



Greater global solidarity for human rights including the right to development

QUICK FACTS

- Although COVID-19 vaccine supplies to Africa have risen significantly, the continent is struggling to expand rollout, with only 11% of the population fully vaccinated at the end of 2021.
- In 2020, lost working hours totalled around 255 million full time jobs, which is four times the losses experienced during the 2009 global financial crisis.
- 3.6 billion people worldwide still do not have access to the Internet.
- Few countries meet their target of dedicating more of their gross national income as development assistance to Least Developed Countries.
- For the 75th anniversary of the UN, Member States recommitted to mobilizing resources, showing political will and leadership, and working with partners to strengthen coordination and global governance.

Inclusive and effective international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential to achieve a sustainable future that leaves no person, group, community or country behind.

The climate crisis and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have clearly demonstrated that humanity is interdependent and global challenges are interconnected. In this context, improving international cooperation is both urgent and imperative, especially in the field of human rights. By focusing on those most affected, why and how to respond, human rights encompass all the main elements needed for a resilient recovery that takes into account the needs of present and future generations. Both crises represent an opportunity to embark on a new social contract and a new global deal that reshapes the global governance system to better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which all address the failures exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic. The UN Secretary General's initiative "The highest aspiration: a call to action for human rights" identified seven specific areas for action: rights at the core of sustainable development; rights in times of crisis; gender equality and equal rights for women; public participation and civic space; rights of future generations, especially climate justice; rights at the heart of collective action; and new frontiers of human rights, on ensuring a safe digital world. Demonstrations in which people worldwide are claiming their rights and standing up for future generations, illustrate a new movement of solidarity that rejects inequality and division and unites young people, civil society, the private sector, cities, regions and others behind policies for justice. There is a need for a renewal of the fundamental bond of trust between people and institutions, which underpins the social contract. Reinstating trust in global institutions will require greater global solidarity and more inclusive, effective and networked multilateral approaches that contribute to more responsive global governance structures.



The Secretary-General's report on "Our Common Agenda" states that now is the time to re-embrace global solidarity and find new ways to work together for the common good.

Paths to overcome the challenges

- Enhance global solidarity for a successful socioeconomic response to COVID-19 and to build more fair, inclusive, equitable and sustainable societies where all human rights are enjoyed by all people.
- Encourage inclusive and networked COVID-19 and climate multilateral responses guided by international solidarity, human rights and gender equality, environmental sustainability and accountability.
- Promote a new model for global governance in which power, wealth and opportunities are shared more fairly, based on the full, inclusive and equal participation of developing countries in global institutions; an inclusive and equitable global recovery to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; and green recovery to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss.

- COVID-19 vaccines must be treated as global public goods available to everyone, everywhere, especially those most in need. Intellectual property regimes should be aligned with human rights obligations of States. To enable all humanity to benefit equitably from scientific progress, vaccine production capacity worldwide should be massively scaled up, technologies widely shared, licences made available and affordability ensured. In that regard, States should cooperate to support initiatives to ensure universal and equitable distribution of vaccines between countries, such as the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and its COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility.

- States and all stakeholders – including international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and transnational corporations – should collaborate to create an enabling international economic environment. Developing countries will require additional financial support both in the short and longer term. There should be a new allocation of special drawing rights for low- and middle-income countries requiring liquidity to avoid debt defaults. Reform of the debt architecture, including a debt-restructuring mechanism and access to affordable credit, will allow fiscal space for countries to respond to their people's socioeconomic needs.

- Quality education and digital technology are two key enablers of the new social contract. Cooperation is essential to redress the digital divide and advance information technology, including closing global gaps in online education. All stakeholders should collaborate to revitalize the agenda on technology transfer and overcome obstacles such as the expansion of intellectual property rights for sustainable development. The Secretary-General's road map for digital cooperation emphasizes the need to secure an inclusive and sustainable digital future.

- All stakeholders should scale up international cooperation on sustainable production and consumption, including on renewable energy and environmentally sound technology.

- The devastating loss of jobs and livelihoods during the pandemic underscored the importance of universal social protection and universal health coverage. States require the fiscal and policy space to reverse chronic underinvestment in rights enhancing services. Cooperation is vital to meeting those requirements, including through new approaches such as a global fund for social protection.

- Cooperation is key to preventing illicit financial flows, money-laundering and tax evasion, ending tax havens, and integrating the principles of sustainable development into financial decision-making. Scaling up North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation and sharing knowledge, experiences and good practices will contribute to advancing human rights. Huge gaps in governance structures, inclusion and equality were exposed by the pandemic. As a result, calls for reforming the multilateral economic, financial and trade system by expanding voting rights for developing countries should be supported.

- More global cooperation on disarmament could free up resources to realize rights. Likewise, the easing of sanctions will support medical systems in fighting the pandemic.

- Civic space is vital for advancing human rights and must be protected, including online. Civil society must be at the heart of decision-making, including in formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating national and international policies.

- The right to development requires a just global order. Active, free, meaningful and effective participation, by all people locally and by all countries globally, and fair distribution of the benefits of development and globalization will enable everyone, everywhere, to participate in, contribute to and enjoy the fruits of progress, leaving no person, group, community or country behind. Action to keep the promise to leave no one behind must be grounded in the fulfilment of human rights obligations, which provide pathways to lasting peace and sustainable development.



Particular attention must be paid to vulnerable countries, especially African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries, middle-income countries facing serious challenges, and countries in conflict and post-conflict. Increased efforts and greater cooperation are required to help States to fulfil their human rights obligations to redress structural and systemic discrimination against the marginalized and vulnerable.



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