to be a better future only for the Kurds, I want it to be a better future for the entire world. For the people who are currently suffering all around the world, be it in Yemen, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Pakistan or the rest of the countries or communities who are facing challenges. I believe the United Nations has the power to create a better world. They can first start by the security council and focus on peace keeping operations. As the most important thing to do first is to stop the fights that are happening all around the world. Then they can provide humanitarian aid to the people in need and to the people who have been victim of these wars and once these are solved, they can focus on providing equal and quality education for all. I believe that the only way that these fights can be stopped, and peace can be built is through education, we can educate the younger people on the history of the world and show them that war was never the solution. In addition to that, when people are educated, then their chances of employment are also higher, which means poverty level will get lower. Which also affects the crime rates and decrease stealing murdering and suicide.

Taking these steps will be challenging and maybe 25 more years will not be enough to solve these problems but the sooner we start the more lives we can save, and the less people will suffer. We need to be united for that, our communities, our nations and our leaders need to be united; because all of us together, we can make a difference and create a better, safer, world for all. The changes need to be supported by everyone from all levels of society, starting from the world leaders to the normal civilians. Through this program I realized that change is possible and that there is still hope, because there are people who still advocate for equality, justice and better education, there are still people who care about the environment. So as long as there is will, there is hope, and I hope that in 25 years, the world will be a more peaceful place.

## **United Nations at 75: shaping our future together**

Author:

NANORTEY, Josephine

The year is 2020, and the United Nations is celebrating its 75 years of existence. For the past 75 years, the United Nations has made strides in maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development and upholding international law. The United Nations, together with its partners and stakeholders, including myself, a graduate student from Ghana, have visions of the kind of world we want to create.

The kind of world I, as a young person, want to create is one with equality, little to zero poverty, unlimited access to proper education, abundant health facilities and more peace and inter collaborations. Also, a world where racism, colorism and sexism are no longer prevalent would be an ideal world. The kind of world I want to create has cleaner environments and no pollution. In this same world, I want to create a safe environment for women and children where women are bold enough to stand for themselves and resist any form of oppression with the help of science and technology.

With continuous advancements in technology and knowledge, it is only possible to imagine a world with endless opportunities for the generations to come. It will be expected that our children, grandchildren will be better off than the previous generations which in its essence, has some truth in it. For many of us, we are the first in our family to obtain a Master's degree to make a difference in the world, which if we were born sixty years ago, we would have been "advised" by our family to get married right after school and be a stay-at-home mother or get a job that pays just enough to help support your husband. We can hope and believe that the generations to come will be better off than the current generations. Increasing awareness and acceptance of diversity will lead to people who were previously marginalized, being represented in different areas in the world of work. We can expect more of members of the LGBTQI, women, people of color, ethnic minorities and disabled people being given platforms and opportunities to function effectively just like everyone else.

However, technology may be used to replace certain human activities and jobs. Robots called Artificial Intelligence (AI) have been automated to learn, on some occasions, to be like humans. A market research company published a report that projects that there will be a massive increase in the already growing revenue derived from artificial intelligence products and services. There will be a

surge from \$643.7 million recorded in 2016 to \$36.8 billion by the year 2025 (Wheelock, 2016). This will result in a lot of technological inequalities in the future. People without the necessary skills such as IT skills and soft skills such as negotiation and communication may not get jobs, or their skill set may be classified as redundant. There will be more access to education, but some may not still be able to access it due to economic, cultural or religious barriers in their societies. We can also expect more disease outbreaks and pandemics such as the COVID-19 pandemic which has currently claimed the lives of over 500,000 people worldwide (WHO). These outbreaks will also lead to more job losses and high unemployment rates as seen in the case of the COVID pandemic. On the other hand, more countries will be better equipped to handle these outbreaks because of the lessons learned from the current pandemic.

The issue of climate change is increasingly becoming an issue we cannot ignore any longer. It was recorded that in 2018, the global mean sea level was 3.2 inches. By the end of this century, the global mean sea level is expected to rise at least one foot even if there is a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the coming decades (Lindsey, 2019). With the effects of climate change, we can expect to see more earthquakes, wildfires, earthquakes and heavy rains which will result in either floods or droughts.

It may seem as though all hope is lost. Well, it isn't. There is still enough time to make the world better for future generations. Making the world a better place for future generations does not take much to achieve once people have the right mindsets and are willing to "right the wrongs". Change starts with every one of us. Everyone needs to be enlightened and informed on the social injustices all around us and know that we are the future. We need to embrace each other and understand that everyone is different and that is the only way we can collectively work together. Communities need to come up with context-based solutions to the multi-faceted problems they face on a daily and focus on the development and welfare of the people. Communal labors, as already done in some Ghanaian communities, are organized to get people in particular areas to clean up the streets and sensitize each other about good hygiene. It is important for people to also understand that the government can only do so much to help its citizens and it is up to those same citizens to be patriotic and make a difference any way they can. We also need to take care of our environment by reducing plastic waste and plant more trees. Walking or riding bicycles to and from work and other places, can help reduce carbon emissions from vehicles and also serve as a form of exercise to keep our bodies fit. People should also be encouraged to recycle waste and find clean and efficient ways of providing power for example; solar panels are very clean and efficient. Future generations need a healthy environment to grow in

and thrive to carry the good work of previous generations in making the world a better place. The world needs more voices.

I can't promise you that everything will be okay, but we are all in this together, every step of the way. The only way we can make the world a far better place for everyone is if we work hand in hand to shape our future together.

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**Where would you advise the UN Secretary-General to prioritize his focus? How can we collectively bridge the gap between the world we hope for and the world that may result if we don't better manage current trends?**

**- The issue of military budget -**

Author:

OBI, Chioma

The issue of military budget has been a much-debated issue among member states of the United Nations. The general assembly expresses concern over increase in global military expenditures on the grounds that it has detrimental effects on international security and on economic and social developments. It wishes for member countries to reduce military expenditures and to reallocate human and financial resources from military to economic and social development purposes, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries. While America understands the concern of the UN towards economic and social developments especially in developing countries, it however does not agree with the reduction in military budgets; it rather encourages more funding for a smooth and better running of military operations locally and globally. Over the years, America accounts for 40% of global military spending.

While this statistic may be correct, the budgets and spending are not only for local military issues within America, but also mapped out for responding to global military issues especially in Asian countries and the Middle East. Expenditure on the military sector of the United States ranges from a GDP of 4.24% and 3.29% between 2012 and 2016, in 2017, \$695 billion was allotted to military spending and about \$700 billion in 2018. This is majorly because United States has a unique role in contributing to international order and a unique challenge in securing its citizens. The presidency and the US department of defense, in effort to combat threats coming from competing world powers like the china and Russia, Korean peninsula and the wars of Afghanistan, feel the need to strategize and field a more lethal force in strengthening the military, and to measure up with threats of opposing countries. The budget also includes spending on the base Pentagon budget, spending on Overseas Contingency Operations and spending on defense-related activities in other agencies, including nuclear weapons activities in the Department of Energy. This also means US army can foot the bill for thousands more troops, more training, more ships, rising personnel costs, and more expensive

technology investments; owing that the US military is required to keep up or even increase its pace of operations at home and abroad. Also, the budget funds four branches of the U.S. military: the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force, which serves to protect both allies and non-allies globally in those four major area. It also covers the defense of all the NATO countries, Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Kuwait and many others. While claims are made against the US for excess increment in military budget to the expense of economic, social and humanitarian development, it is also noteworthy that the Global military presence of the United states contributes significantly to the world peace and security, which is the major sustainable development Goals of the United Nations. Reduction in military budget will put the nation at greater risk of coercion, dramatically reduce our overseas presence, ability to respond to crises, efforts to counter terrorism and illicit trafficking and may irreversibly damage the military industrial base; thereby, putting the continued prosperity and security interests of the United States at risk.

Despite the damages wrought by six years of budget caps, the U.S. military remains the largest and most capable in the world. It is the only force capable of global power projection, and it maintains a vast network of logistics hubs and systems. Maintaining a force of the size and strength necessary to protect U.S. interests and uphold international obligations understandably necessitates a larger budget than is required for other nations with regional or local forces. The US requests the United Nations to allow it some flexibility in running internal and external military operations in order to maintain a sustained peace and security within and across affected country borders.

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## **What can you do as an individual to create the world we want?**

### **What are you doing for a better world?**

Author:

ODOMA, Abdulmumin

I have always been driven by the urge to serve humanity. Two things have always been my goals and objectives. They are;

1. Service to a cause greater than yourself
2. Diversity and inclusion

In 2015, I took a decision to become a global citizen. Becoming a global citizen was however a slow and unfolding process. Over time, I challenged my own judgmental attitude and learnt to appreciate others irrespective of who they are, where they come from or what they do. On an occasion, I volunteered with World Literacy Foundation to fund-raise for Uganda children. During the program, I worked with young people from different parts of the world having different sexual identities, religious beliefs and value systems. Though initially uneasy, I became understanding, open-minded and friendly with everyone for the rest of the project and it became one of my best experiences. I've come to understand that diversity gives more spice. With varying backgrounds, we pulled together brilliant ideas that can't be gotten from a homogeneous community. Besides, the exposure we get from meeting people of different backgrounds is immeasurable.

I have 8 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. I earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics Education from Kogi State University in Nigeria. Currently, I am enrolled for my MSC in Economics at Nasarawa State University in Nigeria. I have worked with YIAGA Africa on voters register enumeration/Audit, watching the vote project, and awareness creation on peaceful, credible and transparent elections. While working as an election observer with YIAGA Africa under "Watching the Vote" project, I helped improve credibility, transparency and peace in general conduct of elections in Nigeria. I worked with Participation Initiative for Behavioral Change in Development (PIBCID) to create voter education on 'Vote Not Fight' campaigns. I created awareness on the need for credible, transparent and peaceful elections at all levels. I have volunteered as Community Mobilization Officer

at New Hope Agency to educate the masses on HIV/AIDS Pandemic to promote healthy living and adolescent reproductive awareness by conducting free HIV testing and distribution of both male and female condoms to reduce the spread of HIV in the society. I have also volunteered with SHIFT Nigeria as a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer to empower youths on skills acquisition. I am a member of Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), a member of Amnesty International, and a member of African Change Makers. I have worked with RIMI Oil & Gas Nigeria Limited where I served as Cash Management Officer. I was responsible in solidifying customer retention efforts by providing an efficient customer services to the customers, assesses customer needs and recommends effective strategies. I was responsible in performing cost benefit and risk analysis. I contributed to banks deposit growth strategies and goals. Through these experiences, I developed strong community mobilization skills, Public Management, finance management, project management and public policy. I enjoy focusing on the topics of advocacy, financial transactions and cash management, and has strong passion for youth empowerment and community development.

I am a member of Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), an Alumni of YALI RLC West Africa. I am also a member of Amnesty International and a fellow of African Change-makers. I have participated in various youth and Leadership programs and I have earned a number of certificates from this program ranging from YALI Emerging Leaders Program hosted in Accra-Ghana, African Change Makers Initiative program among several others. I am a youth Leader and have also held leadership positions in various social groups and Community Development groups like Educational Development Group, Charity and Life Improvement group, Drug Free Society group among others. I am well experienced in this field but there is also a need to learn more as I look forward to improving my leadership experience through participation in future leadership and fellowship Programs

I have raised awareness on drug free society on the street, in market squares, schools, and other public places. I have worked with over 3,000 people during these awareness-raising sessions and we have been able to reduce drug abuse among youths in the society. So many youths have gave up Tramadol intake and have come out to applaud my efforts in changing their lives.

I am a trained economist. I am well vast in business ideas, administrative experience, human and resource management. I am a manager and have managed a number of financial transactions. Economics deals with improvement of welfare of individuals, groups or nations and creation of wealth. I did entrepreneurship Track in one of my YALI Programs and I also have a certificate from YALI on Fundamentals of starting and Running a Business. Although I have no business establishment, but I



seek to learn more about entrepreneurship while I progress in my career in order to widen my horizon in the field of economics and entrepreneurship.

With most African countries experiencing bad leadership and economic recession, many African youths have lost faith in their government. In Nigeria for instance, many young people have taken to social media to voice out their hate speeches on politicians for being insensitive to the needs of citizens.

With my professional experience, I am personally working on 'Using Media Campaigns for Development and Social Change'. In the past, I produced MDGs/SDGs centred jingles and contributed to documentaries focusing on community participation. Currently, I am working on social change concepts for the Nigerian and African population.

These youth-centred pictures and messages are spreading fast and receiving thousands of likes on social media, helping the young Nigerians understand their role in transforming the nation.

A similar project is on-going as we are in the process of producing a documentary titled, "The Africa We Want- I Am the Change." My fellow YALI RLC and African Change makers alumni. The inspiring documentary will feature 20 young African leaders making a difference in their communities in Africa through their various endeavors.

It is important to me that youths see themselves as key players in the development of their communities and using media campaigns to influence social change is a tool I know can work.

## **UN 75 – shaping our future together**

Author:

OLIELO, Daisy

Global income inequalities continue to create a widening gap in health and quality of life between rich and poor, placing the poor in a position of reinforced deprivation [1]. According to the World Economic Forum, less than 1% of the world's population control 46% of the global wealth [2]; whilst in striking contrast, 46% of the world's population live on less than \$5.50 a day [3]. This substantial inequality has for decades had an extensive knock-on effect across education, medical care, vaccine access and development, besides fortifying the poverty cycle and hampering social mobility [4]. Across the globe, UNICEF data estimates that by 2030 approximately 70 million children may die before reaching their fifth birthday, let alone attaining a better future if current trends persist [5].

What's more, this skewed distribution of global resources has further exacerbated ethnic and racial tensions within and between countries and regions, based on the inequalities they pose. For instance, within the contexts of low and middle-income countries, the design and delivery of healthcare services are not directed at reaching the most vulnerable and severely marginalized within populations [6]. Health expenditure as a share of national GDP remains disproportionately low in low and middle-income countries, who, in addition, have a high out of pocket health expenditure [7]. In 2017, the average spending on out of pocket medical care per person in low-income countries was about \$41 compared to approximately \$2,937 spent per person in high-income countries with publicly funded healthcare systems [7]. In line with Tudor Hart's inverse care law, charging people for their medical care means that those with the greatest need are the last to access or utilize care, if at all [8].

### **How do science and technology impact everyday life?**

#### **How do countries work with one another?**

Science and technology have had a profound impact on the everyday life of an individual, both in positive and negative ways. Taking the example of HIV/AIDS, for instance, approximately 24 years ago a HIV positive diagnosis was a death sentence [9]. However, research and development paved the way to the discovery of life-saving antiretroviral treatment, capable of suppressing viral replication

and has since saved millions of lives. Despite this, however, Sub Saharan Africa, a region that bears approximately 71% of the global HIV/AIDS-related disease burden has limited scientific and technological capacity in the large-scale production of antiretroviral medicine, hampering sustainable efforts to contain the disease [10]. The supply of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), laboratory equipment, raw materials and reagents in Africa is currently dependent on external sources with a high probability of delays or disruptions in supply, limiting the affordability, availability and accessibility of life-saving medication [10]. Furthermore, a disruption in ART supply for people living with HIV increases the risk of opportunistic infection and outcomes of AIDS, which would incur added out of pocket medical care expenditure, further perpetuating the poverty cycle [10].

This gap in advancement could, however, be bridged through further research into Africa's natural raw materials for the development of ART, including investment in appropriate technology for local drug production that would immensely contribute to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic [11]. Technological advancements combined with investments into research and development offer an indispensable opportunity towards transforming resource-poor countries from over-reliant consumers of science and technology products to producers within trade markets. This in effect would not only result in economic empowerment of such nations but also bolster levels of trust and knowledge building platforms for sustainable development. Furthermore, creating a strategic angle for creating new diplomatic relations between countries whilst strengthening existing ones, building an overall social-political momentum in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and simultaneously shaping our future together.

### **What forms of action and collaboration might be needed at the local, national and international levels?**

In a rapidly changing world, addressing emerging challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic requires now more than ever effective collaborative efforts between nations. The equitable transfer and sharing of skills, experiences and technology offer a unique opportunity for mutual prosperity and peaceful coexistence. Furthermore, such collaborative efforts could result in a shift from the overreliance on exploitative technology to more natural methods, for the vitality and health of the natural world. The localization agenda, in particular looks at empowering local actors and national responders as decision-makers and leaders in driving humanitarian action to increase the effectiveness of response efforts and maximize on the combined efforts of both international and local actors [12]. Additionally, encouraging local ownership and accountability, as well as, strengthening national

systems through better preparedness and building of resilience of local communities and actors as first responders in disasters, preventing disaster escalation to the point of requiring international aid to respond [16]. It is therefore important for international development agencies and governments to make deliberate efforts to prioritize engagement with and support to local actors in their design, implementation and development of projects tailored to the needs of specific communities.

### **What type of role might the United Nations and other International Institutions have in facilitating this and how can they improve?**

The UN and other international bodies play a critical role as exemplars in shaping the future and setting standards of engagement with partners for collaborative action towards mutual sustainable benefits. This could begin with addressing internal systematic inequalities within the organizational structure through greater diversity and representation within leadership and decision-making roles. Furthermore, the UN could also facilitate open and honest conversation in addressing inequalities and reaching out to the often unheard or ignored, ensuring where applicable, their views are acted upon in a manner that fosters trust. Such engagements should not just be limited to national or international conferences but also include direct, face to face engagement with local communities. This would, in addition, mean moving away from a conversation that is solely spearheaded by member state representatives in formal settings with rigid rules of engagement, but is also open to the ordinary man whose life is greatly impacted upon by the decisions made. The United Nations could proactively hold such listening sessions in ordinary settings and with ordinary people, reviewing the way it conducts business with a view to making its decisions more people centered.

Similarly, the UN and other development agencies could actively encourage technology companies, pharmaceuticals and other innovators to prioritize the development of products driven less by profit potential but based more on their quality- of- life enhancing capacity, especially for the most vulnerable populations. The UN could also play a general oversight role in flagging countries that are exploitative in their relations with other countries, including raising the alarm when certain countries are working to the detriment of the other. Finally, all international agencies need to work with greater transparency in their formulation and implementation of policies, limiting opportunities for speculation and conspiracy theories due to the lack of understanding subsequently, building mistrust. These will not only promote synergy in interagency collaboration across all sectors, including governments but also greatly contribute to reaching the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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# How to reduce global income inequality?

Author:

PALAFOX VALENCIA, Irving Jonathan

Living conditions are different depending on where we are in the world. In some countries, governments have made big efforts to reduce such inequalities and we can realize radical changes in living conditions, in some others changes, are slower.

This issue finds its origin on economic inequality or income inequality, but what is inequality? We can find the first definition in the oxford dictionary to such a concept, there Inequality is defined as "the state of not being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities".

Regarding economic inequality, we have two main perspectives on this issue. The first one states that the different outcomes in terms of well-being may be the result of situations that are out of our control such as ethnicity, gender, family background, etc. as well as talent and effort. The second one focuses on the inequality of opportunities and how the external situations (beyond our control) affect those outcomes.

On the other hand, Inequality of outcomes as defined by the UN's DSPAU (Development Strategy and Policy Analyst Unit) occurs when individuals do not possess the same level of material wealth or overall living economic conditions. It is in living standards where development theory finds its core of study, in addition to income/wealth, education, health, and nutrition inequalities.

With these concepts in mind, the main question we are going to try to answer is how can we reduce global inequalities? several secondary questions become apparent, how to live in a more equitable world? who must take action to manage these inequalities? what should be the role of Governments? Businesses? and other Actors?

Before answering these questions, we will begin with a brief presentation of the drivers of such inequalities.

## Drivers of growing inequalities

One of the international organizations dedicated to analyzing the trends in inequality and poverty in developed and emerging economies in the OCDE. They provide a first outlook of drivers of growing inequalities, such as globalization, skill-biased technological change, and changes in public policy approaches.

Globalization from an economic point of view can be defined as "the increasing interdependence of world economies as a result of the growing scale of cross-border trade of commodities and services, the flow of international capital and the wide and rapid spread of technologies" (UN, Committee for development policy). However, is this interdependence that harms equality of income around the world as emerging economies will most of the time specialize in the production of a particular kind of good (specialization) due to the advantages on the cost of production, which translates in the creation of an economy of scale. A certain level of state intervention to regulate the national market is needed to achieve economic growth. Fair play among nations will translate into a more equitable wealth distribution.

Another driver of inequalities is the skill-biased technological change, that can be defined as the shift in the production technology that favors skilled labor (higher level of education, more experienced, etc.) over unskilled labor. This situation reinforces income inequality. In fact, for equality of opportunity to exist, governments and civil society need to push for the implementation of public policies that compensate the individuals facing disadvantageous circumstances.

Lastly, economic inequality finds its origin in horizontal inequalities (HIs), Galasso (2014) defines this term as "inequality among salient groups, which may be culturally defined or constructed based on an array of social identity features. economic, social, political, cultural status." His typology includes Economic, Social, Political, and Cultural horizontal inequalities.

- Economic HIs include inequalities in access to and ownership of assets.
- Social HIs include access to education, healthcare, and housing.
- Political HIs include for example the people's capacity to participate politically and express their needs.
- Cultural HIs include for example the recognition of a specific religion, customs, norms, languages, etc.

A general concern of all kinds of inequalities is the growing possibility to evolve into civil unrest and violent conflict. Societies that have known economic and political inequalities between the different sectors of society may result in strong discontent leading to violence.

### **Proposals on how to reduce global income inequalities.**

In this section, we will provide a proposal on how to reduce global income inequalities. Historically the approach of many economists to measure progress has been through the lenses of growth on the income or in consumption. However, the question is not who has more and who has less but who does not have enough to survive? Implementation of public policies that protect vulnerable groups and guarantee an equitable distribution of income is essential to reduce income inequalities. The government must guarantee that everyone has a minimum wage to cover basic needs.

Living conditions are determined today by external factors such as gender, age, or even the place you were born in the world. By breaking with that paradigm governments, businesses, and civil society need to consider instead, internal factors such as years of education and experience to increase wages and ensure better living conditions.

Another proposal to reduce income inequalities is the creation of a more equitable tax system, in which people with less revenue will pay less taxes and people or businesses with a high revenue will need to contribute accordingly. The government needs to make sure that wealthy residents pay an income tax, and at the same time to strongly regulate the public subsidies and/or limit them to priority areas.

As previously mentioned, social inequality related to access to education, healthcare, and housing can determine your level of income and level of well-being. To reduce such a gap, governments and international organizations (in places where governments can't) need to work together to build the necessary infrastructure (hospitals, schools, housing) so each person no matter their background and where in the world they were born can have access to these services. In doing so, economic inequalities can be reduced and well-being levels in developing countries can increase. Civil society can also participate in such programs by the means of donations to develop infrastructure to benefit the poorest layers of the society or even pointing out where the help is needed the most.

In the political field, strong political institutions and participation of civil society are key. Institutions need to guarantee equal political participation to everybody, by doing so democracy is reinforced. For example, Universal access to voting can be a means to guarantee political participation.



It is also, important that governments listen to all layers of society to know what their concerns, their needs, and their priorities are to develop more inclusive policies.

To conclude, firstly economic inequality today is the consequence of global inequality in many areas such as health, education, income, etc. Secondly, living conditions are determined by external factors (for example the place and time that you are born into) government, civil society, and businesses need to take into consideration internal factors instead, for example, years of education and experience to increase such living conditions. Finally, we need to guarantee access to education, living free of poverty, access to universal health care to every child no matter where he or she was born.

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## Does the future include police?

Author:

PHILIP, Isabel

What is the future of the police? This is the question of the moment. Amidst the hundreds of ‘Black Lives Matter’ protests globally, one major call has seemed to stick out amongst the rest: defund the police. Some have even gone further to argue for abolishment of the police. Commentators have questioned what this proposition actually means and whether it is a legitimate call for action. John Legend tweeted that ‘some hear that word and envision The Purge, some dystopian descent into anarchy’.[1] This imagery detracts from the legitimacy and frankly, the urgency of these commands and calls for reform. Currently we are in a crucial moment in history, and it is imperative that we re-assess the role and nature of policing, and what the path forward for police is. We have a unique opportunity to reshape what the future of the criminal justice system could look like, and there needs to be global action to address the stark inadequacies of the current system. We clearly cannot push ahead with the current model that has fostered an environment where in the US there were only 27 days in 2019 where a person was not killed as a result of police violence.[2] Further, people of color were three times more likely to be killed than white people, despite being less likely to be armed or threatening someone when killed.[3] It is impossible to consider how we can and should shape the future without recognizing that the policing system requires a major overhaul.

Protests began from the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, where police officer Derek Chauvin leaned on Floyd’s neck for eight minutes 46 seconds before he died. This sparked a global movement, where marches against both the USA’s police force, as well as local movements, have sprung up. There have been large protests in all of Australia’s capital cities about both the international and American Black Lives Matter movement. There has also been a substantial focus on local policing issues with respect to Indigenous Australians.

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The continuing issue of Aboriginal deaths in custody is alarming, [4] particularly considering the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody occurred over 30 years ago, and the disproportionate incarceration of Indigenous Australians is continuing to rise. Overall, Indigenous Australians represent 29% of the imprisoned population in Australia, despite making up only 3% of the total population.[5] Even more concerning is that 54% of juveniles in custody are Aboriginal.[6] Our current system of policing is forcing people of color into the criminal justice system as young as 10 and effectively ensuring their continued return due to the lack of regard or funding for social programs and services that could actually break the cycle of disadvantage, poverty, abuse, and discrimination. A policing system that functions without regard to the socio-economic factors and issues that influence groups' interactions with the criminal justice system is one that is inherently flawed.

Slowly, some cities are working towards de-funding the police. In Minneapolis, there have been council pledges to dismantle the police force.[7] MPD150, a group that is seeking to achieve a police-free Minneapolis stated that 'rather than strangers armed with guns we want to create space for more mental health service providers, social workers, victim/survivor advocates, religious leaders, neighbors, healers, and friends — all of the people who really make up the fabric of a community — to look out for one another.'[8] This is the aim of de-funding the police, and arguably a goal everyone can get behind. Rather than focusing on punishing people who are victims themselves, diverting funding to other programs and services can act as prevention, and will be far more beneficial to individuals and society than incarceration.

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[4] See e.g. Lorena Allam, Calla Wahlquist and Nick Evershed, 'Aboriginal deaths in custody: 434 have died since 1991, new data shows' *The Guardian* (6 June 2020, Online) <<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jun/06/aboriginal-deaths-in-custody-434-have-died-since-1991-new-data-shows>>.

[5] Australian Bureau of Statistics, '4512.0 - Corrective Services, Australia, December Quarter 2019', (12 March 2020, Online) <<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4512.0>>.

[6] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 'Youth detention population in Australia 2018', *Australian Government* (Online, 19 December 2018) <<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/juv/128/youth-detention-population-in-australia-2018/contents/table-of-contents>>.

[7] Tommy Beer, 'Minneapolis City Council Unanimously Votes To Replace Police With Community-Led Model' *Forbes* (12 June 2020, Online) <<https://www.forbes.com/sites/tommybeer/2020/06/12/minneapolis-city-council-unanimously-votes-to-replace-police-with-community-led-model/#726028a171a5>>.

[8] James Purtill, "'Defund the police': What it means and how it would work" *ABC Triple J Hack* (9 June 2020, Online) <<https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/what-it-means-to-defund-the-police-and-how-it-would-work/12336014>>.

It is important to note that people in positions of privilege effectively already live in a world where they are diverted through these alternative systems of support. Krista Vernoff on Twitter began a thread imploring ‘the white people reading this to think about the crimes you’ve committed. (Note: You don’t call them crimes. You and your parents call them mistakes.) Think about the mistakes you’ve made that you were allowed to survive.’[9] This is the privilege that white people benefit from every single day – being able to commit crimes, or just generally go about their lives, without fear of being killed or abused by police. As Asha Bandele stated, for white offenders, ‘[b]efore police are asked to intervene, school counsellors, special programming and mental health professionals are called upon to nurture, support and protect [them]. They know that only as a final resort should police be involved because, to them, that white child’s life matters. For Black people, though, police are our first responders.’[10] Further, not only has this issue not improved in recent years, but it has increasingly worsened, as more and more power and funding has been diverted to police. The US spends twice as much on police, prisons and courts as it does on social welfare, however this has not always been the case - ‘the trajectory of these two spending items diverged around 1980’.[11] Additionally, police are unnecessarily funded in times of crises such as during COVID-19, where substantial sums of money were used to buy riot gear, despite the gross lack of safety wear, hospital beds and ventilators purchased and accessible for first responders.[10] This illustrates just how much power and money the police have where this could be re-apportioned in more effective, humane and responsible ways.

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[9] Krista Vernoff, Twitter Thread (16 June 2020, Online) <<https://twitter.com/KristaVernoff/status/1272561186827931649>>.

[10] Asha Bandele, ‘How to Keep Our Children Safe: A Mother Explains Why We Must Defund Police’, *Essence* (6 June 2020, Online) <[https://www.essence.com/amp/feature/defunding-police-in-defense-of-black-lives/?\\_\\_twitter\\_impression=true](https://www.essence.com/amp/feature/defunding-police-in-defense-of-black-lives/?__twitter_impression=true)>.

[11] James Purtill, ‘“Defund the police”: What it means and how it would work” *ABC Triple J Hack* (9 June 2020, Online) <<https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/what-it-means-to-defund-the-police-and-how-it-would-work/12336014>>.

The role that police currently play in society needs to be a central consideration of global forward thinking. Alex Vitale, author of ‘The End of Policing’, was referenced in the Washington Post, stating ‘Vitale argues that policing has ballooned out of control during the past 40 years, becoming a tool not just to combat crime but to deal with homelessness, mental illness and youth violence among other issues. The goal of reining in law enforcement was not to create a situation in which “someone just flips a switch and there are no police,” ... but to re-envision of the role of police in society.’[11] For the world to improve in the future, we need to re-envision the role of police. We need to re-envision the role of social services and programs that can more effectively and appropriately address these issues such as homelessness, mental illness, intergenerational trauma, violence, and substance abuse, to name a few. The world needs to look forward to how we can truly address these issues and advocate for the less privileged, rather than perpetuating a system that actively contributes to disadvantage and discrimination.

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[11] Derek Hawkins, Katie Mettler and Perry Stein, ‘Defund the police’ gains traction as cities seek to respond to demands for a major law enforcement shift’ The Washington Post (8 June 2020, online)  
<<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/06/07/protests-defund-police/>>

# **Immigrants and belongingness**

Author:

PROPHETE, Adulin

This 21st century a time where social issues govern, it is hard for someone to not be affected by one of them. Most of the time people are psychologically and physically affected by them. Poverty, hunger, environmental injustice, mistreatment of immigrants, and social exclusion are poisoning our world. For this reason, people are creating ways to survive from any of the social issues they are affected by. To do so, groups are created to support identical those with identical traits. In other word, people identify places where they feel that they belong. Therefore, this idea of belongingness creates hierarchy between groups and for some groups to stay superior to others they give access to their members and deny the same access to others. The topic of mistreatment of immigrants from the global south is one of the major social issues today. Threat to their safety, lack of welcoming and social services at their disposal encompasses and creates many other social issues. My paper addresses the question “how to create an environment for foreigners or immigrants to feel a sense of belonging in our community?” especially for those who come from developing countries.

In this paper I will explore the topic of belongingness, striving for safety and welcoming of immigrants starting with my own story and broadening out to include non-immigrants in the solution. To explore this issue, I must start with the struggles of being an immigrant. Additionally, the paper elaborates upon the steps to take toward a safer and welcoming world. Lastly, I state my hope of the world I dream to see for everyone regardless of origin.

Living in a world where poverty, war, natural disasters, and climate change force people to leave their home country to seek refuge in other country raises concerns and fear for some. The migration movement makes our world more diverse but at the same time creates more social issues when immigrants are not humanely treated because they do not belong. It is a call upon everyone who has good faith, compassion, empathy and resources to stand with and support those in need and make them feel a sense of belongingness.

## **Identity**

Growing up in a poor country where the main source of income for a family comes from remittances in the diaspora, most of my childhood friends had the dream to move to another country

in order to support their families back home. We were told that this was the way it had to be because our Haitian government was always unstable with inherent political trouble that creates insecurity and leads to lack of investment in the country. Yet, I know that the international community keeps the Haitian government unstable and Haitian people poor because the history of the country as the first colony to overthrow slavery. A situation that disrupted the economic order of certain countries. After long debate, the colonizers accepted Haiti's independence at a cost but embargoed our country from trade and investment, and this kept us unnecessarily poor. This broader perspective to why so many Haitians must immigrate to help their families is important to know because it is the real reason why Haiti is so poor even today, rather than reasons of political instability. Like Haiti and other from poor countries that were affected by colonialism feel the need to go elsewhere for work to support other family members or their community.

Immigration has become a tradition in Haiti. When young men who have finished high school or reached a certain age seek to make a better life for themselves and their family, they often go to another country to do so. Most of the time when they get to these countries, they are not often time welcomed. Exploitation, humiliation, exclusion, threat and unjust laws are all against their well-being and yet are heaped upon them. Access are not given to them because they do not belong to these communities. In the search for a just participatory society, exploration of ways to achieve this goal it leads to such questions as: "How do we live in community without seeing the presence of the stranger, outsiders, immigrants or foreigners as a threat? How do we look at those who look, talk, dress, eat and walk different than us as sisters and brothers? How do we make our world a common home for everyone to feel belonging?"

In his paper, "Building Community" Gardner explains that "because of the nature of the world we live in, our communities must be pluralistic and adaptive, fostering individual freedom and responsibility within a framework of group obligation." He also shows how "traditional community was often unwelcoming to strangers and all too ready to reduce its communication with the external world." He suggests that "present-day communities be in continuous and effective touch with the outside world, and our system of values requires that they be inclusive." (Gardner, 47) understands that without the inclusion of all groups the communities cannot a healthy one. However, to achieve this goal of healthy communities through belongingness some crucial elements must be considered.

In his book, *Philosophies of Exclusion*, Philip Cole suggests to "draw a boundary that constitutes insiders and outsiders in a way that embodies the principles of equal respect and concern for humanity as such – not only insiders"

A prominent scholar of African American background W.E.B DuBois in a piece for spiritual thriving emphasized on the importance of personhood. In his search to facilitate integration of African American in the American society, Du Bois was not only focused on the material part of the American dream but personhood, togetherness and harmony were also concepts at the center of his work. As Du Bois writes of his vision, “Work, culture, liberty—all these we need, not singly, but together, not successively but together, each growing and aiding each, and all striving toward that vaster ideal that swims before the Negro people, the ideal of human brotherhood.”[1] Du Bois is calling out the need for togetherness because for him that is a fundamental way to live as human. People who come from other places are not only seeking to gain a better life by obtaining material gain but also needing for their personhood to be respected and taken into consideration. The question now becomes now how do we make that happen? From experience I found out that there are three that must be taken into consideration to bring about this to reality.

I believe these three elements are very essential in making our world a common home for everybody: welcoming, empathy, and security.

### **Welcoming**

I remember that I was in a Biology class at Fox Valley Technical in Appleton, WI where we were conducting a group project. One American student opted to not work in the same group with me because he said that he could not understand me because I spoke English with a French accent he complained and left our work group. Well, today I understand that it was more than that. I used this story as a personal example of being in a place where you do not belong, people automatically reject me because I am different, my different was not appreciated yet I have the obligation to stay in that place because of the need for survival and to prepare a better future. Although, this quandary can make one question your humanity and feeling humiliated. All these negative feelings that immigrants feel when they are not welcomed, they do not feel belonging or are actively rejected have consequences on the relationships between humans. I felt rejected this day and told myself “I came here with a purpose, have self-control and be patient; don’t let them take you down.” I understood that it was part of the learning process which would eventually lead to cross-cultural maturation in myself if in no one else.

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[1] B., Du Bois W. E., Randall Kenan, and Cheryl Gilkes. *The Souls of Black Folk*. (New York: Signet Classics, 2012), 15



Sometimes you will meet people who are so ignorant and are simply not open to learning from you, even though you would hope to learn from them. How can we feel safe around each other if we are not feeling a significant sense of appreciation and belonging?

Form this experience, I discover the importance of making people feel the sense of belonging. For instance, for an immigrant, it is challenging to try to keep their identity while trying to adjust themselves to the culture or environment of the foreign land. Once, the citizen of the developed countries, show that they accept and understand the immigrants among you, the immigrants will eventually forget about their differences and start to feel like they are part of the same human family as you.

## **Empathy**

My experience made me more appreciative of other cultures, brought me more awareness of the difficulties of integrating, and made me more open to new ways of life. I have come to realize how important and beneficial cultural diversity is. We can all learn to meet individuals where they are, be good hosts to guests, understand our differences, and celebrate them as well as the things we share in common. We can empathize with others and therefore more readily accept our brothers and sisters' behavior and need while also expressing our own needs appropriately. For example, during my college time in Wisconsin, my roommate was Mexican. While in relation to him, I had to adapt myself to his customary way of being which differed from my own. This was especially the case when it came to meal planning and eating! However, I was able to share my culture and food with him which he also appreciated learning about and experiencing.

My experience of being an outsider is part of my identity formation, it allows me to understand and feel the need for welcoming, empathy, and safety to make others feel belonging. Often times immigrants flee our countries because we are looking for a better life but unfortunately, people are more likely to help those with whom they have similarities which can make it particularly difficult for certain immigrants to receive help. As humans we must appreciate each and every person for who they are. "To experience a sense of belonging, we need to reclaim our humanity and place more value on the power of relationships.[2]"

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[2] "Excerpt: A Sense of Belonging." Kinfolk. March 22, 2018. Accessed July 01 , 2020. <https://kinfolk.com/excerpt-a-sense-of-belonging/>.

We must support each other to live up to our acknowledgement of their fundamental human rights. We cannot let fears and assumptions govern our compassion for others. As someone who is inspired to be a faith leader, I believe the church, or any religious setting, has a role to play in the process of helping people to learn to create environment where the outsiders can feel a sense of belonging. While the church is still viewed as moral institution and people still believe in their religious leaders, it is crucial we use this opportunity of the influence of the church to bring our contribution forward to heal what is broken in our world. The bible can still be used as the basis of reference for moral laws and social justice.

## **Safety**

Feeling welcome is important because it will create the sense of security. The foundation of the relationship between the foreigners and the citizens of the land would determine the outcome of the safeness.

A spiritual striving for safety would make the world a place where people from other part of the world feel welcome and free to seek better life for themselves and their family. Where they do not feel threatening or not be seen as a threat. Those who have opportunity open their home and heart to help those who come into their home country to seek help.

## **Conclusion**

Indeed, a sense of belongingness will make our world a place where everybody feels safe. If we learn to treat the outsiders as brothers and sisters, this will help all of us to remain human. It is important not to see outsiders as criminals and threats but rather to see the as fellow human and give them the opportunity to contribute to the economic, social, and cultural growth in the society. If we learn to meet individuals where they are, be good hosts to guests, understand our differences, and celebrate these differences as well as the things we share in common, we will be able to empathize with others and therefore more readily accept our brothers and sisters' behavior and need. This need not come at the cost of having our own needs met. Our needs and their needs are not mutually exclusive. I believe that once we show immigrants that we accept and understand them and have learned to live with our differences and appreciate them as God's gifts, eventually differences will no longer serve as barriers to helping those in need. Everyone will start to feel like they are part of the same human family. Then, the dream of having a world that feels like a common home will become a reality.

## **UN 75: shaping our future together**

Author:

RAMWELL, Wayne

Video [here](#).

# **United Nations at 75: shaping our future together**

Author:

SANDERS, Jake

## **Introduction**

This essay looks at what the UN's role in 2045 could look like and how a changing world may facilitate this. Recent years have seen an acceleration in attempts by states to deliberately weaken the influence of international institutions by promoting nationalism for short-term political gain. Thus, crises which require unprecedented amounts of international cooperation – such as climate change prevention, refugee rights, access to basic resources and technological advancement are all substantially impeded. Consequentially, we risk the historic work of the United Nations in improving the human existence being upended by nationalism and the politicization of climate change and refugees by nationalists. To prevent this, bold reforms are required which, whilst still upholding the institution's role as a global forum for cooperation, will encourage the United Nations to progressively take on a more independent role. It is more vital than ever that our global society is re-coordinated in a way that facilitates the survival and success of our civilization. I firmly believe that the UN can help champion this.

## **Climate change prevention**

There is ongoing evidence that commitments to emission reductions are being undone or ignored by states. Most notably the United States' decision to part from COP21, under the pretense that emission cuts would be economically damaging to US industries (BBC News, 2019). Additionally, an influential report has revealed that many national carbon emission pledges are not enough to keep global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius (Watson et al., 2019). At the core of these developments is the fear that environmental commitments are politically divisive if not unpopular with many voters. This has been due to a gradual politicization of climate change science. National leaders' frequent insistence on manipulating the messaging surrounding climate change so as to present it as either harmless or a scam concocted by adversaries not only destabilizes the country's democracy – as public trust in experts declines but also sees damage occur globally – leading to runaway climate change and international instability. In the absence of state willingness to push for further commitments, the UN should to expand upon its current role within climate change negotiations.

Under such conditions the UN is morally compelled to, in the interest of the welfare of all humanity, take the lead in these negotiations itself. In this future, the UN could take a more aggressive approach by directly engaging with industries and corporations - forging deals to compensate them for their loss of income caused from the transition to renewables. To counter ignorance on climate change it is vital that in future years the UN give greater support and a platform to scientific research and openly condemn states which refute science.

### **Promoter of new technology**

To help mobilize policy reform, supporting up-and-coming technological advancements limiting the impact of climate change would be another area which the UN could expand upon by 2045. By investing in new ideas and theories which may include carbon dioxide extraction from the atmosphere as well as continuing to support ever more extensive tree-planting initiative schemes, the UN can better prepare citizens and governments by offering better alternatives to dealing with the climate crisis than those which already exist. As such, by 2045 one should hope that the UN is a key promoter of emerging technologies which increase the dignity of all life.

### **Take a firm stance in support of Climate Change Refugees**

Moreover, the currently ambiguous status of climate refugees must also be addressed. Data indicates that the potential for a climate change-driven refugee crisis within this century is high (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2018). The absence of a legal framework to protect those at risk further complicates the issue. Although the Ioane Teitiota case essentially ‘opens the door’ for future recognition, far more work must be done. A revision of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees to incorporate climate change refugees would be an encouraging start. As with action on climate change, it is probable that many states would object to a revision. As such, it is vital that the UN once again take the lead by increasing awareness and thus support for reform in the face of state opposition. If the UN cannot force states to adopt these changes, then it must help to increase public pressure on this issue through media and outreach so as to normalize the issue of climate change refugees. Commencing with this initiative now will help accelerate public awareness on the issue, thus leading to gradual pressure on states to change their stance. As such it is possible to envision a world in 2045 in which the rights of climate refugees have finally been acknowledged – thus averting a potential humanitarian disaster.

## **Reform**

Whilst we have thus far spoken mostly about how the UN could incite reform from states, it is also important to consider changes the UN itself can make to better facilitate a more prosperous and secure world. Firstly, when reviewing the ways in which the UN could seek to assert itself, we can also address how this could look for the role of the UN General Secretary. In 2045 a more independently minded UN could seek to position the UN Secretary-General role as being increasingly connected to the global public. By drawing on state government's inability to act on crises as discussed previously, the UN could be given an opportunity to better assert itself with a more visible role for the Secretary-General than even that of today by gaining greater respect than even that of state leaders. To help facilitate this new role, the organization must do everything it can to eliminate disinformation online portraying the UN as a negative force associated with conspiracy theories. Secondly, it is important to remember that international organizations are vulnerable to attacks from those decrying their relevancy. Therefore, the UN should seek to constantly remain relevant by acknowledging growing calls for reform such as to the Security Council, which by 2045 should at least include Brazil, Nigeria and India.

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## **What action should we take now to make a better world for future generations?**

Author:

SERFIOTI, Anastasia

“No country, no community is able to solve the complex problems of our world alone,” says former UN Secretary-General António Guterres. And he is, naturally, right. Inspired by the 58th United Nations Graduate Study Program, this work will mainly focus on a few major topics that threaten today’s global society and whose confrontation should result in a better world for future generations.

To begin with, fighting piracy to ensure maritime security certainly needs to be of primary importance. The danger and the daily difficulties in which civilians mainly in the Gulf of Aden, in the Horn of Africa and in the Indian Ocean live due to the acts of piracy are constant. These acts undermine international humanitarian efforts in Africa and in Asia and endanger the security of one of the most important maritime routes which secures the access route to the Suez Canal.

The international community must continue its efforts to combat piracy at sea and on land; by helping countries in the troubled regions to strengthen their own capacities to combat piracy. Some more targeted actions ought to include the reinforcement of patrols in order to prevent the hijacking of buildings and the taking of crew hostages in pirate attacks, the continuation of the contribution to the security of maritime trade routes and international navigation and World Food Program (WFP) ship escort operations to secure the delivery of food aid by sea.

Another topic that requires a more coordinated approach is information and cyber security. Information and communication technologies, which have advanced considerably and are widely used in all areas of human activity, have accelerated post-industrial development and the emergence of a global society information by representing today a major factor of social development. Nevertheless, this goes hand in hand with the emergence of new threats to international peace and security.

Strengthening the security of global telematic systems and helping combat terrorism and information crime is one thing. Determining the lawfulness of the use of personal data retrieved by information and communication technologies so as to fight crime is another. Governments should develop intelligence operation standards and means via global information infrastructures and frame the hostile activities. Furthermore, the prohibition of the use of information and communication

technologies aiming the damage of essential infrastructure installations is a key in the establishment of a "cyber-identification" system validating or refuting the actor behind each digital act. Software providing this sort of verification system are already available in the market allowing governments to choose from a large variety of applications that will eventually build confidence between the authorities and the civilians with regard to the digital safety of the latter.

Last but not least, the fight against arms trafficking must become a top priority for our multilateral community. The uncontrolled arms proliferation poses a threat to peace and security, particularly in Africa, since it is today at the intersection of four major threats that favor the birth of "gray areas": regional conflicts, failed states, transnational organized crimes and terrorism.

The trafficking of weapons in post-conflict societies must be limited in order to respect the priority the Security Council gives to the protection of civilians and to comply with international humanitarian law, human rights and international criminal law. The role of the local authorities and the population in this fight by denouncing the illegal holders of these weapons is important, especially since it is them the consequences weigh on. The uncontrolled circulation of arms threatens already fragile peace and reconciliation processes and undermines international efforts to strengthen the rule of law and social justice in conflict and post-conflict societies.

Embargoes and the integration of gun tracking, and customization technologies are vital so as to control the illicit transfer and manufacture of arms and light weaponry in all their aspects. Moreover, the registration of brokers, the granting of licenses and authorizations for brokerage activities in order to eliminate all kinds of illicit acts carried out in areas under state jurisdiction are necessary as well. Arms confiscated, seized or collected must be destroyed, unless the weapons concerned are duly marked and registered to a legitimate state or authority.

In addition, all countries should commit to hold arms only to meet their legitimate security needs, at a level consistent with their self-defense needs, including ensuring their ability to participate in United Nations sustaining operations. They ought to cooperate for these purposes and to raise awareness for the nature and gravity of the problems associated with the illicit arms manufacturing and trafficking.

The commitment of exporting countries to supply arms only to governments, in accordance with appropriate restrictive regional and international criteria for the export of arms and the commitment to produce arms only for the purposes of targeted exports and of checking, creating and maintaining national inventories of weapons legally held by the national authorities are the keys if



aiming to ensure the principles of effective peace-keeping, state-building and legitimate defense of each territory.

The effective disposal of surplus arms, which includes the safe storage and rapid and efficient destruction of these weapons and their ammunition, preferably under international supervision should be encouraged especially in post-conflict situations, alongside disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants into civilian and civilized life.

Controls at national level, such as effective border and customs arrangements through international cooperation and enhanced information exchange should be implemented. Governments need to commit to fighting and reversing the “culture of violence”, through increased participation and sensibilization of the public, through education and public awareness programs.

To sum up, this paper aimed to highlight a few factors causing the destabilization of today’s world order that need to be addressed so as to achieve a better world for future generations. In other words, states and local authorities should be encouraged to ratify or accede to international instruments against terrorism and transnational organized crime in order to maintain a common global position in preventing, combating and eliminating illicit activities in all domains and territories. Thus, the promotion of a dialogue and a pacifist culture by prioritizing education through awareness programs involving all sectors of society remain the alpha and the omega of our best strategy against the disruptive aspects of human nature.

## **Where would you advise the UN Secretary-General to prioritize his focus? How can we collectively bridge the gap between the world we hope for and the world that may result if we don't better manage current trends?**

Author:

SON, Brian

Every Secretary-General (SG) is under pressure to make the United Nations (UN) fit for purpose – the SG would move to reassert a leadership role using his full responsibilities as Chief Executive. With extensive knowledge of UN operations, the SG will set out to make prevention ‘the priority of everything we do together,’ break down the ‘straitjacket of bureaucracy’ and overhaul the UN development system and peace and security architecture. Each SG interprets the role differently, however. Discussing the organization’s future, the general view is that a SG is like a Supreme Court justice—you never know what you’re going to get.

In his vision statement, the current Secretary-General António Guterres outlined the many challenges he will face in leading the U.N. forward during the next decade (vision statement, 2016). Because of his previous experience as the former Prime Minister of Portugal and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), he addressed the necessity of ‘connecting the dots’ — recognizing that there can be no peace without development, no sustainable development without peace, and no peace or sustainable development without respect for human rights and the rule of law. To that end, he suggested that the way forward must be one of inclusivity that recognizes the value of all peoples. The question is where to next from here?

This paper wishes to present two key recommendations. Firstly, the SG should take an incremental approach that refines the overarching vision of the UN to create a more integrated, field-oriented UN. Secondly, the SG should advocate for a limited number of intergovernmental reforms - articulate an advocacy agenda by tapping his networks and his office’s authority to foster collective leadership by a likeminded coalition.

### **Background**

The UN Charter describes the SG as the organization’s ‘chief administrative officer.’ Beyond that, the leader’s desired qualities, candidate-selection process, and length of tenure were left open to interpretation. The UN website describes the SG’s role as ‘equal parts diplomat and advocate, civil

servant and CEO.’ The SG is required to uphold the values of the United Nations, even at the risk of challenging member states.

The United Nations’ first SG, Trygve Lie, called it the most difficult job in the world. Some of the difficulty lies in the job description. Though U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, several years before the UN creation, saw the SG’s role as that of a ‘world moderator,’ the UN charter refers to the SG as the body’s ‘chief administrative officer.’ Each of the nine secretaries to date has tended to favor one of these roles.

Kofi Annan (1997–2006), for example, was considered an activist, ‘world moderator’– style SG and won a Nobel Peace Prize, but he faced many criticisms during his tenure, including for his management of the Oil-for-Food program in Iraq and his response to the Rwandan genocide. His successor, Ban Ki-moon (2007–2016), was seen as more of an administrator, and he successfully pushed forward the Paris Agreement and increased the number of women in UN senior management. However, he too faced criticism, including for his handling of the Haiti cholera crisis.

Despite the challenges that all secretaries-general have faced, what appears to be constant is the ambiguous nature of the position itself—a role bifurcated between the tasks of ‘secretary’ and ‘general,’ and almost always more of the former than the latter.

### **What is likely to be the future focus? Where to from here?**

While the SG will continue to focus on world’s most pressing issues, from climate change to civil wars, competition among powerful member states is increasingly undercutting his ability to facilitate international peace and security.

### **Clear Vision**

Looking ahead, one shortcoming of the SG’s reform strategy is to make the UN ‘less bureaucratic and more efficient, productive and field oriented.’ The UN should take a more holistic view to assisting the membership with staff ideally adopting a ‘whole-of-UN’ approach to designing and executing operations. For example, the Security Council was set up so that no enforcement action could be authorized against the wishes of one of its five permanent members. As the scope of great power competition extends to new regions and issue areas, the SG will inevitably find it more difficult to engineer workable Security Council majorities to back his conflict mitigation and resolution efforts.

Reform should be organized around his vision of a more integrated and field-oriented UN. As improved intra-UN coordination would increase effectiveness, especially in addressing policy

challenges that do not fall under a single UN entity's mandate or cut across the human rights, peace and security and development pillars. There are also political advantages. Donors want the UN to redirect more funding to the field, reduce duplication and create clearer lines of authority. Recipient governments, local authorities, partner organizations and other beneficiaries would also enjoy greater clarity about who is in charge.

To mobilize support and overcome these barriers, the reform program will need an overarching institutional vision. This vision should be accompanied by a small number of strategic principles to set priorities, guide the reform process, and unify likeminded staff and governmental and non-governmental actors. The risk is a disjointed process unable to attract sustained financial and political support.

### **Get Involved in Global Standard Setting and Intergovernmental Reform**

Finally, the SG must articulate an advocacy agenda and foster collective leadership to advance it. With good reason, the SG has avoided proposing changes to intergovernmental bodies, nor has the SG adopted a signature issue the way his predecessor did with climate change. The office's limitations caution against rushing to promote politically sensitive changes that might bog down institutional reforms. But pressure on the SG to advocate for broader changes will intensify. The SG will eventually need an advocacy agenda or risk his change leadership being dismissed as bureaucratic tinkering.

Regardless of what issues is adopted, the SG will need to be realistic about his influence. The SG may want to forego serving as chief leader. Instead, the agenda may be better served by tapping on networks, convening, and agenda setting power to foster an inclusive change process. The SG's office can support the formation of a transnational advocacy coalition composed of likeminded reformers including governments, academics, parliamentarians, statesmen, international civil servants and activists. The SG may also appoint a prominent expert or statesmen to coordinate the reform effort and cajole North-South middle powers committed to multilateralism to take the lead in intergovernmental negotiations.

For his part, the SG can contribute and foster intra-coalition cohesion, ensure proposals are politically feasible, lobby behind-the-scenes, and help avoid common tripwires. One possibility is a proposed 2020 Summit to coincide with the United Nations 75th anniversary. And likeminded governments should be prodded to co-chair the proceedings. The SG can also facilitate the participation of non-governmental coalition members, and his personal interventions can also help navigate divisive issues and any last-minute obstacles.

The UN is not conducive to strong leadership, and the SG as part of the ‘good offices’ responsibility of the position must continue to rally world public opinion around issues that wouldn’t necessarily have been addressed otherwise. It is critical that the SG practices independence and impartiality to ensure broad regional representation in UN leadership.

## **Saving natural resources to protect future generations**

Author:

SYRYTSA, Viktoriya

The actions of the present generations have become global and the results of these actions will directly affect future generations. The quality of life of people in 2050 directly depends on our today's decisions. As far back as 1987, while assessing our impact on the future, the World Commission on Environment and Development stated that “[w]e borrow environmental capital from future generations with no intention or prospect of repaying ... We act as we do because we can get away with it: future generations do not vote; they have no political or financial power; they cannot challenge our decisions.” [1]

If we seriously consider letting our descendants live at least as we live, then most likely we would like to leave resources for future generations to get electricity, heat and construction materials; clean water to drink; unpolluted soil to grow food; clean air to breathe; a “friendly” climate to do farming; pristine forests and more.

We can also take another stance in favor of technology. Technologies can help future generations live better, allow them to find and use new resources, purify water and soil, capture carbon dioxide, restore natural forests, receive clean energy, allow them to feed 10 billion people, etc. If we believe that technologies will solve today's global problems, we should already start developing these technologies since the large-scale implementation of technological changes takes about 25-30 years. Any industry reform today will have a direct impact on people's lives in 50 years. The life expectancy of factories or homes built today is more than 50 years. Even if now we have “super-clean” technology on paper, it will be introduced only when the life span of already constructed buildings ends.

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[1] Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. (1987). *Our common future*. Retrieved from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf>

## **The problem of short-cycle planning and permanent political institutions**

Unfortunately, the existing national and international management systems do not provide opportunities and do not motivate the authorities to plan and evaluate their actions in the long run. Election cycles in most countries of the world range from 3 to 5 years, hence the interests of the ruling elites and lobbyists extend to such a short period. This problem exacerbates in the countries where the political regime suppresses policy change mechanisms. Consequently, it is clear that so far there are no institutions in the world that will enable planning for 30-40 years ahead.

At the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, meeting developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations was recognized as one of the most important principles [2]. Back then, 190 countries publicly agreed that although present generations were using resources for development, they should not compromise future generations' need for resources. Unfortunately, in the years since then, the situation with resources availability and the overexploitation of renewable resources has worsened significantly. Nevertheless, in terms of protecting the rights of future generations, some countries went further than others. Israel, Finland, Hungary and New Zealand, among a few others, have tried and are trying in different ways to introduce into the current political process the mechanisms for evaluating existing decisions from the point of view of future generations [3]. Each of these countries has created its own institutions of protection or, in other words, representations of future generations, in fact, giving a specific person the right to speak on behalf of future generations, influencing current politics and decision-making. The experience of their creation and functioning may be useful for other countries. The United Nations can play a significant role in facilitating this process of establishing guardians for future generations.

The creation and introduction of such institutions significantly improves the long-term sustainability of society, allows to set and share common goals, and to raise society's moral standards through caring for future generations.

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[2] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992. (New York, 1993). *Volume I. Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*. Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/Agenda%2021.pdf>

[3] For more information see: <http://futureroundtable.org/en/web/network-of-institutions-for-future-generations/roundtable>

## **Why is it important to protect the rights of future generations?**

Society cannot live without natural resources. No matter how much information and communications technology is praised today, the basis of any world economy is resources, primarily energy. Faced with resource and technological problems, future generations are unlikely to have enough resources and capital to urgently reset the economies and industries on a “clean” and, accordingly, more resource-independent footing.

Why is there no real long-term alternative to the clean or green development? Clean technologies have a minimal effect on the life cycles of renewable resources, which means that we conserve soil, fresh water and other renewable resources for the long term. Clean technologies minimize waste, i.e. production waste is used as a product for another production, which at the same time reduces the consumption of mineral resources. Clean technologies involve avoiding the use of hydrocarbons as fuel, which means moving away from rapidly exhausting oil and gas and the transition to other energy sources.

Even though clean technologies are not yet economically viable or may seem utopian, today there are enough resources and capital to organize the transition to an economy based on the above principles.

However, we should not recklessly rely on technology as technology itself is not a cure-all. Technology reflects legislative, tax, cultural changes; it is based on the principles and laws of a certain society and a certain economy. Therefore, we cannot simply copy the technology from one country and introduce it in another, most likely, less developed country. Accordingly, solutions that will enable future generations to live in prosperity can only appear if we deeply consider technological, social and political changes that will occur in the next decades.

The task before us is large-scale and extremely difficult. The mechanisms for protecting the rights of future generations at the national level (as discussed above) can be highly effective in initiating change. Such legislative innovations will make it possible to look at current decisions from a different angle. Evidently, today it is difficult to think about future generations, let alone their rights. But since we all want a better personal future for our children, we should try to strive for a better societal future for them.



## **Do you think you/the next generation will be more or less mobile, socially, economically, physically?**

Author:

TAN, Yit Fong

To a large extent, the answer for now seems to be no particularly for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. With the ongoing Syrian, South Sudanese, Somali refugee crisis and Rohingya genocide in Myanmar that have spanned more than a decade with no end in sight, it is hard to believe our next generation of persecuted minorities will be more mobile physically or socioeconomic wise.

In my limited exposure to Rohingya migrants in my home country of Malaysia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) card was the most coveted piece of document one could have. It meant no more unlawful detentions and extortions from local police nor fearing when the next raid would come despite still lacking access to healthcare, work and schooling. However, with the recent coronavirus pandemic, the Malaysian government quickly labelled refugees as “illegal immigrants with a UNHCR card” and stated they were not a signatory of the United Nations’ 1951 Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol. Hence, performed mass arrests and deportations while detention centers quickly became hubs for the coronavirus on top of refusing further access to boats carrying Rohingya refugees, leaving them stranded.

The deep distrust of the United Nations, seen typically as a tool of “Western” superpowers, is not necessarily new. Thousands protested the Malaysian government’s ratification of the UN’s International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to the point the government announced it would not ratify it on 23 November 2018. On the other hand, Germany’s regular far-right protests against refugees coupled with rising support for parties that have clear stance on anti-immigration policies, refugees are increasingly perceived as invasion of the “Middle East” or “Islam”.

As much as the doctrine of human rights are universal, safeguarding every human being’s right to work, education, healthcare, freedom of expression and from slavery and torture, it is also a highly politicized discourse especially when it comes to migration management within nation states. As with the theme of this year’s Graduate Study Programme — “United Nations at 75: Shaping Our Future Together” — the ongoing refugee crises throughout the world should be addressed at the local level,

national and international arena. Thus, on a local level, as partnerships between UNCHR and NGOs have at times remained contentious, efforts should be made to improve channels of communication and the readiness to act on human rights information at high political levels. In 1999, UNHCR channeled \$295 million through 544 NGO implementing partners where some 50% of all UNHCR programs are now implemented by international NGOs (Steiner et. al: 125). A strengthened partnership between on the ground understanding of disenfranchised populations and the underlying tensions causing conflicts with international cooperation and security is much needed.

Not to mention working not only with relief NGOs for humanitarian assistance but also to foster cultures of tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue while amplifying voices of refugees. In the case of the Rohingyas, across the sea, despite the Indonesian government refusing permission to land to stranded refugees, fishermen who initially protested the Indonesian government's decision had decided to defy authorities and sheltered the refugees in their own homes. As local community leaders had worked together with the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network to help the plight of the Rohingyas, is a wonderful example of the empowerment of local actors.

When UN agencies called for a comprehensive, people-oriented approach to the irregular movement of migrants and refugees in Southeast Asia through the Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean at Bangkok on December 2014, civil society organizations were not represented. Drafting an action plan that hoped to tackle trafficking syndicates together with the EU and ASEAN, on the other hand short term solutions such as temporary refuge and short-term visas were favored instead (Caballero-Anthony 2018).

There is a need, and also potential, for UNHCR to conduct beyond humanitarian action addressing the problems that generate forced migration with other UN agencies. Although this is another issue altogether given the UNHCR does not have the mandate to intervene politically, Jean-Pierre Hocke mentioned when he took up the position of High Commissioner on 1 January 1986:

Consider the fact that there are some 3 million refugees in Pakistan, 2 million in Iran, over a million in Sudan, hundreds of thousands in Somalia, and tens of thousands in various other countries in Asia, Africa, and Central America. Unlike the not too distant past when most refugees had the opportunity to integrate into and become useful and productive members of their host societies, today's refugees often find themselves confined in overcrowded refugee camps and settlements. For many people this has become the normal way of life. Its perpetuation crushes human dignity and reduces the human capacity for hope and regeneration. (Hocke 1989: 37-8).

It is clear that the current solution is but temporary and unsustainable, leaving the next generation of the refugees behind socially and economically as a result of mobility becoming increasingly criminalized. Working within a climate where asylum seekers and refugee protection continues to deteriorate worldwide, international protection principles cannot hold in many nation states that have refused help.

The UNHCR's current protection-orientated discourse concerning refugees, a shift from its preceding security justifications approach, is a step-in depoliticizing displacement. However, as Peter Nyers (2006) suggests that the victimization of refugees follows from their construction as the antithesis of the nation-state citizen. Accordingly, refugees do not belong to a national community, due to this their ability and right to political participate are denied. Hence, refugees no longer stand under the protection of a nation state order since they are framed to be on the outside. The need for help and protection for refugees then is almost usually with the UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations. Thus, as a global security actor, rethinking the "moral obligations" discourse and situating refugees within nation-state ideals — rather than threatening the security of the state — is needed in the shrinking humanitarian space.

As such it is key to localize the plight of refugee peoples as their own states fail to fulfil its obligations towards its citizens to the cultural language of the new community. Hence, as the picture of Alan Kurdi on the beach was so salient in turning the tide for refugee migration while Aceh has consistently mentioned Muslim solidarity with the Rohingyas were flickers of hope in such perilous times, it has shown the need to localize institutionalized ideas on human rights.

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# Including persons with disabilities during post-conflict reconstruction

Author:

TEMBA, Elizabeth

## Introduction

The number of persons with disabilities is 15 % of the world population [1] Moreover, this is due to 2018 world health organization report. According to the center of disability studies, approximately 16% of all disabilities are war and conflict-related [2]. A person with disabilities faces different physical, emotional, economic, psychological, medical, and cultural challenges in the communities due to stigmatization. However, those who are in areas affected by conflicts face more challenges than those in peaceful areas. Examples of challenges include sexual abuse, physical limitations, economic challenges, insecurity, and hunger.

There are different methods of peacebuilding by involving the opposing groups during the period of conflict. The primary purpose of peacebuilding is to stop the violence and human rights abuses during the conflict. During peace negotiations, there are various groups such as civil societies, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and victims of wars. Persons with disabilities have been forgotten, especially those who got disability as the impact of the war. There are many reasons why persons with disabilities need to be included in post-conflict reconstruction.

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[1] due to the statistical data of the World Health Organization 2018. *Disability Statistics*, March 30, 2020.  
<https://www.doh.gov.ph/persons-with-disabilities>

[2] United States Institute of Peace, *The Involvement of persons with disabilities in conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding Efforts*, August 2014.  
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2014/08/world-institute-disability-wid-working-paper-involvement-persons-disabilities>

## Discussion

It is important to include persons with disabilities during post-conflict reconstruction because of community rehabilitation. During political conflicts and armed conflicts, many people lose their lives while others are left with permanent disabilities. The inclusion of persons with disabilities will enable them to disclose all human rights violations that they faced during the wars. There are persons with disabilities who are sexually assaulted, and these include but not limited to rape. Not only that, but there are war victims who got disability due to the armed conflicts that become long term refugees. The inclusion of persons with disabilities in post-conflict reconstruction will enable the perpetrators to be accountable for their crimes and avoid relapse of the conflict.

The inclusion of persons with disabilities during the post-conflict reconstruction will contribute to community decision making and implementations. In the book of James Charlton [3] The book provides an overview of disability oppression that shows its similarities and differences in racism, sexism, and colonialism. The slogan "Nothing about us without us." Using that quote reminds us that policies about persons with disabilities without them being part of policymakers are not acceptable. Also, to make and implement the policies that will protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities must be included in decision making and implementation. The perpetrators who are the cause of wars need to be accountable for their wrongs not only for them being taken to the International Criminal Court of Justice but to compensate the victims especially persons with disabilities because most of them after the war they face a lot of economic challenges due to the physical limitations.

Moreover, the inclusion of persons with disabilities in post-conflict reconstruction will help to change the view towards persons with disabilities from the charity model to the global or inclusive model of persons with disabilities as equal participants in the peace process. There is stigmatization towards persons with disabilities that they are incapable of making decisions, they cannot contribute to community development, and they have been discriminated against and considered inferior in the communities. It is time to create a world where persons with disabilities will be included during post-conflict reconstruction because it will change the negative perception that people have towards persons with disabilities.

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[3] James Charlton, *The Dimension of Disability Oppression*, 2006

The inclusion of persons with disabilities in post-conflict reconstruction will help in the contribution of the personal development of persons with disabilities. The inclusion of persons with disabilities in post-conflict reconstruction will enable the implementation of various developmental projects to support persons with disabilities. When they become part of post-conflict reconstruction, they will be able to propose various economic projects to help them in economic empowerment.

Furthermore, the inclusion of persons with disabilities in post-conflict reconstruction will facilitate the coordination and networking of specialized intervention. These include Institutions that provide professional and technical support to the community. In areas with conflicts, national and international development programs are implemented, such as education, health care, food, and agriculture. These programs will be beneficial to persons with disabilities only if they are living in the included communities. Including persons with disabilities will enable them to network in various groups such as youth, women, and children, and that will fasten equal distribution of medical facilities, education, water sanitation, and food services.

Lastly, the inclusion of persons with disabilities in post-conflict reconstruction will raise awareness of political participation for persons with disabilities. In the process of building a nation that conflicted, there are needs of good political leaders. The country's leaders have the duty to make laws and implement those laws for the country's better chances. Lack of inclusion of persons with disabilities in politics can contribute to countries makes laws and policies that are not protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. To include the rights of persons with disabilities in domestic laws, they need to actively participate in the political arena.

## **Conclusion**

We want to create a world where persons with disabilities will be included during post-conflict reconstruction for social, political, and economic changes. The challenges that persons with disabilities face today are because of poor policies and laws that do not protect the rights of persons with disabilities. International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) [4] Is the international treaty that protects the rights of persons with disabilities, but many States has failed to comply with the treaty in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities especially in the states with political conflicts. It is the duty of international community to ensure peace and security is maintained in the world.

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[4] UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; resolution/adopted by General Assembly, January 24, 2007

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## **What can you do as an individual to create the world we want? What are you doing for a better world?**

Author:

TSANG, Laura Emeline

As an environmental scientist, fundamentally I care for the earth and believe living in harmony with Mother Nature is crucial. However, is ‘doing something or taking actions’ the only way for a better world? Actions speak louder than words - agree, but now that I am an unemployed graduate and keeping this thought would get me depressed and feeling useless/unsuccessful, as I am not part of the workforce - yet. Hence, I refuse to be defined by my work status.

It is part of life: I am in the lot like every young person and currently at a crossroad. Secure a job, get married, start a family, get health insurance? Name it; those words are juggling in my head. There is no such thing as right or wrong career path – what you make of your current situation is what matters. The stress/concern of filling your résumé exists. If you are lucky and get a call back, a potential employer might ask why it was blank? Either use Covid-19 as an excuse or an opportunity for self-development – your pick.

I chose opportunity. As an individual, I was given the chance to study abroad, which goes beyond memorizing facts and getting the grades. It was hard at times and rewarding to interact with people across the world. I was exposed to different teaching cultures, listened to diverse opinions, learned to state and explain my point of view while taking into consideration different perceptions. I believe people can create opportunities which sometimes need a bit of creativity as they are hidden to the naked eye. While I was stranded abroad, my creativity and audacity allowed me to ask an acquaintance, at that time, to trade language skills: French for Chinese. She is now a good friend and I got more than I expected from this trade. It is essential not to be too self-conscious at times and get over this fear of rejection. It is okay to make mistakes and being said no, drop the sensitive attitude and don’t take things too personally. Brush off incidents and move on.

I am young and willing to move things for change and contribute to the way forward for a better world but somehow along the way, I became skeptical – dark thoughts clouded my mind (we are still littering, we talk of sustainability but do not enforce it enough; the list goes on). I feel guilty because I am conscious, and my own existence contributes to the problem itself - I admit it: did I give up on



hope for a better world? Reflecting on it, I realized I am impatient, and change happens extremely slowly.

This pandemic situation constricts and limits your actions but not your thoughts. Through years and experience, I value and understand better the art of listening; listening to and being observant to others and primarily myself, giving people space to express themselves and allowing them time to find their own answers. It is amazing how lending an ear can do wonders. Above all is to let go; erase from your memory the ignorance and foolishness that are said at times. Learn to filter your listening and hold on to the small good actions of kindness while trying to show gratitude and gratefulness.

I have not lost faith in humanity, I believe in the good in people, which makes the world a better place. As a young girl, I was lucky to have a dedicated mother and father, who both worked and ran the household. Looking back, I know how to run a household, I am familiar with child-caring, and enjoy the domestic chores. Although my mother could not afford tertiary studies back in the days, she knew the importance of supporting our education – the question is now how to “*reprendre le flambeau*” and do better than her for the future generation? I know for sure that pursuing my master studies gave me exposure to the world outside of my country, which puts me a little step ahead of peers, by having the luxury to think critically, reflect on the actions and room to introspect.

Unfortunately, in my professional life, I cannot say the same. I am tired of lack of women in charge, marginalization and stigmatization of the women who feel the need to bow/step down, scared and being seen as the weaker sex. Or, the other extreme, women who do their job “*à la lettre*” are being labelled as tough and rigid. Excluding race and religion, as a young woman, all these issues are present in the workplace. I started my quest for answers, hoping to find them soon. True, I live by my own values and virtues, but I need some hope from the elder women out there – I hope to cross their paths soon. Unconsciously, younger girls are looking up to me but how can I lead them when I myself need guidance and reassurance.

My previous jobs allowed me to make the world a better place by organizing cleaning campaigns and implementing coastal adaptation works to protect the coast. I want to keep creating a world of more love, kindness, joy, peace and fun to live in. As a commitment to my future self, I hope to hold on to my belief that today’s contribution should always be for a greater good to beneficiate the future generations. Again, making a better world is not only through actions, but good thoughts, good intentions and in the being – how you feel and think of yourself. There are always opportunities to practice these. It is up to me to set things in motion and pray that the world will be a better place.

**What would your ideal world look like in 25 years - the UN's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary? What is different from the world you see today?**

Author:

WOO, Yeseul

Audio recording [here](#).

**What would your ideal world look like in 25 years - the UN's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary? What is different from the world you see today?**

Author:

YOGARAJAH CROOS, Amrutha

Audio recording [here](#).

## **United Nations at 75: shaping our future together - forms of action and collaboration that might be needed at the local, national and international levels**

Author:

ZAPROSYAN, David

Global challenges that the humanity is confronted with should be handled in a structured way, and this should be done at the local, national and international levels. On the other hand, there should be a cooperation between these levels, and the actions taken should be coordinated and logically linked with each other. There should be a cooperation between international entities and national states, as well as states and their regions and, under certain circumstances, between local and international levels directly. The cooperation is important as impetuses may come from each of the mentioned levels. It is logical to assume that local authorities will tackle local issues and national ones those that have impact on entire states. In the case of regional integration, in particular supranational organizations, their bodies will handle the issues faced by these entities, some of them having supranational law-making authorities with wide competences and even parliaments. Finally, discussions which lead to the establishment of specific instruments may begin also at the global (international) level, such as the UN, and then be implemented on national and local levels. In the last case, taking into account the involvement of a big number of actors and the intricacy of issues, the implementation mechanisms and respective documents should contain clear guidelines and explanations with regard to the context of adoption of such instruments and their implementation on national levels (national legal orders), so that unified interpretation and application on the national level may be possible.

It is important to understand that the action directed at tackling global problems that we are confronted with quite often should be taken at all the mentioned levels (and this should be done either simultaneously or consequently). The fact that this is realized by national states and international organizations is evidenced, for instance, by the content of resolutions of the General Assembly on the “Future we want” and “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” [1].

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[1] General Assembly Resolution adopted on 25 September 2015, A/RES/70/1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, General Assembly Resolution adopted on 27 July 2012, A/RES/66/288, „The future we want“.

In particular, it is expressly set up that for reaching the goals of even progress, including sustainable development and poverty eradication, one should guarantee “enabling environment at the national and international levels, as well as continued and strengthened international cooperation” [2]. It seems logical to contend that in this context the term “national” should be understood as encompassing also the subnational, regional and local levels. Even if the authors most probably wanted to mention two major levels – national and international – it is clear from the general content of the document that in order to achieve the mentioned goals actions should be taken also on the levels situated under the national one (subnational levels). This is evidenced, among others, by the following. Under the chapter on the “common vision” it is acknowledged that good governance at the national and international levels is essential for sustainable development [3]. However, under the chapter on the “institutional framework” it is concretized that the effective governance at the “local, subnational, national, regional and global levels [...] is critical for advancing sustainable development” [4]. In the same vein, all regional, national, subnational and local authorities are expressly encouraged to “develop and utilize sustainable development strategies”. Thus, when interpreting the terms “national” and “local” one should bear in mind that under certain circumstances they may be interchangeable.

On the other hand, it seems logical to assume that actions on all the mentioned levels should be taken in almost all the fields of societal relations. It is clear that this may depend on the delineation of competences between different levels within the structure of individual national states. However, when one has a look to the list of sustainable development goals established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [5], it seems obvious that for the achievement of each of them actions on all levels may be necessary and useful.

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[2] General Assembly Resolution adopted on 27 July 2012, A/RES/66/288, „The future we want“, para. 19.

[3] See footnote 2, para 10.

[4] Footnote 2, para. 76.

[5] Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, A/RES/70/1, „Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development“, page 14 and the description of the specific goals.

Provisions on specific goals, such as those on ending poverty, hunger, ensuring healthy lives, quality education, climate change and others do not always expressly mention that actions should be taken on all those levels. However, the general provisions make it clear that it is the case. For instance, the general provision on the “New Agenda” expressly states that “all of us will work to implement the Agenda within our own countries and at the regional and global levels” [6]. In the same vein it is set up that the Governments should carry out follow-up and review at the “national, regional and global levels” [7]. At this point it seems possible to assume that the terms “national” and “regional” may also be used interchangeably in international documents. Thus, one may conclude that international instruments differentiate mainly between “international and other” levels, using the terms “national, subnational, regional and local” interchangeably. The rationale behind this may be the fact that it is up to national states to delineate competences between different levels of the state power. On one hand, this may seem reasonable, in particular in the light of the principle of sovereignty. On the other hand, drafters of international instruments should bear in mind that this may be a difficult task[8] that may lead to a situation where it is not clear who is responsible for what on the national level (in particular, if the national legal orders do not contain clear criteria on the competences of different branches of the state power and different actors in general)[9]. This can endanger the effective implementation of policies adopted on the international level. Therefore, when drafting international instruments, one should have a close look to the specificities of organization, structure and competences delineation on national and subnational levels, effectively taking them into account and modelling the mechanisms on the international (global) level respectively. Specific mechanisms that may enable this are a subject of a longer analysis.

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[6] Footnote 5, para. 21.

[7] Footnote 5, para. 47. See also paras. 77-83 of the same document for more details on follow-up and review at the national, regional, and global levels.

[8] Such difficulties may be encountered even by countries that have long traditions of regional and local governance. For the discussion of the subject on the example of France and Germany, see, for instance, Vincent Hoffmann-Martinot and Hellmut Wollmann, “State and Local Government Reforms in France and Germany”, Springer 2006.

[9] Such criteria exist, for instance, in the form of constitutional and other legal provisions which define the competences of different branches of the state power.

# From states, to regions... to states? A proposal for re-shaping the multilateral order from a regionalist perspective

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**Summary:** The multilateral order is going backwards towards increasing protectionism and unilateralism. This paper argues that regional organizations can help in re-shaping the global order through creating a UN Committee of Regions and through promoting transregional non-State actors' relations.

Henri Cartier-Breson changed the history of photography through the 'decisive moment'; a photography as a fraction of a second that reveals the larger truth of a situation. The announcement made by Donald Trump that the US would cut off its funding for the WHO or the inability of the UNSC to sign a resolution on COVID-19 are 'decisive moments' that show the reality of a bigger picture: increased *conflictivity*, increased unilateralism and increased distrust that can be attributed to reactions against a world that transits towards the "Network Society"[1].

In the Network Society, information is the motor of society and the determinant of power, and it is transferred through networks, which exist at all scales and among all actors. This situation is shaped by the Digital Revolution, which has been accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has shown how challenges are global in their causes, their effects and their consequences, requiring thus collective action. Interconnectedness means that Nation-States as the basic actors of International Relations do not deliver anymore, yet the reaction towards the uncertainty of change has been to go back to the well-known Nation-States. In this regard, regional organizations can become essential in promoting relations between different States and can work as a middle way that eases agreement and substantive collective action.

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[1] Manuel Castells (2009). *The rise of the Network Society: The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture. Volume I*. 2nd edition Wiley-Blackwell, c. 1996.

## Comparing regional organizations

The 1990s and 2000s saw the “mushrooming of Regional Organizations” [2]: UNASUR, MERCOSUR, ALBA, APEC, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) or the African Union (AU) were added to the already existing European Union (EU), ASEAN and the Arab League. It created a map of organizations driven by different factors, be it common security threats (EU, SCO), political proximity (UNASUR) or fear to external domination and neo-colonization (AU, UNASUR), with different vectors for cooperation (free-trade, cultural exchange or security cooperation), varied levels of coordination (intergovernmental and supranational), diverse formal and informal methods and different levels of success that, nevertheless, have helped in reconciling position and enhancing preventive diplomacy.

The EU and ASEAN are often proclaimed to be the most successful organizations in surviving through time and boosting regional peace, which has led many to proclaim free-market integration as the most useful tool towards regional integration [3]. However, they are not exempt of problems nor from the damaging effects of the aforementioned dynamics, and the “magic formula” of durable regionalism is still to be discovered. Still, regional organizations have some characteristics that can help in reinforcing global multilateralism:

- They are usually based on geographical proximity, which makes them essential for solving regional tensions, as it has been the case in South East Asia and the African Union.
- They increase the power of smaller States vis-à-vis big States and can balance the rapport de forces; for example, ASEAN has relatively balanced economic relations with China[4], or the African Union has increased the leverage of African countries in the current negotiations with the EU of the post-Cotonou agreement.[5]

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[2] Lorenzo Fioramonti (2012). “Conclusion – Building Regions from Below: Has the Time Come for Regionalism 2.0?”, *The International Spectator*, Vol. 47, No. 1: 141-160.

[3] Richard Baldwin (2008). “Sequencing and Depth of Regional Economic Integration: Lessons for the Americas from Europe”, *The World Economy*, Vol. 31, No. 1: 5-29.

[4] Overview of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, online [https://asean.org/?static\\_post=overview-asean-china-dialogue-relations](https://asean.org/?static_post=overview-asean-china-dialogue-relations) (consulted on 05.07.2020)

[5] Maurizio Carbone (2019). “The Calm after the Storm: Plurilateral Challenges to the Post-2020 EU-ACP Partnership.” *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 57, S1: 141-151.



- They promote continuous informal diplomatic relations and environments where small countries do not feel threatened by “Western domination” can ease cooperation and make them more inclined to accept the enforceability of collective decisions.

However, regionalism does not fully prevent big countries in the region from adopting a leading role and, eventually, instrumentalizing the organization for their own interest, as has been criticized regarding South Africa in the African Union[6], the US in the Organization of American States[7] or Germany in the EU. Besides, the relation between regional organizations are not always peaceful, and they can force countries towards binary choices, with harmful results, as showed by the Ukrainian conflict. Finally, regional organizations, in order to exist and be functional, require a common ground of political and economic affinity that may not always be possible and may impede deep political transformations when they contradict this consensus, which can damage democracy, as the case of Greece during the “Eurodebt crisis”.

Therefore, whereas regional organizations are not a panacea and have limitations, they can be an asset for multilateralism. They can work as a middle step between the national and the international level that makes easier to cooperate effectively and substantially, as show the spreading of interregional economic agreements against the WTO system. Despite of its challenges, regional organizations will in the long term increased their relevance as the world become more multipolar and decolonization consolidates in countries becoming more independent and resilient. Moreover, the COVID-19 crisis will probably result in shorter supply-value chains, which is highly likely to increase the relevance or regional partners in economy. Besides, relations between regional organizations, be them formal, through inter-regional schemes such as ASEM or APEC, or informally, through transregional practices of exchanges between non-State actors, can be more effective in promoting mutual understanding and cooperation because the relation between the actors becomes more equal, and substantive cooperation is more likely to be achieved.

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[6] The Conversation, “It’s time South Africa tuned into Africa’s views about its role on the continent”, 24 January 2017, <https://theconversation.com/its-time-south-africa-tuned-into-africas-views-about-its-role-on-the-continent-71019> (consulted on 05.07.2020)

[7] Gordon Mace (2020). “Dynamics of Legitimation in Regional Organizations: The OAS and Non State Actors”, *Global Society*, online, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pd/10.1080/13600826.2020.1756230?needAccess=true> (consulted on 05.07.2020).

## **A place for regions in the UN**

The Charter of the UN only recognizes the existence of regional organizations and their relevance in solving regional security issues, but it does not give them a relevant place within the UN schema.[8] Indeed, only the EU has been given a prominent place as an observer at the UN by forcing the UN Charter, which has proven not able to adjust the de facto international actorness of the EU to its system. Moreover, it results in inequality towards all other regional organization.

Contrarily to those who see in regional organizations [9] a threat to the multilateral order, both shall cooperate and being mutually reinforced, and the UN can easily become a forum that fosters interregional and transregional cooperation. For example, a UN Committee of Regional Organizations that delivers consultative opinions to UNGA and UNSC resolutions would be successful in promoting formal and informal regional dialogue and would help in improving equality in multilateral negotiations. It would also boost regionalism and help to consolidate existing organizations, although such creation would need to solve issues such as how to deal with all different models of regionalism or with membership to multiple organizations. On the other hand, the UN should also work upon trans-regionalism, as a creator of informal links between regions that promotes UN values and Human Rights, through enhancing people-to-people contacts (e.g. through students and professional exchanges, more engagement with regional non-State actors in development or guaranteeing equality in economic cooperation) and local governments exchanges.

Global challenges in our current “network society” need a multilateral system that can cope with this net. The UN is in the best place to work as a coordinator facilitate information-sharing and agreement; whereas regional organizations can facilitate cooperation and stability and increase effectiveness in achieving the UN goals, being included in the UN system will also consolidate them and affirm their legitimacy, diminishing their current volatility. Against the last throes of once hegemonic superpowers and in view of the multipolar world under creation, regional organizations can play an essential role in building a more equal and peaceful global order, with interregional and transregional relations at its core.

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[8] Charter of the United Nations (1945) Chapter VII: Regional Arrangements (arts. 52-54), UN Charter

[9] Richard Higgot (2012). “Chapter 4: Economic multilateralism: A Search for Legitimacy and Coherence in the Early Twenty-first Century”, in *State, Globalization and Multilateralism*, ed. Mario Telò, pp. 61-79

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