

# Resolve

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

2024

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United  
Nations

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A United Nations staff member comforts a distressed child at a school shelter in the Gaza Strip, State of Palestine.

(Nuseirat camp; January 2024)  
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##### Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization (A/79/1, seventy-ninth session)

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*Note:* This report is issued in response to Article 98 of the Charter of the United Nations, which mandates the Secretary-General to provide an annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization. The key priorities covered in the report correspond to the eight priorities established by the General Assembly, together with a final chapter on the effective functioning of the Organization.

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# Introduction

Opening by the Secretary-General

## Highlights from across the United Nations system

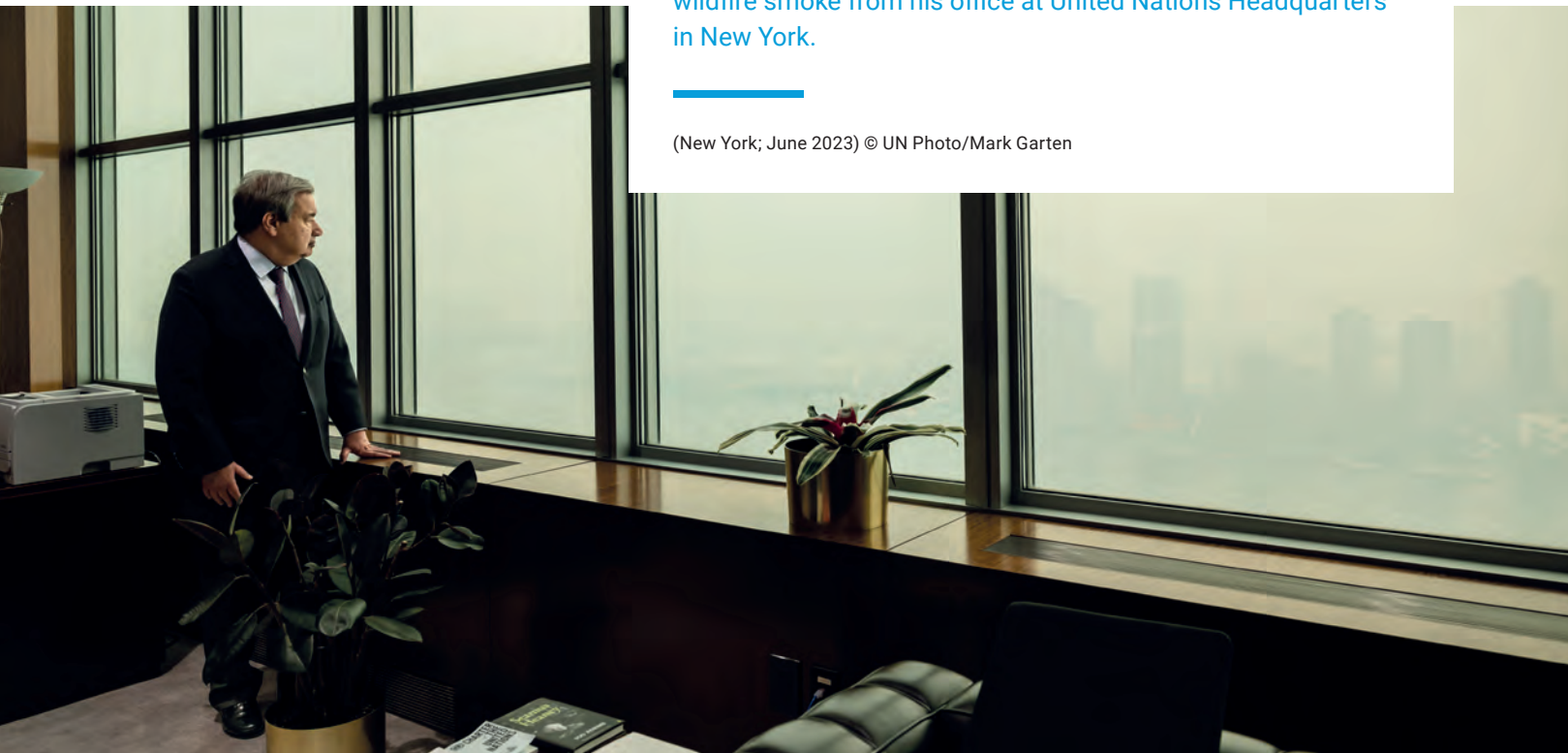
A view of the Sustainable Development Goals pavilion during the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2023.

- Achievements of the United Nations
- Eight priority areas of the United Nations Secretariat
- Expenditures across key priority areas
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The Secretary-General, António Guterres, observes haze due to wildfire smoke from his office at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

(New York; June 2023) © UN Photo/Mark Garten



“At every step, our Organization and our personnel will continue to stand in solidarity with the people of the world through these trying times, as we seek to forge a more peaceful, healthy, equal and prosperous future together.”

António Guterres,  
Secretary-General

I am enormously proud of the staff of the United Nations, who are operating and delivering on their mandates in a fractured and sometimes dangerous world. Despite the obstacles in their way, their commitment to a better, brighter future shines through in all that they do. Their resolve is to achieve results for the people of the world and to deliver the help and the hope that every person deserves – and that the human family needs today, more than ever.

The past year<sup>1</sup> has tested humanity in every way. Crises and challenges have placed the better future people want and need further out of reach. Conflicts, deepening poverty and inequality, hunger and poor economic prospects for developing countries are being made worse by widening geopolitical divides and mistrust. **The climate emergency reached terrifying new heights, with 2023 being the hottest on record.** Human rights abuses, discrimination against minorities, women and girls, rising extremism and a surge of hate speech online and in the streets are sowing discord and mistrust across communities, countries and entire regions.

The urgent business of rescuing the Sustainable Development Goals and the fight against climate change has been **stalled by a lack of sufficient investment and political will.** Many developing countries are drowning in debt and lack the necessary resources to invest in a sustainable future for their people.

<sup>1</sup> In line with the regular budget of the United Nations Secretariat, the reporting period is from 1 January to 31 December 2023. Given the peacekeeping budget period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, and the presentation of the report to the General Assembly in September, a few key highlights from the first months of 2024 are also included.

# Achievements of the United Nations family in 2023

The United Nations Secretariat is part of the wider United Nations family, with over 100 bodies and organizations, including some 30 agencies, funds and programmes (see chart on page 110 for all entities in the United Nations system). Every year, the United Nations supports hundreds of millions of people with over \$60 billion in assistance.

## Food security

**152M**

people received food assistance to improve their food security

## Children

**133M**

children vaccinated against measles, including 32M+ in emergency situations

## Water and sanitation

**36M**

people gained access to safe water that is available when needed

## Health and well-being

**15M**

refugees, asylum seekers and others of concern in 77 countries received essential health services

## Climate action

**178M**

hectares of protected area created or received improved management in 56 countries

## Peace and security

**\$203M**

approved in 36 countries and territories for peacebuilding initiatives

## Human rights

**56**

countries supported, to significantly increase the protection and promotion of human rights in selected human rights areas

## Women

**92**

law-making processes supported during adoptions, revisions or repeals, to advance gender equality in 23 countries

## Livelihoods

**9M**

people in fragile contexts supported with jobs and livelihoods

# Eight priority areas of the United Nations Secretariat

**35,000+**

Secretariat staff delivering results across eight priority areas:

## Sustainable development

United Nations country teams led by resident coordinators working in 162 countries and territories to help to implement the 2030 Agenda

## Peace and security

Deployed 50 peacekeeping operations, special political missions and support offices to prevent conflict and support peacebuilding

## Development in Africa

Helped 54 countries to address development challenges and promote sustainable development and the implementation of Agenda 2063

## Human rights

Facilitated assistance for 60,000 survivors of torture in 92 countries and 12,000+ survivors of contemporary forms of slavery

## Humanitarian assistance

Helped to mobilize \$23B to assist 128M people across 74 countries and territories

## Justice and international law

Managed information on 648 multilateral treaties addressing matters of worldwide interest

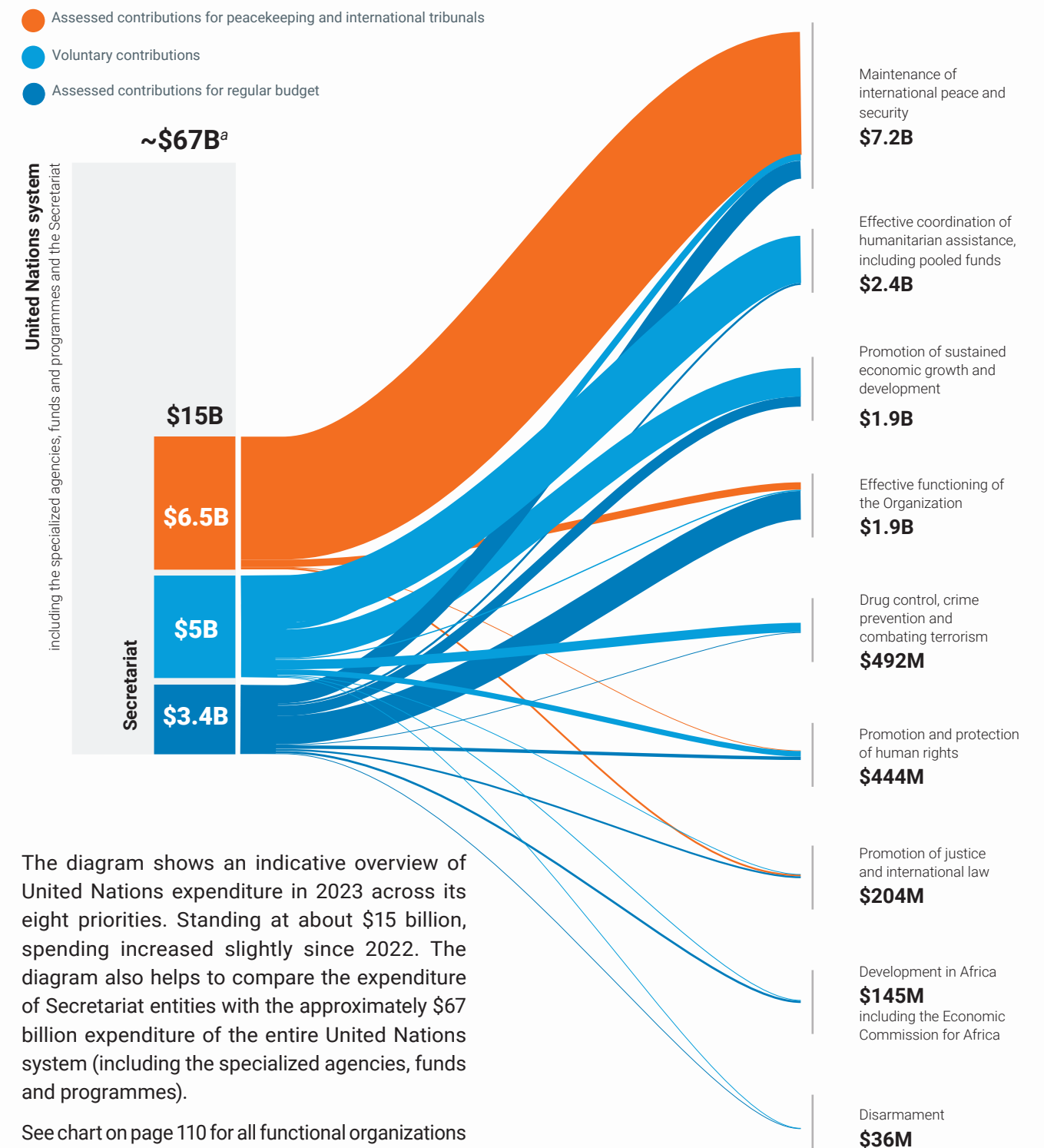
## Disarmament

Channelled funds to 112 arms control-related projects benefiting 148 Member States

## Drugs, crime and terrorism

Trained 3,000+ criminal justice and counter-terrorism officials from 75 Member States and enhanced membership in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, with 182 States parties

## Expenditures across key priority areas in 2023



The diagram shows an indicative overview of United Nations expenditure in 2023 across its eight priorities. Standing at about \$15 billion, spending increased slightly since 2022. The diagram also helps to compare the expenditure of Secretariat entities with the approximately \$67 billion expenditure of the entire United Nations system (including the specialized agencies, funds and programmes).

See chart on page 110 for all functional organizations of the United Nations system.

<sup>a</sup> Amount refers to 2022

The above diagram is provided for illustrative purposes only. The financial years for the regular budget (2023) and for peacekeeping operations (2022/23) differ. Allocation of resources to priorities is based on the United Nations programme budget. Data for the United Nations system is based on indicative reports to the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. For detailed information, please refer to the audited financial statements.





# Summit of the Future

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations came at a time when the world was confronting the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the persistent threat posed by climate change, the challenges and opportunities presented by technological advances and slow progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. **These are all global challenges that require global solutions and international cooperation.** However, the multilateral organizations that have long led such efforts have proved to be inadequate and outdated.

In recognition of those challenges and our unprecedented interconnectedness, Member States pledged to strengthen global governance and asked the Secretary-General for recommendations on how to equip the international system to address current and future challenges (see General Assembly resolution 75/1).

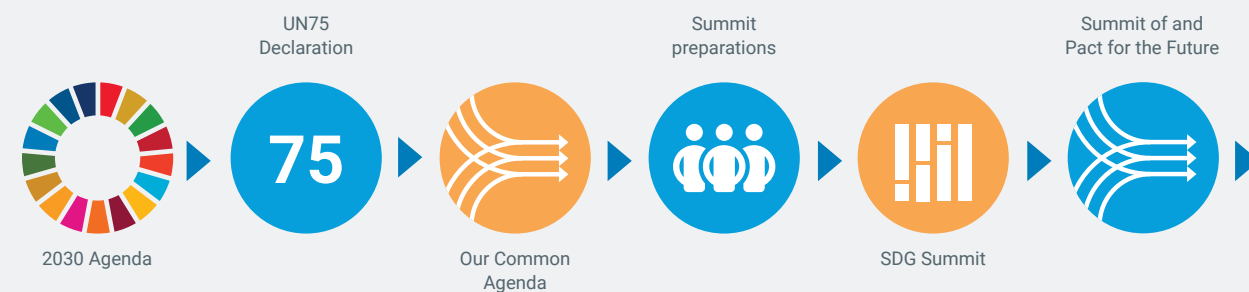
The Secretary-General responded with a report entitled “Our Common Agenda”, in which he called for solidarity among people, countries and generations and a corresponding renewal of the multilateral system to accelerate the implementation of existing commitments and fill gaps in global governance. In his report, the Secretary-General **proposed the Summit of the Future as a way to forge a global consensus on what our future should look like and what we can do today to secure it.**



Over 2,000 participants gather in Nairobi for the United Nations Civil Society Conference leading up to the 2024 Summit of the Future.

(Nairobi, May 2024)  
© UN Information Service Nairobi

## Road to the Summit of the Future



## Secretary-General's Policy Briefs

The Secretary-General published a series of 11 policy briefs under Our Common Agenda to aid negotiations on the Summit. The briefs were crafted through extensive consultations with Member States, the United Nations system and various stakeholders. Scan the Quick Response (QR) Code to learn more about the policy briefs.



## Scope of the Pact for the Future

On 1 September 2023, the General Assembly adopted its decision 77/568, in which it outlined the scope of the document to be entitled “A Pact for the Future”, which would comprise a chapeau and the following five chapters: Sustainable development and financing for development; International peace and security; Science, technology, innovation and digital cooperation; Youth and future generations; and Transforming global governance.

## Preparatory Ministerial Meeting for the Summit

On 21 September 2023, the President of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, Dennis Francis, convened the preparatory ministerial meeting for the Summit of the Future. The meeting marked a significant step towards the highly anticipated Summit and provided a platform for Member States to share their visions and priorities.

The meeting built on the outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, with a focus on expectations for tangible and action-oriented results. The gathering was aligned with General Assembly resolution 76/307, on modalities for the Summit of the Future.

## Summit of and Pact for the Future

In response to Our Common Agenda, Members States agreed to hold the Summit of the Future, a once-in-a-generation opportunity to mend eroded trust and demonstrate that international cooperation can effectively achieve agreed goals and tackle emerging threats and opportunities. This would be achieved through the Pact for the Future, an action-oriented outcome document to be negotiated and endorsed by Member States at the Summit of the Future in September 2024.





A displaced boy from Khan Yunis sits with his beloved birds in Rafah City, in the Gaza Strip. He brought them on his journey, despite the upheaval, and hopes for an end to the war so he can return home.

(Rafah City; January 2024)  
© UNICEF/Eyad El Baba



“Our world is going through a tough time right now, but the impact made in the last 75 years is huge, and our potential – as one human family – to turn crises into opportunity and hope is enormous.”

**Amina J. Mohammed,**  
Deputy Secretary-General

Meanwhile, **multilateral principles built over decades are being ignored or flouted with impunity.** The Charter of the United Nations and international human rights and humanitarian law are being undermined, as parties to conflict target hospitals, schools, humanitarian aid and civilian infrastructure. Civic space is shrinking under authoritarian regimes, and journalists are killed and abused for doing their vital work.

The present report shows that, **despite the difficulties, progress is possible, and change is achievable.** Those results, however, can come at a tragic cost. **The past year witnessed the highest number of United Nations staff and humanitarian workers killed in our Organization’s history.** The vast majority were staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East working in Gaza. Our hearts go out to their families, friends and colleagues. **Their determination and sacrifice only strengthen our resolve to stand with the world’s most vulnerable people** caught up in humanitarian emergencies.

That dedication to staying and delivering on our mandate includes our staff members’ work to continue supporting people and communities when large United Nations missions, such as those in Mali and in Darfur (Sudan), draw down and close. Personnel across multiple agencies continue to maintain a presence in those locations, carrying out their vital and often life-saving missions.

In 2023, together with our partners on the ground, **we coordinated humanitarian response plans for 245 million people across 74 countries** and delivered life-saving assistance and protection to nearly 160 million people in urgent need. From food and nutrition to water and sanitation, to emergency education and health services, to shelter and protection, our staff stayed and delivered in countries rocked by ferocious conflicts. This includes Afghanistan, the Sudan, Yemen, the Horn of Africa and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. With our partners, we also responded to devastating disasters, including earthquakes in Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye and floods in Libya, Malawi and Mozambique. **We achieved those results despite a record funding shortfall for humanitarian work.** The \$22.7 billion provided by donors covered just 40 per cent of the \$56.1 billion required for our life-saving work. Nevertheless, our humanitarian personnel and their partners on the ground spared no effort to reach those in greatest need.

Meanwhile, **the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit rallied over 6,000 people across various public and private sectors** to accelerate progress towards achieving the Goals, only 15 per cent of which are on track. **World leaders welcomed our call for a Sustainable Development Goal stimulus of \$500 billion per year** and acknowledged the urgent need to reform the global financial architecture – including multilateral development banks – to enable developing countries to invest in the systems that their people require.



“A peaceful and sustainable future requires standing together in solidarity. Year in and year out, the United Nations is standing with, and delivering for, the people of the world.”

**E. Courtenay Rattray,**  
Chef de Cabinet



“Together, we must redouble our efforts to reinforce a multilateral system that delivers for everyone, everywhere, and that offers hope for a better, fairer, more peaceful and more sustainable world for the present and future generations.”

**Guy Ryder,**  
Under-Secretary-General for Policy



# Turning vision into action

In order to take us closer to fully implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Secretary-General's initiatives were launched to **advance our collective efforts to achieve the goals set out in Our Common Agenda**. Those initiatives are aimed at creating an inclusive and equitable world for all, by harnessing cutting-edge technologies and fostering digital cooperation. Through **digital solutions, innovation and scientific expertise**, the United Nations is committed to addressing global challenges and ensuring that no one is left behind in our journey towards a sustainable and prosperous future for humanity.



The Secretary-General, António Guterres (third from left), meets with the High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence.

(New York; December 2023) © UN Photo/ Eskinder Debebe



“The potential for artificial intelligence is extraordinary, particularly in the areas of health, food security, education and the green transition. We can harness this technology to get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track, but it must be done safely, inclusively and responsibly.”

**Amandeep Singh Gill**, Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology



“Mainstreaming meaningful youth engagement across decision-making spaces at all levels is one of the greatest tools we have at our disposal when it comes to delivering on the 2030 Agenda.”

**Felipe Paullier**,  
Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs

## The United Nations Youth Office

The United Nations Youth Office was established by the unanimous agreement of the General Assembly in 2023. The Office advocates the advancement of youth issues across the United Nations and enables meaningful, inclusive and effective engagement of young people and youth-led and youth-focused work in the Organization. Created pursuant to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”, the Office signifies a new era for the global youth agenda.

Building on more than a decade of work by the Envoys of the Secretary-General on Youth, the United Nations Youth Office addresses persistent challenges faced by young people worldwide, including access to education, employment and health services. Guided by the United Nations youth strategy, Youth2030, the Office enables intergenerational multi-stakeholder solidarity and strengthens youth engagement across all pillars of the Organization’s work. The establishment of the Office marks a breakthrough for the revitalization and expansion of United Nations engagement with young people, leveraging the latter’s immense social and economic potential.



## AI Advisory Body



The multi-stakeholder High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence is a multidisciplinary group of 39 experts in artificial intelligence from all regions. It was formed to undertake analysis and advance recommendations for the international governance of artificial intelligence. The Advisory Body released an interim report in 2023 and a final report in 2024, in which it highlighted the need for a global approach and actionable recommendations on governing artificial intelligence for humanity. This global, diverse and gender-balanced group is the first of its kind and has provided unique contributions on the opportunities, risks and international governance of artificial intelligence, now and in the future.



## Scientific Advisory Board



In August 2023, the Secretary-General appointed an advisory board to provide advice to United Nations leaders on breakthroughs in science and technology. The primary purpose of the Scientific Advisory Board for Independent Advice on Breakthroughs in Science and Technology is to offer recommendations for how the United Nations can anticipate emerging issues, manage risks and harness the benefits of science and technology across policies and programmes. The Board is composed of seven eminent scientists in the fields of artificial intelligence, environmental sciences and biology. It is supported by the chief scientists of the United Nations at FAO, UNEP, UNESCO and WMO, as well as the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology, the Rector of United Nations University and a diverse network of 11 global scientific organizations. The Board prepares briefings on emerging scientific topics, issues an annual horizon-scanning report and seeks to advance trust in science across the multilateral space.



## United Nations Futures Lab Network



The United Nations Futures Lab Network, proposed by the Secretary-General in his 2021 report on Our Common Agenda, was established in 2023 to support the Organization and the international community to be better prepared for major global risks, while ensuring that policy decisions take into account their impact on future generations. Driven by a global hub, the Futures Lab is a network that empowers the United Nations system and beyond to use futures thinking and strategic foresight in planning, policymaking and decision-making.



## United Nations 2.0



United Nations 2.0 is the Secretary-General’s vision of a modernized United Nations system, with cutting-edge skills and forward-thinking culture for stronger results, better Member State support and greater impact on the Sustainable Development Goals. We are striving to achieve that vision with a powerful fusion of data, innovation, digital, foresight and behavioural science expertise – grounded in a culture that values agility, learning and curiosity to create an environment in which those skills can flourish.





The Secretary-General visits Antarctica to see the impact of the climate crisis on the frozen but rapidly melting landscape.

(Antarctica; November 2023) © UN Photo/Mark Garten



### Human rights with the participation of all

We promoted and protected the work of human rights defenders and civil society organizations across all regions, supporting the work of 3,530 youth-led organizations, and engaged with 1,894 women's rights organizations. We helped to empower different voices, promoted participation in intergovernmental forums, convened a platform of networks for the protection of civil society actors at risk and advocated for human rights in the digital space.

Several key environmental initiatives were launched in 2023, including the Water Action Agenda, the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and **a landmark agreement by 175 countries to develop a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution**. With climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss still threatening the future of our planet, the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Dubai, concluded with **calls to transition from fossil fuels, operationalize the loss and damage fund and commit to sustainable cooling, methane reduction and an end to deforestation by 2030**.

Throughout 2023, the United Nations continued building on our work to defend and advance fundamental human rights, including those of women and girls. The United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund and the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women **collectively supported tens of thousands of women and girls around the world**. The United Nations also supported eight constitutional review processes to ensure that women's views were reflected and represented.

The year was also an important one with regard to **strengthening the world's commitment to multilateralism and the values enshrined in the Charter**. In preparation for the Summit of the Future, we prepared and delivered a series of policy briefs on critical areas from peace and security to youth engagement and future generations. That work extended to governance of the digital world and artificial intelligence. For example, to combat the plague of mis- and disinformation, we continued our work to develop the United Nations Global Principles for Information Integrity.

All of this work requires constant strengthening of our operations around the world, led by our resident coordinators and United Nations country teams as they work with host Governments to accelerate efforts and scale up investments in the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition, 2023 saw major strides made in our commitment to building a supportive and respectful workplace for our staff. Our commitment to living our values was reflected in **the establishment of the Anti-Racism Office**, a new parental leave policy, progress under the United Nations System Mental Health and Well-being Strategy and renewed efforts to combat sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.

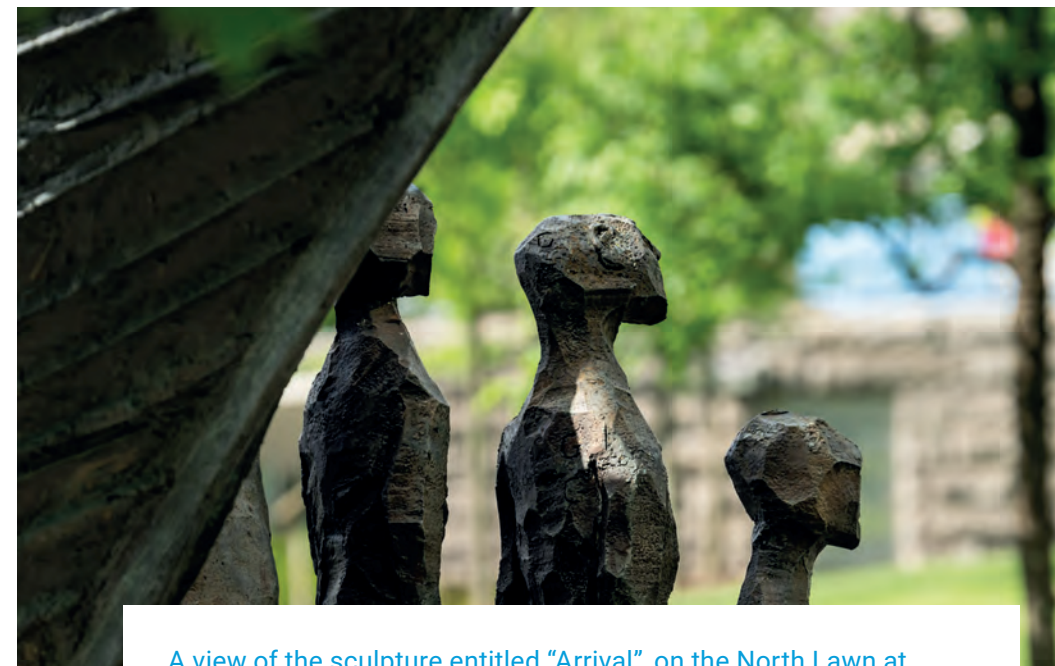
Ultimately, the effectiveness of our work depends on the availability of cash. We have taken stringent measures to conserve cash to mitigate the impact of the liquidity crisis on our regular budget operations. Late and non-payments of contributions for peacekeeping operations have undermined our ability to pay for contingent-owned equipment. We will continue to seek lasting solutions to ensure we deliver on our mandate as effectively and sustainably as possible.

At every step, **our Organization and our personnel will continue to stand in solidarity with the people of the world** through these trying times, as we seek to forge a more peaceful, healthy, equal and prosperous future together, and a world that leaves no one behind.



Through the interactive photographic exhibit, "Peace Begins with Her", the United Nations paid tribute to the contribution of women peacebuilders and peacekeepers in ending conflict and building sustainable peace.

(New York; October 2023)  
© UN Photo/Loey Felipe



A view of the sculpture entitled "Arrival", on the North Lawn at United Nations Headquarters. The sculpture is a symbol of hope and resilience in pursuit of a better future, in a world that leaves no one behind.

(New York; May 2024) © UN Photo/Mark Garten



# Forging pathways for sustainable development

Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development

## What we do

- Support for global policymaking organs
- International cooperation for development
- Regional cooperation for development
- Gender equality and the empowerment of women

## Our team

- Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Development Coordination Office
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- Regional commissions
- UN-Women
- UN-Habitat
- United Nations Environment Programme

The opening of the Sustainable Development Goals Action Weekend, which helped to maximize the impact of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit.



Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed meets with refugees in east Chad.

(Farchana; July 2023) © Resident Coordinator Office in Chad/Annour Halal



**Sustainable Development Goals stocktaking days**

**110+**  
senior government officials convened

**38**  
countries and the European Union reported on progress

**204**  
side events

**18,900+**  
media articles

## Context

Past the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, **only 17 per cent of Sustainable Development Goal targets are on track**, according to *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024*. Rising interest rates, debt distress and geoeconomic fragmentation are slowing progress. Greenhouse gas emissions are driving climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, which **disproportionately affect the poor**. Women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making and **encounter discrimination that impedes progress towards gender equality**.

## Our goals

The United Nations is helping to get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track with the 2030 Agenda. **Guided by the Agenda**, our United Nations country teams, led by resident coordinators, are taking decisive steps to **scale up support to country needs and priorities**.



“We must accelerate our efforts in the next six years to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs will champion the 2030 Agenda as the best pathway to a better future.”

**Li Junhua**,  
Under-Secretary-General  
for Economic and Social Affairs



Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, speaks during a “fireside chat” at the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit alongside Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank Group, and Carolina Cosse, Mayor of Montevideo, Uruguay.

(New York; September 2023) © UN Photo/Cia Pak



“The resident coordinator system is the backbone of integrated and effective United Nations development system solutions to accelerate the implementation of the Goals.”

**Oscar Fernández-Taranco**,  
Assistant Secretary-General for  
Development Coordination





The Sing for Hope choir performs at the Sustainable Development Goals pavilion.

(New York; September 2023)  
© Partnerships Office/Tyrese Nacho

## Our achievements

### Implementing the 2030 Agenda

Despite mounting challenges, at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2023, Governments reaffirmed their ambition and commitments to implement the 2030 Agenda **in the next six years**. The Secretary-General urged world leaders to deliver a **rescue plan for people and planet**. Governments responded with a political declaration, in which they welcomed his proposals for a **\$500 billion annual Sustainable Development Goal stimulus and for urgent reforms to the international financial architecture**. The Sustainable Development Goals Action Weekend aligned stakeholders on **six key transitions** for the acceleration of Goal achievement: food systems; education; sustainable energy; climate action and biodiversity; jobs and social protection; and digital connectivity.

The Summit also delivered on **12 new high-impact initiatives** to help to get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track. *The Global Sustainable Development Report* provided science-backed insights and encouraged transformative national plans that can generate synergies and manage trade-offs. The high-impact initiative on transforming education was focused on **equipping teachers for success** in a rapidly changing education system, while the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions garnered substantial backing to **advance decent work and social protection** worldwide.

The Local2030 coalition, a high-impact initiative connecting cities, regions and industry, promoted **multi-stakeholder action** to help to advance progress on Sustainable Development Goal achievement on the local level. This was complemented by the launch of the Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments to **amplify local voices** for global impact.

### Data for sustainable development

In 2023, we improved public access to authoritative data through the new “UN Data Commons for the SDGs” platform, strengthened data governance and tracked progress made by 166 countries in adopting artificial intelligence and frontier technologies to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



### Global disaster resilience through space technology

The United Nations helps all countries to gain access to and leverage the benefits of space to accelerate sustainable development. This includes training on space law, the registration of objects launched into space and service provided to multilateral bodies that address urgent problems such as space debris. Through the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), we train country experts, for example in the Dominican Republic, on gaining access to satellite information that helps them to prepare for and respond to disasters.

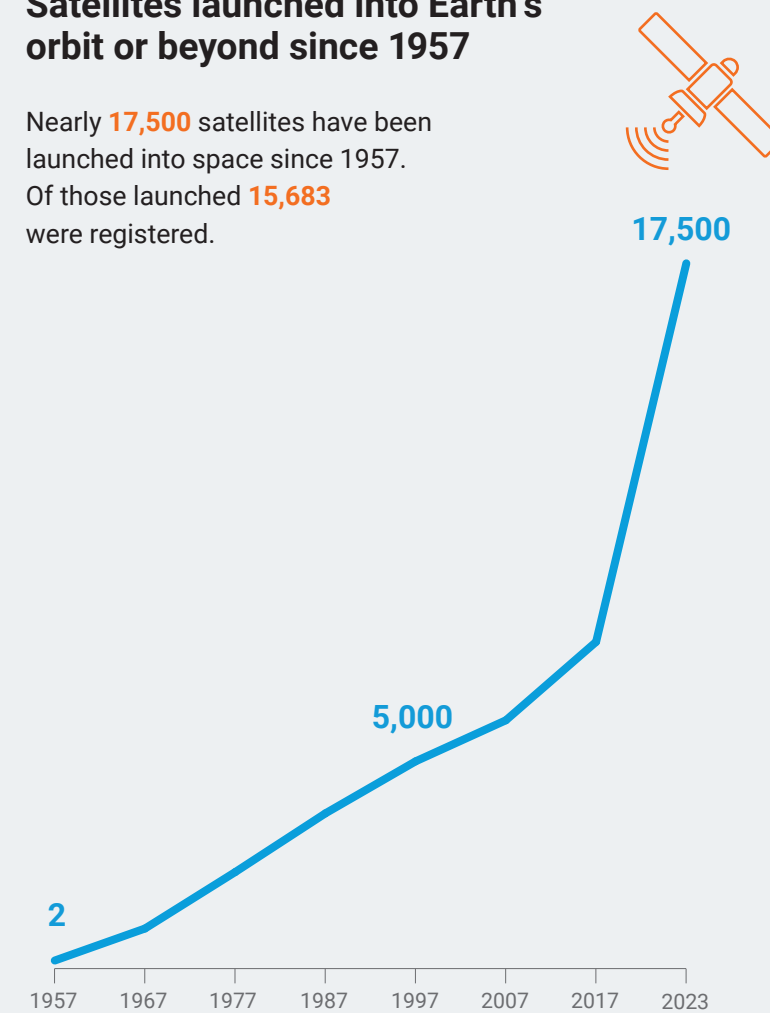


“Weak growth, eroding trust and fading hope jeopardize global stability. We urgently need an updated governance system for a united global response, leaving no one behind.”

Rebecca Grynspan,  
Secretary-General,  
United Nations Conference on  
Trade and Development

### Satellites launched into Earth’s orbit or beyond since 1957

Nearly **17,500** satellites have been launched into space since 1957. Of those launched **15,683** were registered.



Figures are cumulative



“Against increasing natural disasters the world over, UN-SPIDER drives resilience at the local level, ensuring the preservation of human life.”

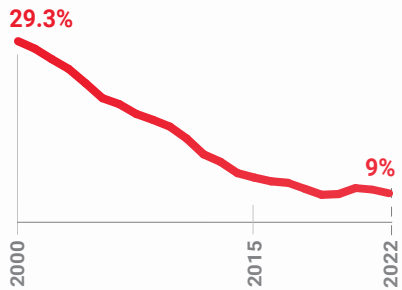
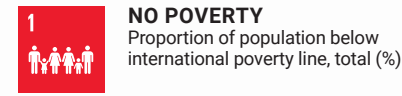
Aarti Holla-Maini,  
Director, United Nations Office for  
Outer Space Affairs



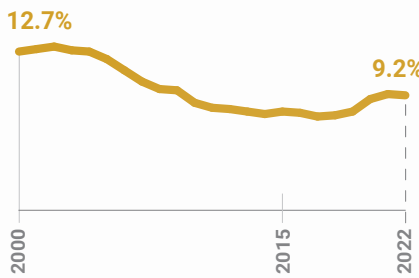
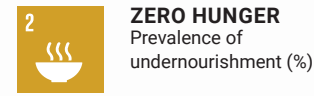
# 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: an overview of progress

Variations in the frequency of data collection across the Goals contribute to variations in cut-off dates in the charts below.

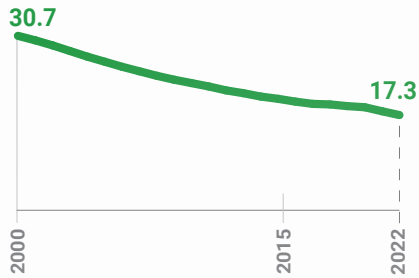
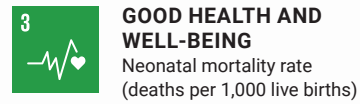
Note: Each line graph presented below shows progress over time for a particular target out of several targets for each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



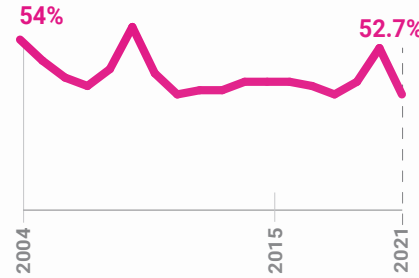
The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has created major setbacks in the reduction of poverty.



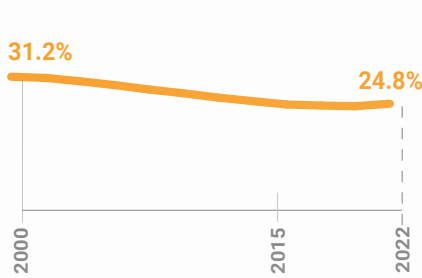
Global undernourishment has decreased since 2000.



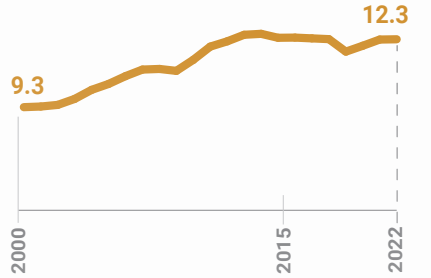
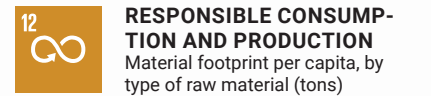
The neonatal mortality rate has consistently declined.



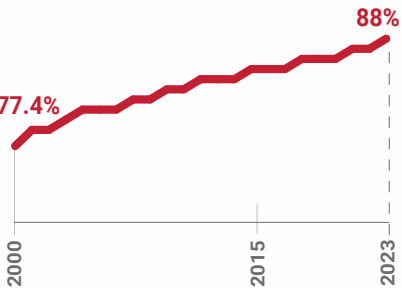
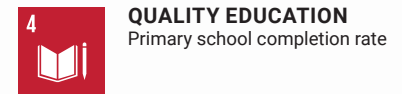
The share of national income going to labour has shown a downward trend.



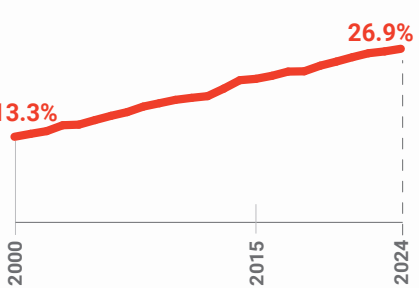
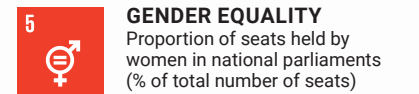
The number of people living in informal urban settlements has declined since 2000.



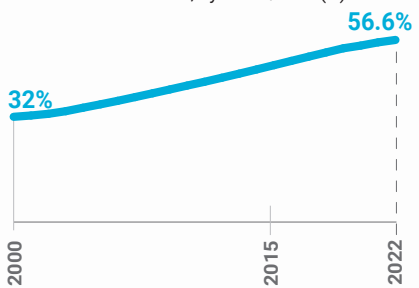
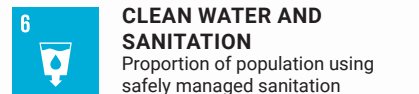
The global material footprint per capita has increased.



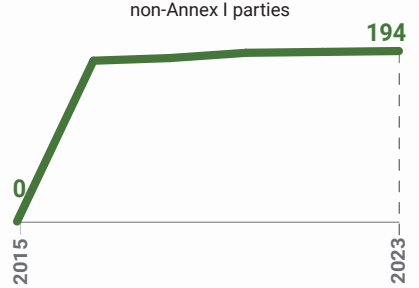
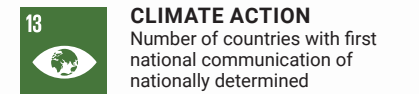
Universal and equitable access to primary education is yet to be achieved.



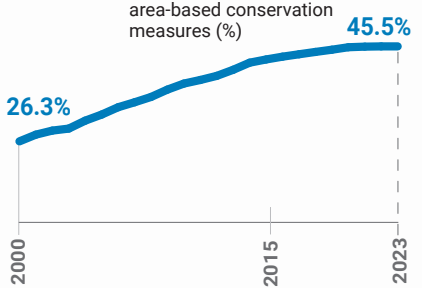
Major progress has been made towards addressing female underrepresentation in national parliaments.



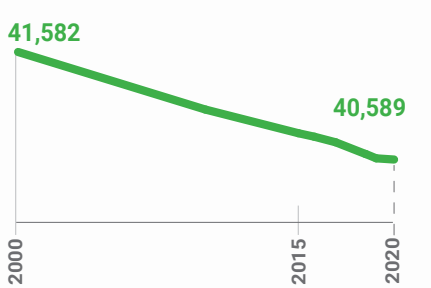
More people have access to safely managed sanitation services today than in 2000.



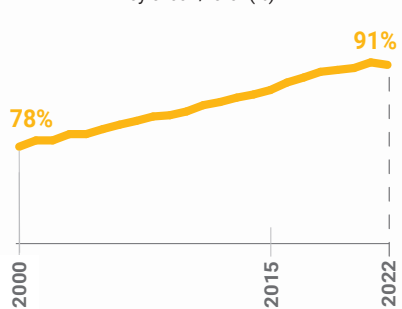
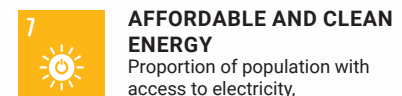
All 191 parties to the Paris Agreement, and Eritrea, have communicated their first NDCs.



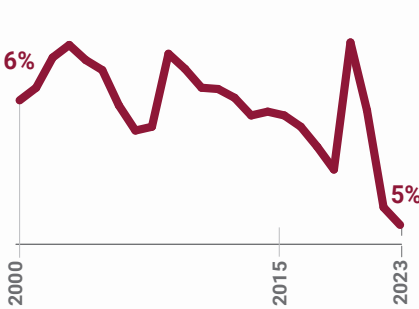
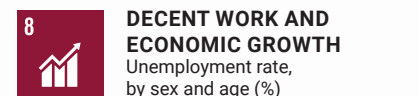
The proportion of key areas placed under conservation designation has increased since 2000.



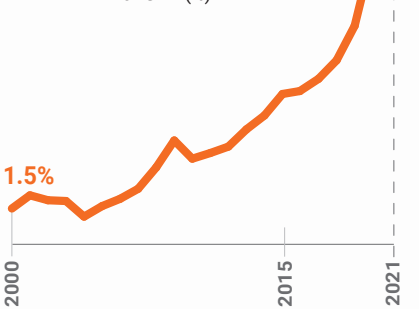
More efforts are needed to conserve and restore forests around the world.



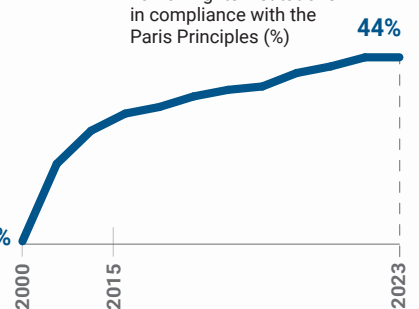
The vast majority of the world's population now has access to electricity.



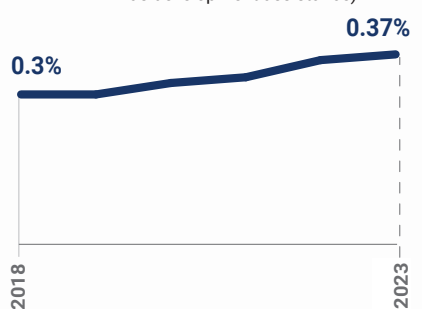
Global unemployment has increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic erasing progress made over the past two decades.



Research and development is increasingly prioritized across the globe.



Less than 50% of countries have human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.



Though the 0.7% aid/GNI target for international aid has yet to be collectively achieved, progress is being made.  
Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

## Accelerating progress

The Goals are not on track to be achieved by 2030, despite progress in some areas.

Furthermore, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress has slowed and in some cases been reversed across the 17 Goals. This makes the decade of action all the more urgent, requiring the support of Member States and other partners.







Students attend an e-learning session in Port Sudan, Sudan. Conflict has disrupted formal education for nearly all of the country's 24 million children.

(Port Sudan; June 2024)  
© UNICEF/Ahmed Mohamdeen Elfatih



"In the world of global challenges, cities and multilateral collaboration are beacons of hope. Let's empower cities to create a future where nature and people thrive."

**Michal Mlynár**, Assistant Secretary-General and Acting Executive Director, UN-Habitat

## Scaling up financing for development

The Secretary-General made reforming the international financial architecture a key priority. In May 2023, he published a policy brief, in which he advocated changes in global economic governance, financial safety nets and international tax cooperation to support the acceleration of Sustainable Development Goal achievement. In his stimulus proposal, he also emphasized the need to **reform multilateral development banks and address sovereign debt distress**.

In partnership with Member States, we advanced proposals from the 2022 Bridgetown Initiative for the Reform of the Global Financial Architecture at the high-level retreat on a global financial architecture for a world facing global shocks, culminating in the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, held in Paris in 2023. To unlock national investment, Summit participants supported the General Assembly resolution on developing a new framework convention on international tax cooperation to advance fair and universally applicable rules.

New **public-private partnerships** were promoted through the United Nations Global Compact and the Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance, **focused on blended finance, de-risking, transparency and increasing private finance** for sustainable development.

## Leaving no one behind

We kept our commitment to equitable sustainable development, in particular for marginalized groups and people in vulnerable situations.

We collaborated with **45 least developed countries** to implement the commitments of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. At the fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, we helped to launch **15 new multi-stakeholder partnerships** to promote sustainable energy, digital connectivity and sustainable tourism, and **five transformative deliverables**, on food stockholding, resilience-building, investment promotion, an online university and graduation support.

We published new progress reports on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, ahead of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2024, providing insights on the **unique challenges faced by those countries**, such as high transportation and transit costs and limited global market access. We supported negotiations for a new programme of action for the next decade, establishing a **network of national focal points** to drive implementation and follow-up.

We convened the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and adopted the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States. We also supported the work of a new high-level panel on the development of a **multidimensional vulnerability index** for all vulnerable countries and the **subsequent intergovernmental process**.



"Together, we can create pathways to prosperity for the most vulnerable among us and ensure that they are not left behind in our shared journey towards sustainable development."

**Rabab Fatima**, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States



United Nations development staff support communities affected by the earthquake in Herat on 8 October 2023, which killed over 1,500 people and displaced 43,000 in Afghanistan.

(Herat; October 2023) © UNDP Afghanistan/Haroon Hamdard



"As the impacts of the triple planetary crisis continue, we need inclusive, ambitious environmental multilateralism to deliver the solutions needed to realize our global goals."

**Inger Andersen**, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme





Delegates from Brazil at an Indigenous event during the twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28).

(Dubai, United Arab Emirates; December 2023) © COP28/Mahmoud Khaled

## Local climate action

Cities are key for delivering climate solutions and halting the destruction and degradation of natural habitats. Although cities are significant drivers of planet-warming emissions, they are also engines of climate action and at the forefront of delivering solutions. At the first Local Climate Action Summit, held during the twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, 72 Governments signed the Coalition for High-Ambition Multilevel Partnerships for Climate Action pledge, committing themselves to collaborating with subnational authorities in planning, financing, implementing and monitoring climate strategies.

In addition to Member States, we supported young people, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and older persons. This included establishing a **new United Nations Youth Office** and appointing the **first-ever Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs** to amplify young voices in global decision-making.

At the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we supported progress in addressing **equal access to sexual and reproductive health care for persons with disabilities**, including women and girls.

In support of Indigenous Peoples, we promoted their inclusion and rights in **over 20 countries** globally, including by working with **over 8,000 Indigenous women in Latin America** to develop business and digital skills.

In support of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030), we worked with Member States to achieve a **22 per cent increase in national policies** on health and social care needs for older persons in **136 countries**.

## Climate action

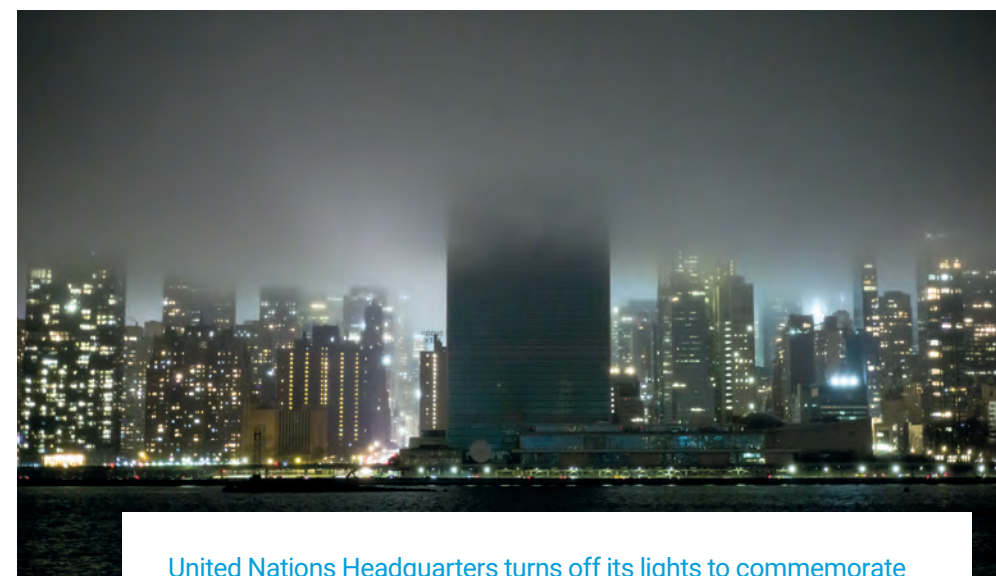
In 2023, we advocated transformative global climate action. At the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a **new loss and damage fund** was operationalized, and commitments were made on sustainable cooling,

on methane reduction and on halting deforestation by 2030. The **Africa Carbon Markets Initiative** was also operationalized in 2023, with the aim of dramatically boosting carbon credit production across the continent. Through the exchange of carbon credits, these markets offer a unique pathway to **improve energy access, create new green jobs and preserve biodiversity**.

We underscored the urgency of more climate action through new reports on the emissions gap, the production gap and the adaptation gap. According to those reports, **if current trends continue, the Earth will warm by 2.5°C to 2.9°C during the twenty-first century**, far exceeding the Paris Agreement goal of 1.5°C.

Our Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants advanced national plans to reduce short-lived pollutants in 50 countries, with 5 more joining the **Global Methane Pledge to cut emissions by 30 per cent by 2030**. Over 250 mayors and governors attended the first Local Climate Action Summit, resulting in a new pledge signed by 72 Governments for more local and multilevel climate action.

We launched initiatives on zero waste, water resources and food systems in support of climate action. The first International Day of Zero Waste showcased the **potential of zero-waste initiatives** for global sustainable development. The 2023 United Nations Water Conference, **the first in nearly 50 years**, highlighted the importance of freshwater resources. **The world agreed to the new Global Framework on Chemicals and a dedicated fund for follow-up**. In his call to action for human rights, the Secretary-General promoted climate-friendly food system transitions, reinforced by momentum from the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and recent General Assembly resolutions.



United Nations Headquarters turns off its lights to commemorate Earth Hour.

(New York; March 2023) © UN Photo/Manuel Elías

## Cooling pledge organized by the Cool Coalition

More than 60 countries joined the Global Cooling Pledge, organized by the Cool Coalition and supported by the United Nations. The agreement is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions linked to the cooling sector by at least 68 per cent globally by 2050.



“The decisions made and actions taken by leaders today will determine the world of tomorrow. The battle to keep 1.5 degrees within reach will be won or lost under their watch, but it is a fight that can be won. We have never had this much clarity on what needs to be done, by whom and over what timeframe. And we have the technologies, solutions and know-how to phase out fossil fuels and protect people and livelihoods from the climate crisis.”

**Selwin Hart**, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Climate Action and Just Transition



## Spotlight initiative

**384M**

people reached through campaigns

**8M**

young people engaged in programmes

**3M**

people accessed gender-based violence services

**548**

laws or policies signed or strengthened



“At a time of heightened conflict and unprecedented divisions for our planet, investing in women and women’s organizations is vital to achieving a sustainable, equitable and rights-based future.”

**Sima Bahous**, Executive Director, UN-Women

## Gender equality

Our gender snapshot report for 2023 revealed an **annual funding shortfall of about \$360 billion** to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2030. On the basis of current trends, **over 340 million women and girls will still be living in extreme poverty by 2030**.

We are bringing partners together to address some of the most glaring gender gaps through initiatives like our **United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women, which helped grantees to reach over 15 million individuals** with resources and services. Our **Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund mobilized about \$50 million** to empower grass-roots efforts by women human rights defenders and civil society organizations. Our Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women **reached nearly 50,000 women in six countries**, to support their livelihoods, rights, food security, nutrition and resilience.

Under the **\$545 million Spotlight Initiative**, progress was made in addressing gender-based violence in **30 countries**, through significant increases in perpetrator conviction rates and support for dedicated national budgets to address the scourge. Also through the Initiative, **women and girls gained greater access to relevant services and national action plans to eliminate gender-based violence** were strengthened. The initiative was translated into a United Nations high-impact initiative for the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

Through the Women Count programme, we provided technical support and quality assurance for projects in six regions and more than 25 countries to shift how gender statistics are used, created, shared and accessed. In a publication entitled *Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action* we highlighted ways to address environmental challenges while promoting women’s rights. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls, we supported 50 countries in integrating or strengthening gender equality in national HIV strategies, in line with global efforts to end AIDS by 2030.

The culmination of our work resulted in the United Nations **system-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan**, which was launched on International Women’s Day 2024. The launch followed an extensive review by a task team and **advisory board, comprising representatives of 12 United Nations entities**, assessing the successes and shortcomings of the United Nations in advancing and protecting gender equality, women’s empowerment and women’s and girls’ rights globally.



Palestine refugee students in Jordan participate in a science class at a United Nations school.

(Amman; March 2024) © UN Photo/Mark Garten

## Regional support

The **regional collaborative platforms**, a key outcome of the United Nations development system reform, are now firmly established and **provide inter-agency analysis and expertise** in support of our resident coordinators and country teams.

Our five regional commissions convened annual forums on sustainable development, serving as regional intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platforms to **enable policy dialogues and assess progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**. They also provided regional input for the high-level political forum on sustainable development and peer learning on the voluntary national reviews. The 2024 forums also **helped to shape regional perspectives** on the Summit of the Future and its anticipated outcome document entitled, “A Pact for the Future”.



“We need more integrated approaches and innovative policy interventions to address the development challenges of poverty, inequalities, vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental degradation.”

**Armida Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific





“ECLAC promotes a growth strategy involving industry, services and a critical mass of green growth sectors for higher and sustained economic growth and Sustainable Development Goal acceleration.”

**José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs**, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

## Resident coordinator system

Resident coordinators, as the highest-ranking representatives of our development system at the country level, helped to bring together the full breadth of United Nations resources and expertise to support action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. They convened partners to **unlock financing** and other means of implementation for sustainable development. Resident coordinators also enabled effective United Nations support for disaster preparedness and response, ensuring **immediate and coherent crisis response** across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding interventions in complex settings, so as to lead response activities along sustainable development trajectories. The efforts of the resident coordinators have led to significantly **reduced duplications and optimized resources** to maximize impact.

Of the host Governments surveyed, 92 per cent viewed resident coordinators as **effective leaders** in delivering strategic support for national development priorities. Two thirds of resident coordinators are new appointees, selected through a revamped process to ensure diverse and skilled leadership with an impact tailored to specific country contexts, while **achieving gender parity and geographical balance**.



“We need to recognize the connection between peace and sustainable development and commit to peace as the foundation for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region.”

**Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



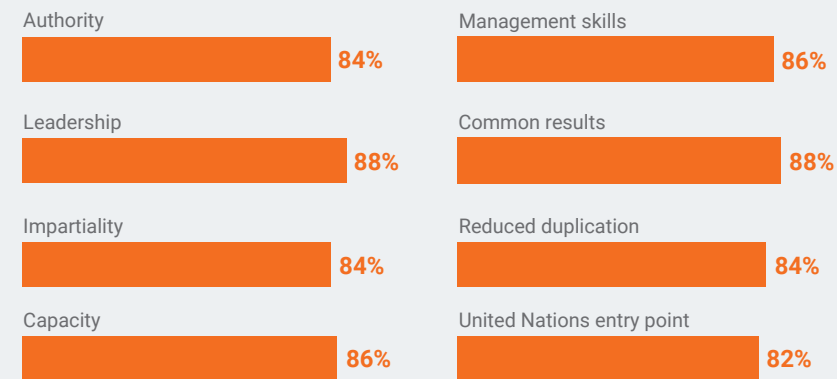
The Secretary-General hosts a dialogue with United Nations resident coordinators.

(New York; November 2023)  
© UN Photo/Mark Garten

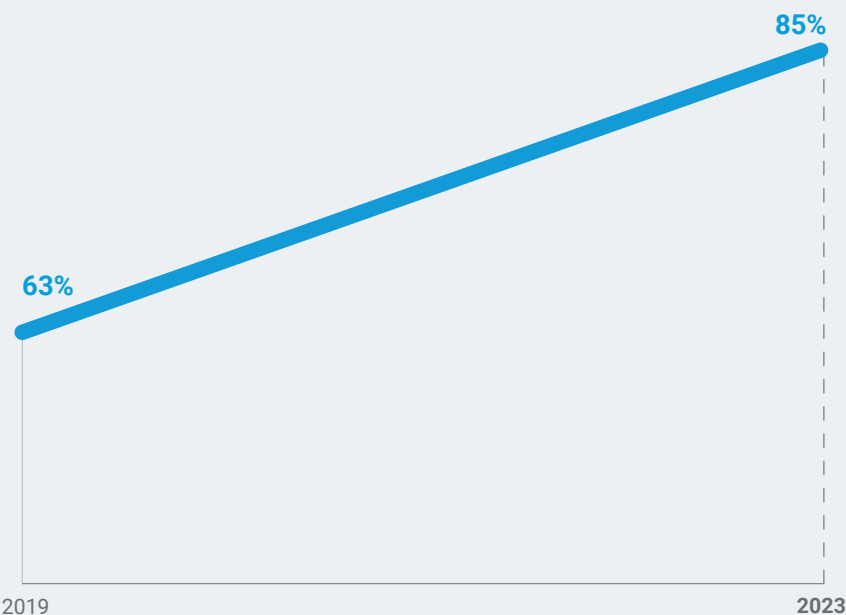
## In focus: resident coordinator system

Under strengthened resident coordinator leadership, the United Nations development system continued to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in countries. Efforts to strengthen the leadership, impartiality, accountability and effectiveness of the resident coordinator system are yielding clear returns.

In 2023, the average percentage of host Governments reporting improved outcomes by resident coordinators reached **85** per cent.



The percentage of host Governments reporting that resident coordinators have strengthened each area increased by an average of **22** percentage points between 2019 and 2023.



## Host perceptions of resident coordinators

**92%** said that resident coordinators provide strategic support to national plans

**91%** said that resident coordinators effectively support country development

**88%** said that resident coordinators provided strengthened leadership



“In times of multiple crises, it is more urgent than ever to implement innovative solutions to get sustainable development back on track in the pan-European region.”

**Tatiana Molcean**, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe



# Fostering peace and security

Maintenance of international peace and security



A United Nations peacekeeper engages with children in Tong, South Sudan.

(Tong; July 2023) © UNMISS/Gregório Cunha

## What we do

- Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts
- Women and peace and security
- Peacebuilding support
- Policy, evaluation and training
- Electoral assistance
- Rule of law and security institutions
- Protection of civilians

## Our team

- Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
- Department of Peace Operations
- Peacekeeping missions, political missions and offices





UNIFIL peacekeepers conduct a foot patrol with members of the Armed Forces along the Blue Line.

(South Lebanon; February 2023) © UNIFIL/Pasqual Gorriz



“We must learn to navigate the present turmoil. Not only to safeguard gains in collective security and universal normative frameworks, but to set the stage for lasting peace.”

**Rosemary A. DiCarlo,**  
Under-Secretary-General for  
Political and Peacebuilding  
Affairs

## Context

Global peace and security faced significant challenges in 2023. Conflicts raged in Gaza, the Sudan and Ukraine, among many other locations, destroying lives and livelihoods, displacing millions and **straining our and our partners’ peacemaking and humanitarian capacities**. Other global challenges persist, from protracted civil wars, the deepening climate crisis, soaring inequalities and a rising threat of terrorism, to **global pushback against human rights and gender equality**, as well as the underregulated development of technologies.

## Our goals

At the heart of our work lies **diplomacy for peace**, guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Through our political affairs, peacebuilding and peacekeeping endeavours, we **assist Governments** in conflict prevention, management and resolution, with a focus on **advancing the participation of women and young people in political processes**. Central to our work is the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, of grave violations against children in armed conflict situations and of atrocity crimes. In all our activities, we are **committed to the full implementation of the United Nations zero-tolerance policy** on sexual exploitation and abuse.

## Our achievements

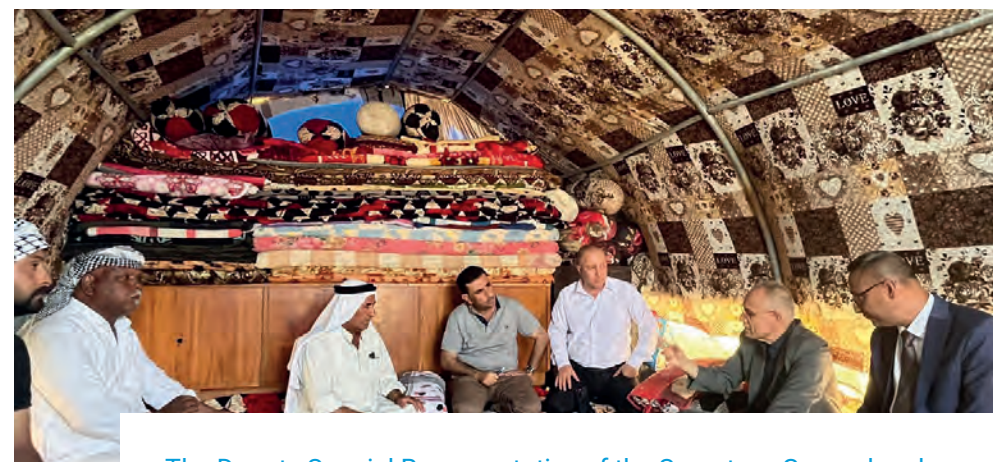
### Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

In response to escalating challenges, the Secretary-General proposed his **New Agenda for Peace**, outlining concrete proposals to move from the current logic of global competition towards **multilateral action for peace in a world in transition**. It calls on Member States to recommit to the Charter and the principles of trust, solidarity and universality to address the interlocking threats to our **shared future**.



“The goal of peacekeeping is to help parties end conflict by securing and implementing peace agreements and related political processes. In a world that is more divided than ever, the united and active engagement of Member States in this process is critical.”

**Jean-Pierre Lacroix,**  
Under-Secretary-General for  
Peace Operations



The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, Ghulam M. Isaczai, meets with a group of newly returned internally displaced families in Salah al-Din Governorate of Iraq.

(Yathrib; May 2024) © UNAMI

### Our peacekeeping work

**76,000**  
total peacekeepers

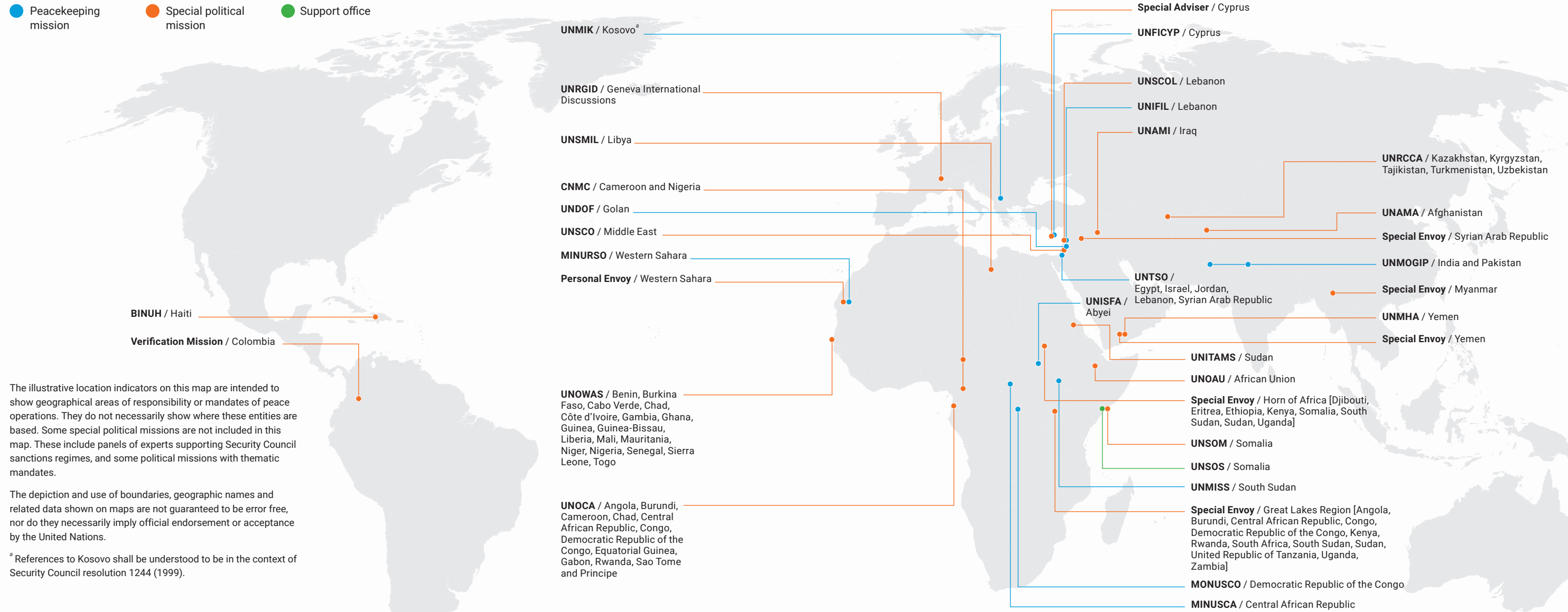
**6,000**  
women peacekeepers

**120**  
troop- and police-contributing  
countries

**11**  
peace operations



# Peacekeeping operations, special political missions and support offices



The illustrative location indicators on this map are intended to show geographical areas of responsibility or mandates of peace operations. They do not necessarily show where these entities are based. Some special political missions are not included in this map. These include panels of experts supporting Security Council sanctions regimes, and some political missions with thematic mandates.

The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on maps are not guaranteed to be error free, nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

<sup>a</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

## Acronyms

<b>BINUH</b>	United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	<b>UNDOF</b>	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force	<b>UNMOGIP</b>	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan	<b>UNSMIL</b>	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
<b>CNMC</b>	United Nations support team to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	<b>UNFICYP</b>	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	<b>UNOAU</b>	United Nations Office to the African Union	<b>UNSOM</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
<b>MINURSO</b>	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara	<b>UNIFIL</b>	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	<b>UNOCA</b>	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	<b>UNSOS</b>	United Nations Support Office in Somalia
<b>MINUSCA</b>	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic	<b>UNISFA</b>	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei	<b>UNOWAS</b>	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	<b>UNTSO</b>	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
<b>MONUSCO</b>	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	<b>UNITAMS</b>	United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan	<b>UNRCCA</b>	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia		
<b>UNAMA</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	<b>UNMHA</b>	United Nations Mission to Support the Hedaydah Agreement	<b>UNRGID</b>	United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions		In addition to the missions listed here, a Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General is supporting peacemaking efforts in Mozambique. Note: This office closed in October 2023.
<b>UNAMI</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq	<b>UNMIK</b>	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo <sup>a</sup>	<b>UNSCO</b>	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process		
		<b>UNMISS</b>	United Nations Mission in South Sudan	<b>UNSCOL</b>	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon		





An aerial view of the ruins of the UNRWA health centre in Shaykh Radwan shows the extent of widespread destruction in the Gaza Strip since October 2023.

(Gaza City; February 2024) © UNRWA/Abdallah Alhaj

## Supporting mediation efforts

152

mediation support assignments on constitution-making, security arrangements, gender and inclusion, and natural resources

28

country settings across 5 regions

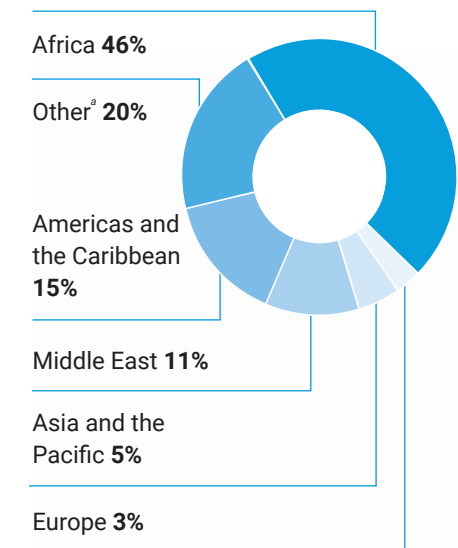
For the first time in 34 years, the Secretary-General invoked Article 99 of the Charter to bring the hostilities in Gaza and Israel to the attention of the Security Council, because of the **appalling** human suffering, physical destruction and broader threats to international peace and security generated by those hostilities. He remained steadfast in advocating an **immediate humanitarian ceasefire** and the **release of all hostages**. We continued to engage countries in the region to prevent regional escalation, including across the Blue Line between Lebanon and Israel. Through the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, we continued to advance peace efforts aimed at **ending the occupation** and achieving a two-State solution in line with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, so as to establish a **fully independent, sovereign Palestinian State, with Gaza as an integral part thereof**.

The Secretary-General and senior leaders also continued to advocate for affected people in the context of other major conflicts. In the Sudan, we contributed to peacebuilding initiatives amid ongoing violence and are **supporting mediation efforts** between all relevant stakeholders to help to restore peace. The Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports, which continued throughout most of 2023, **helped to stabilize global food prices**, despite the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

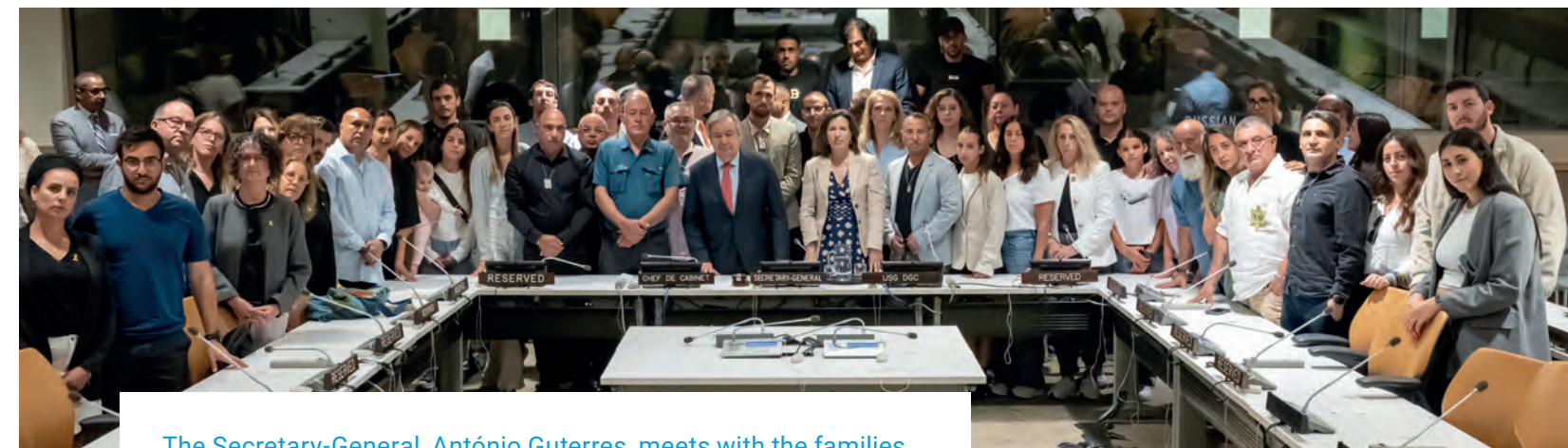
In total, the United Nations engaged with members of the Security Council to support over 400 Council meetings, more than 50 resolutions and statements by the President, over 100 meetings of sanctions committees and other groups and two field missions to fragile and crisis settings.

Under strenuous circumstances, we also intensified our conflict prevention, management and resolution and peacebuilding efforts across all special political missions, offices and peacekeeping operations. **Over 76,000 peacekeepers helped to protect civilians every day**, including in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon and South Sudan and Abyei. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, peacekeepers intervened to thwart growing attacks against civilians. In Mali, we managed the orderly withdrawal of over 13,000 personnel from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and handed over its bases under rapidly deteriorating security conditions. Through the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, we continued to invest in improving peacekeeping performance, capabilities and safety amid new challenges, such as targeted mis- and disinformation campaigns.

Capacity-building and mediation support was provided in regional contexts, as follows:



<sup>a</sup> "Other" refers to non-region-specific assignments, related mostly to capacity-building.



The Secretary-General, António Guterres, meets with the families of Israeli hostages.

(New York; June 2024) © UN Photo/Mark Garten



## Peace and development advisers

133

international advisers in 74 countries

46

national advisers, a 40 per cent increase since 2020

Our special political missions worked with parties to conflict to facilitate ceasefires and foster inclusive peace and political processes. For example, **our diplomatic engagement in Yemen contributed to a nationwide ceasefire** and a renewed commitment to an inclusive political process. In Colombia, the Security Council expanded our mandate to monitor the ceasefire agreement between the Government and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional. We also supported State-building and reconciliation in Somalia by encouraging dialogue and broad-based consensus on key national priorities.

Our partnerships with regional organizations are becoming more essential for conflict prevention and peace. We worked with the Economic Community of West African States to ease tensions after the unconstitutional change of Government in the Niger. We also **supported the Economic Community of Central African States in its efforts to tackle hate speech and promote political engagement** among young people and women. Marking a major milestone, the unanimously adopted Security Council resolution 2719 (2023) will help to provide African Union-led peace support operations with access to United Nations assessed contributions, strengthening our partnership with the African Union.

We also support Member States in non-mission settings. For example, we assisted the Government of Chile in designing the Presidential Commission for Peace and Understanding, which is mandated to address long-standing land disputes with Indigenous communities through dialogue.



Peacekeepers work at Mission headquarters in Juba, South Sudan.

(Juba; May 2023)  
© UNMISS/Gregório Cunha



Former combatants and victims of conflict in the forests of the Montes de María region created two beekeeping associations that work together on economic and community reintegration projects after signing a peace agreement.

(Sucre, Colombia; November 2023) © United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia/ Esteban Vanegas

## Women, peace and security

Across the globe, we helped to advance the **full, equal and meaningful representation and engagement of women** in peace and political processes. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we empowered women to participate in the December 2023 elections, through training on political campaigning and through voter registration, and we helped to establish a new women's electoral observers network. In Colombia, we led consultations and high-level advocacy to increase the inclusion of women leaders and former combatants in the peace process. In the Central African Republic, we established 12 circles of peace, comprising 300 women **working to promote peace in their communities**. In Afghanistan, we continued to advocate firmly and publicly with the de facto authorities for women and girls, whose basic rights and role and space in society must be respected.

## Gender parity in peace operations

43%

women among staff in mediation teams

36%

women among heads and deputy heads of missions

31%

women among individual police officers

24%

women among military observers and staff officers



**Peacebuilding Fund portfolio, donor base and reach**

**\$203M**  
in approved budget

**\$132M**  
in donor commitments from 36 countries

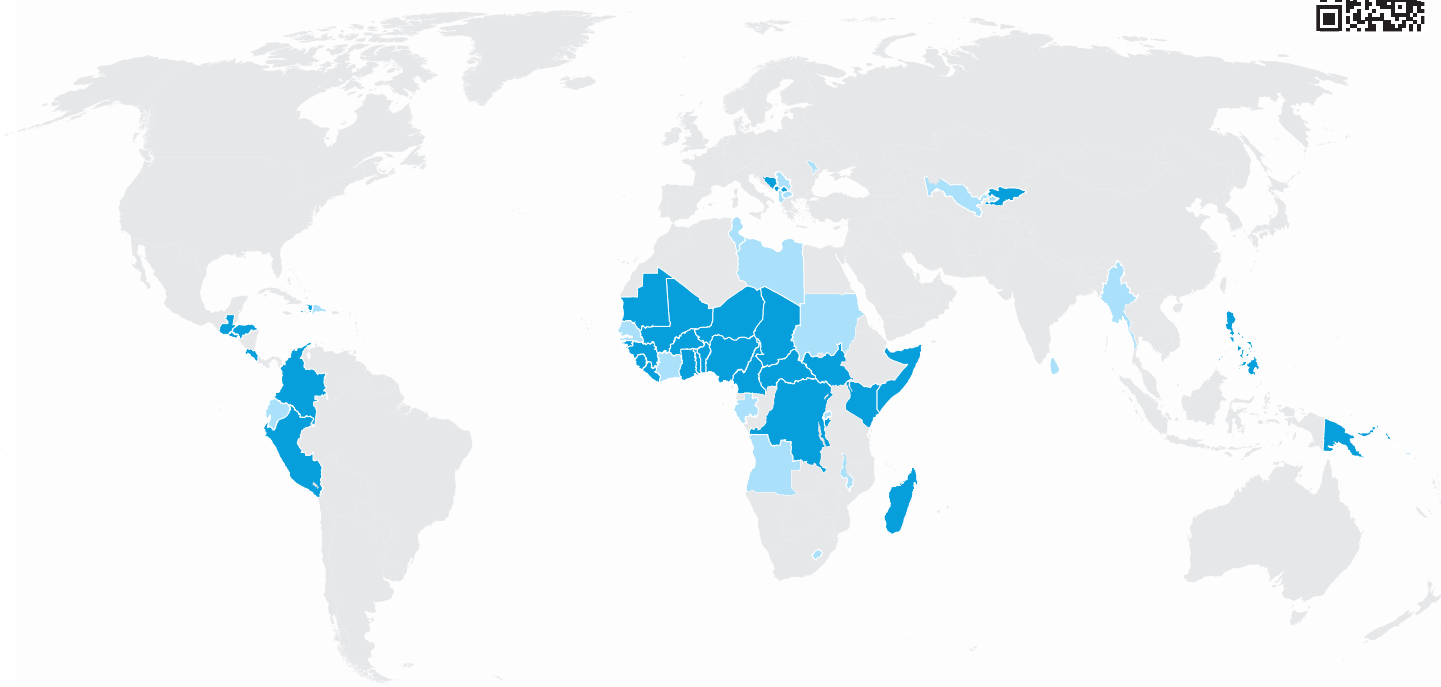
**Peacebuilding support**

In 2023, we helped the Peacebuilding Commission to consider 14 countries and regions through its country-specific, regional and thematic engagements. We supported the Commission in 20 engagements with the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The Peacebuilding Fund **allocated over \$200 million across 36 countries and territories** to boost national prevention and peacebuilding plans. For the seventh consecutive year, the Fund surpassed its goal of allocating 30 per cent of funds to gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Partnership Facility of the Peacebuilding Support Office also strengthened strategic and operational alignment with the World Bank and other international financial institutions.

We deployed **over 130 peace and development advisers** to assist national stakeholders in developing their own capacities for conflict prevention and sustaining peace. United Nations peace operations have also continued to assist host countries in navigating the path from conflict to peace by providing peacebuilding support where they are deployed.

**Peacebuilding Fund: new projects approved in 36 countries and territories, and 23 countries received ongoing support**

● 2023 approvals ● Other countries with ongoing Peacebuilding Fund programming



The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on maps are not guaranteed to be error free, nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



A United Nations delegation meets with female journalists in Afghanistan for World Press Freedom Day.

(Logar; May 2024) © UNAMA/Tahmina Osta

**Electoral assistance**

We supported Member States in conducting **credible, inclusive elections with peacefully accepted outcomes**. This included providing technical assistance, strengthening the capacities of national electoral authorities, strengthening political engagement and facilitating consensus on critical electoral issues and electoral codes of conduct.

Through joint capacity development initiatives, we strengthened partnerships with the Pacific Islands Forum, the League of Arab States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. We collaborated with the League to establish the first Arab Women Leadership Academy and promoted youth participation in elections through the Arab Network for Youth in Elections.

**Our support by the numbers**

**50**  
Member States and territories assisted

**21**  
elections and referendums supported

**13**  
needs assessments conducted





Participants read a brochure during the launch of the United Nations report entitled “Tackling sexual violence in Somalia: prevention and protection”.

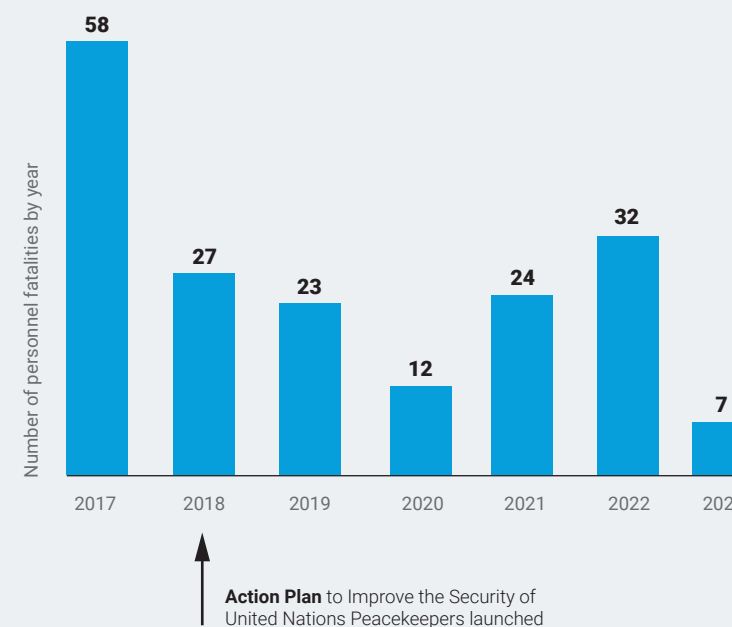
(Mogadishu; June 2024)  
© UN Photo/Mukhtar Nuur

## Rule of law and security institutions

Our support for the rule of law, justice and security institutions remained central to peace efforts. Over **8,200 United Nations police officers across 15 missions** strengthened national policing capacities for community-oriented engagement and gender equality. In the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and Mali, for example, we supported disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, including through community violence-reduction programmes benefiting around 45,000 individuals, as well as through arms management initiatives.

## Annual peacekeeping fatalities

In 2022, malicious acts were the highest cause of uniformed personnel fatalities, 50 per cent of which were due to explosive ordnance incidents. They also accounted for 53 per cent of fatalities overall that year. In 2023, over 70 per cent of fatalities were due to explosive ordnance.



Our Mine Action Service raised awareness of explosive ordnance risks for over 4.9 million people. In South Sudan, we **cleared and verified roughly 5.7 million m<sup>2</sup> of land** as free from explosive ordnance threats.

With our support, stronger national criminal accountability mechanisms in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and South Sudan have led to 4,600 prosecutions and over **3,400 convictions for serious crimes by the end of 2023**. We also helped to improve security sector governance, prison security and supported the rehabilitation of high-risk detainees.

**Our support for the rule of law and security institutions**

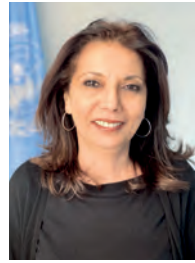
**257,800+** explosive items removed or destroyed by United Nations mine action programmes

**901 km<sup>2</sup>** of land and 121 km of road confirmed safe through mine action programmes

**21,000** people participated in community violence reduction projects

**8,200** United Nations police officers building national capabilities





“The continuum of violence faced by children worldwide must be changed into a continuum of protection. Investment in child protection and well-being is needed more than ever.”

**Najat Maalla M'jid,**  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children



“Protecting children from armed conflict and preventing grave violations is not only a legal and moral obligation, it also paves the way for lasting peace for all.”

**Virginia Gamba,**  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

## Violence against children, children in armed conflict, conflict-related sexual violence and the prevention of genocide

In 2023, violence against children continued expanding at levels never seen before, due to the effects of multifaceted and overlapping crises worldwide. To prevent and protect children effectively from violence, the continuum of violence before, after and during conflict must be addressed comprehensively. To better understand prevention actions, we facilitated **intergenerational dialogues between displaced, refugee and migrant children and policymakers**. These dialogues complemented the public advocacy campaign mobilized by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on the urgency to protect children on the move in times of crisis, given the increasing numbers of displaced children across all regions. **Of the 117.3 million people displaced globally, 40 per cent are estimated to be children.**

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, alongside partners on the ground, helped to initiate new action plans to cease violations against children. These engagements have aided in the release of over 200,000 children from parties to conflict since 2000, with over 10,600 children receiving reintegration support in 2023. We monitored and reported over 33,000 grave violations against children in 26 country and regional conflict settings.

**Sexual violence persists as a tactic of war, torture and terrorism**, amid deepening political and security crises. Women and girls are especially targeted with rape and abduction by State and non-State actors, curtailing their own livelihoods and education while generating profits for armed groups. Despite the framework established by the Security Council in 2008, our annual report on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2024/292) revealed that compliance with international norms remains low. There are 11 State actors and 47 non-State actors that are credibly suspected to have committed systematic violations. Our work to address these issues included the provision of capacity-building and support to national law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities, enhancing accountability in over a dozen countries to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. We also helped to enable hundreds of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, including in Mali and with regard to the artisanal mining sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to gain access to medical, psychosocial, legal and socioeconomic integration support.

We advocated the prevention of genocide and related crimes – war crimes and crimes against humanity – and monitored the risk of such crimes. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide voiced concerns over potentially genocidal situations in the Middle East and other regions. **We engaged directly with vulnerable groups and bolstered national prevention capacities**, supporting five United Nations country teams in developing action plans on addressing and countering hate speech.



“It is through consistent and effective prosecution that perpetrators will be deterred from committing crimes of conflict-related sexual violence. It can no longer be cost-free to rape.”

**Pramila Patten,**  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict



“Prevention remains critical. With hate speech and incitement all too present, past genocides being denied and civilians being targeted because of their identity, we must act and must act now.”

**Alice Nderitu,** Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide



A United Nations joint assessment mission enters Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, to assess reports of threats against civilians.

(Bukavu; April 2023) © MONUSCO/ Michael Ali



# Propelling African growth

Development in Africa

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Construction workers build the Nyamlel Bridge in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, South Sudan, an infrastructure project supported by the United Nations.

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(Northern Bahr el-Ghazal; September 2023) © UNOPS/Kenyi Moses

## What we do

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- Coordination of global advocacy and support for African Union development initiatives
- Regional coordination of and support for African Union development initiatives
- Public information and awareness activities for African Union development initiatives
- Regional cooperation for economic and social development in Africa

## Our team

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- Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
- Economic Commission for Africa



United Nations personnel meet with a recipient of a cash transfer programme at a market in Bangui, Central African Republic.

(Bangui, May 2023) © UNOPS/Tchaya Zigoto



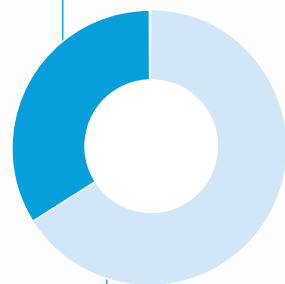
## The United Nations is invested in Africa

**73,000** uniformed personnel serve in Africa

**35%** of Secretariat staff are from Africa

Share of United Nations system total expenditures in 2022 (including peace operations)

Africa **34%** (\$24B)



Others **66%**

## Context

At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, **Africa is advancing towards the achievement of 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals**, but the current pace of progress is insufficient to achieve the Goals by 2030. To accelerate that pace, it is **now essential to address debt distress and scale up national investment** in sustainable development and public institutions.

## Our goals

The United Nations supports sustainable development and peace in Africa through the 2030 Agenda and through Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, in partnership with the African Union. We focus on **the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development** and their interlinkages with peace, security and human rights. We also support **intra-regional cooperation**, including with a view to unlocking the potential of technology for the Sustainable Development Goals and furthering demands for a Goal stimulus to finance sustainable development.

## Our achievements

This year we strengthened coordination with the African Union through our high-level meetings and dialogues, to **help us to deliver as one**. We supported African States in accelerating the six critical Sustainable Development Goal transitions, including through our advocacy of a \$500 billion stimulus package. We also supported innovative financing approaches, such as **debt swaps for development**, and promoted **national resource mobilization as the cornerstone for sustainable financing**. For example, the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund is working with Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe to assess potential debt swaps for development.

Together with our partners, we identified key bottlenecks impeding the transition to stronger food systems, which are crucial for sustainable development. In global summits and coalitions, we championed the need for **more homegrown African solutions**. For instance, the United Nations system collaborated with various stakeholders to transform school feeding programmes into exemplary public service models. Those homegrown initiatives now **benefit over 66 million children in 54 African countries**, with 84 per cent of funding sourced from national budgets.



“Beyond mere participation, African countries must be at the leadership table in critical intergovernmental processes, an essential ingredient for the future of multilateralism.”

**Cristina Isabel Lopes da Silva Monteiro Duarte**,  
Special Adviser on Africa

## Current state of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal achievement in the 54 African countries

Over half of African countries have either met, or are on track to meet, the targets for Goals 12, on responsible consumption and production, and 13, on climate action. However, none of the African countries have met or are currently on track to meet 11 of the 17 Goals beyond the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda.

**6** Goals have been achieved, or are currently on track to being met, in one or more of the 54 African countries:



All 54 African countries face challenges in making progress on the remaining **11** Goals.



“Africa’s journey towards building inclusive green economies and advancing economic prosperity should not be merely anecdotes but pressing imperatives that demand concerted action, partnerships and concreteness on scalable and replicable solutions that work.”

**Claver Gatete**,  
Executive Secretary,  
Economic Commission  
for Africa





A teacher delivers a class in a new science lab constructed with support from the United Nations at Wambaa Secondary School in Pemba, Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania.

(Pemba; November 2023)  
© UNOPS/Moshi J. Lukindo

In our advocacy, we highlighted the growing risk to peace and stability due to a lack of sufficient employment opportunities in Africa. Through the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, we supported African countries in designing job creation initiatives, especially in science and technology fields. Our joint focus is on **unlocking the full potential of women and girls**.

In response to urgent regional challenges in Africa, we brought the United Nations system together around stronger joint strategies to leverage the reformed, more cohesive United Nations country teams. For example, we launched the African Union-United Nations high-level strategic dialogue on sustainable development and the “college-to-college” structure to promote strategic alignment with the African Union. In country situations, we focused our engagement through the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, for better coherence, integration and coordination with partners in the region, such as in Chad, through the Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad and the Lake Chad Basin Governors’ Forum for Regional Cooperation on Stabilization, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development.

We also created new platforms for civil society to contribute to African and global policy debates. Our first Academic Conference on Africa brought together policymakers and African academics to address State fragility. Our new youth network, **Africa’s Youth Voices**, provided a stage for young people to engage in global discussions, such as the Sustainable Development Goals Summit. The Global Africa Business Initiative continued to mobilize the private sector to support economic transformation in Africa.

## Overview of the African Union-United Nations partnership

The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union has been pivotal in addressing key challenges across Africa. This collaboration – across conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding – was re-enforced by an agreed strategic direction between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairperson of the African Union and guidance from their deputies. That alignment enhances United Nations actions to support African Union priorities, integrating feedback from field operations.

Coordination is promoted at the country level through the resident coordinator system, which implements programmes and reflects African Union priorities. The Regional Coordination Platform for Africa further integrates joint African Union-United Nations strategic priorities. Through this partnership, we have supported constitutional frameworks for national elections, promoted dialogues in conflict regions and responded to unconstitutional government changes. The United Nations has also backed African Union-led initiatives for peace in countries across the continent and supported regional disarmament campaigns. In addition, efforts to integrate human rights into early warning systems and capacity-building for peace operations have been strengthened.

To foster a prosperous and more integrated African economy, we brought policymakers, experts and key stakeholders together through the Africa Dialogue Series. Focused on the African Continental Free Trade Area initiative, we supported progress on better trade regulations, increasing intra-African trade and harnessing the power of women entrepreneurs.



Participants convene in Ethiopia at the Africa Youth Future Consultative Forum on the Summit of the Future.

(Addis Ababa; April 2024) © UNDP Africa



# Upholding human rights

Promotion and protection of human rights

The opening of the fifty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council is held in Geneva.

(Geneva; February 2024) © UN Photo/Elma Okic

## What we do

- Supporting human rights treaty bodies
- Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms
- Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities
- Human rights mainstreaming, the right to development, research and analysis

## Our team

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All



A discussion on the future of human rights and peace and security at a high-level event commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(Geneva; December 2023)  
© UN Photo/Elma Okic

## Context

In a world rife with conflict, poverty and environmental degradation, human rights regressed in 2023. In spite of the challenging times, **the United Nations remains committed to promoting and protecting human rights.** To revitalize a global commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights upon its seventy-fifth anniversary, more than 150 countries and 120 non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and other actors made nearly 800 pledges **reaffirming their dedication to advancing human rights.**

## Our goals

Our work for human rights is set on six pillars: **supporting international mechanisms; mainstreaming human rights** both within development and within peace operations; and **advancing the core human rights principles** of equality, non-discrimination, participation and accountability. The Secretary-General's call to action for human rights and Our Common Agenda serve to reinforce human rights at the heart of the Organization.



"Justice and rights are the foundations of enduring peace. They are the basis of development that is inclusive and sustainable. They build greater well-being – and greater trust."

Volker Türk,  
United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights

## Our achievements

To sustain the global commitment to human rights, we **engaged with Member States in leading human rights forums**, including the Human Rights Council. Our work helped to increase lawmakers' capacity to engage effectively with the Council's universal periodic review. With our assistance, 13 countries ratified or acceded to 16 international human rights treaties in 2023. We **supported the establishment or strengthening of nearly 60 national mechanisms to improve human rights reporting and follow-up** with treaty bodies. We also supported 60 human rights experts in conducting country visits and delivering communications to Governments concerning alleged human rights violations.

To drive human rights within development efforts, we worked with the United Nations country team and national counterparts to **build national capacities and incorporate human rights-based approaches into development plans and policies** for the 2030 Agenda. As a result of our support, over 60 least developed countries and small island developing States implemented recommendations on the basis of international human rights mechanisms. We **helped to advance economic, social and cultural rights in the legislation and policies of more than 80 countries** and supported the inclusion of human rights in climate negotiations, as, for example, in the outcome reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

### Human rights in 95 locations globally

- 44** human rights advisers deployed to United Nations country teams
- 19** country offices
- 12** regional offices and centres
- 11** human rights components in United Nations political and peace missions
- 9** other types of field presences





Staff members of the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine assess the site of a missile strike in the village of Hroza, Kharkiv Province.

(Hroza; October 2023) © OHCHR/Yevhen Nosenko

### Our support for Member State cooperation

**3,000+** official documents submitted for meetings of human rights mechanisms, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

**139** concluding observations adopted by treaty bodies

**58** Governments hosted 82 visits by special procedure mandate holders

**16** treaty actions including 8 ratifications and 8 accessions to treaties and optional protocols

In our peace and security work, we provided robust monitoring and reporting measures to help to decrease violence by security forces and **introduced protection measures for individuals facing threats.**

Our advocacy served to combat discriminatory practices, including against people of African descent, migrants, Indigenous Peoples, minorities, women, LGBTIQ+ persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, children and young people. Our fellowship programme helped 100 human rights defenders to deepen their understanding of international law. We **collaborated with nearly 700 organizations globally to advance disability rights through the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.** Our work also helped in integrating international standards nationally to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in Timor-Leste and influenced significant legal victories for disability rights in Mexico.

The Grants Committee for human rights-related funding **awarded over 50 grants to enhance civic engagement to civil society organizations.** The grants served to promote, protect and strengthen the work of human rights defenders and civil society organizations worldwide. **We engaged with nearly 5,500 youth-led and women's rights organizations to develop public policies** that better reflect human rights concerns specific to those groups.

We advocated the use of transitional justice processes globally and promoted accountability in multiple countries, including for crimes against humanity. We **secured the release of arbitrarily detained human rights defenders** and helped to establish the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic. We also conducted nearly 2,000 visits to detention centres globally, yielding improved conditions for persons in detention.

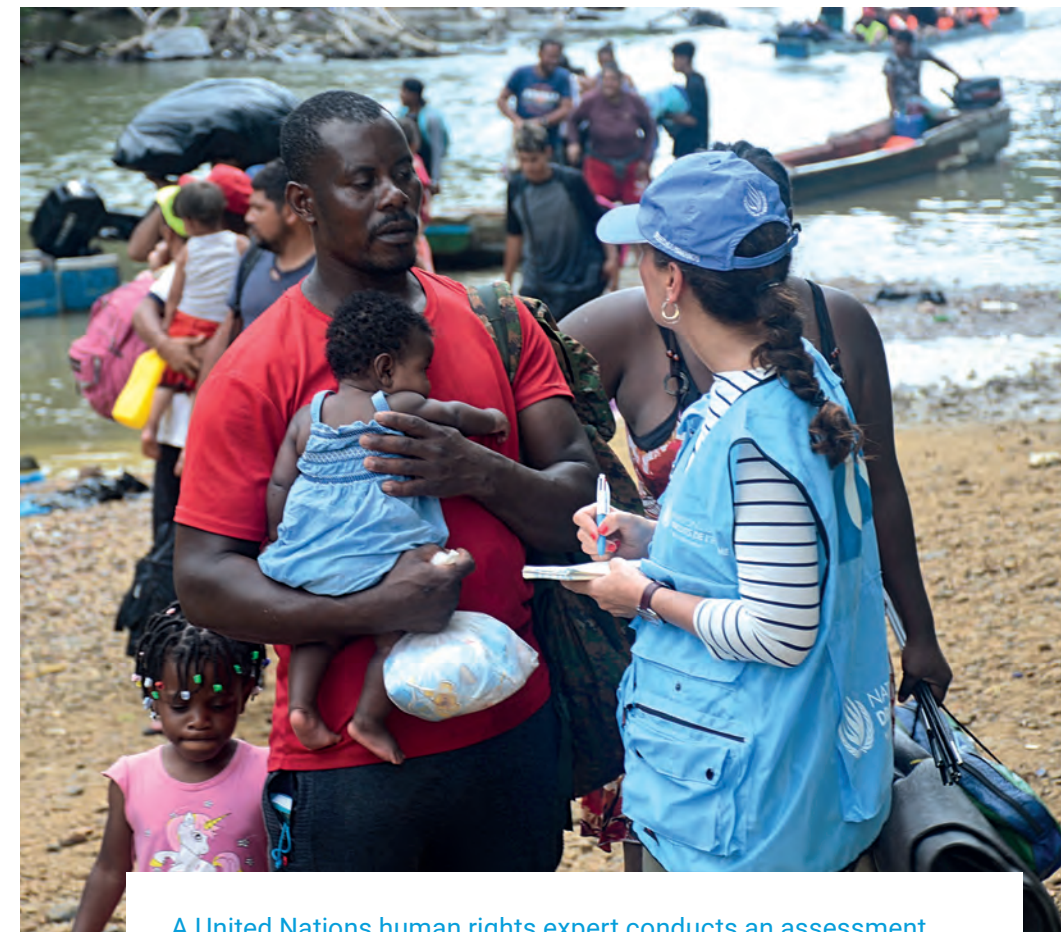
### Advancing human rights through the Sustainable Development Goals

**1.6M** downloads of the OHCHR report on human rights indicators tied to the Goals

**3,900+** participants from 144 countries in the twelfth Forum on Business and Human Rights

**400** national statisticians in 56 countries trained on human-rights approaches to data

**29** common country analyses supported by OHCHR



A United Nations human rights expert conducts an assessment involving migrants arriving in the Darién Gap in Panama.

(Darién Province; May 2023) © OHCHR/Carlos Rodriguez





Children displaced by war in the Syrian Arab Republic benefit from improved living conditions after moving from tents into dignified shelters in the Shuayb Camp in Idlib.

### Our human rights work

**59,000+**

survivors of torture in 92 countries received rehabilitation support

**12,000+**

victims of contemporary forms of slavery in 36 countries received direct support

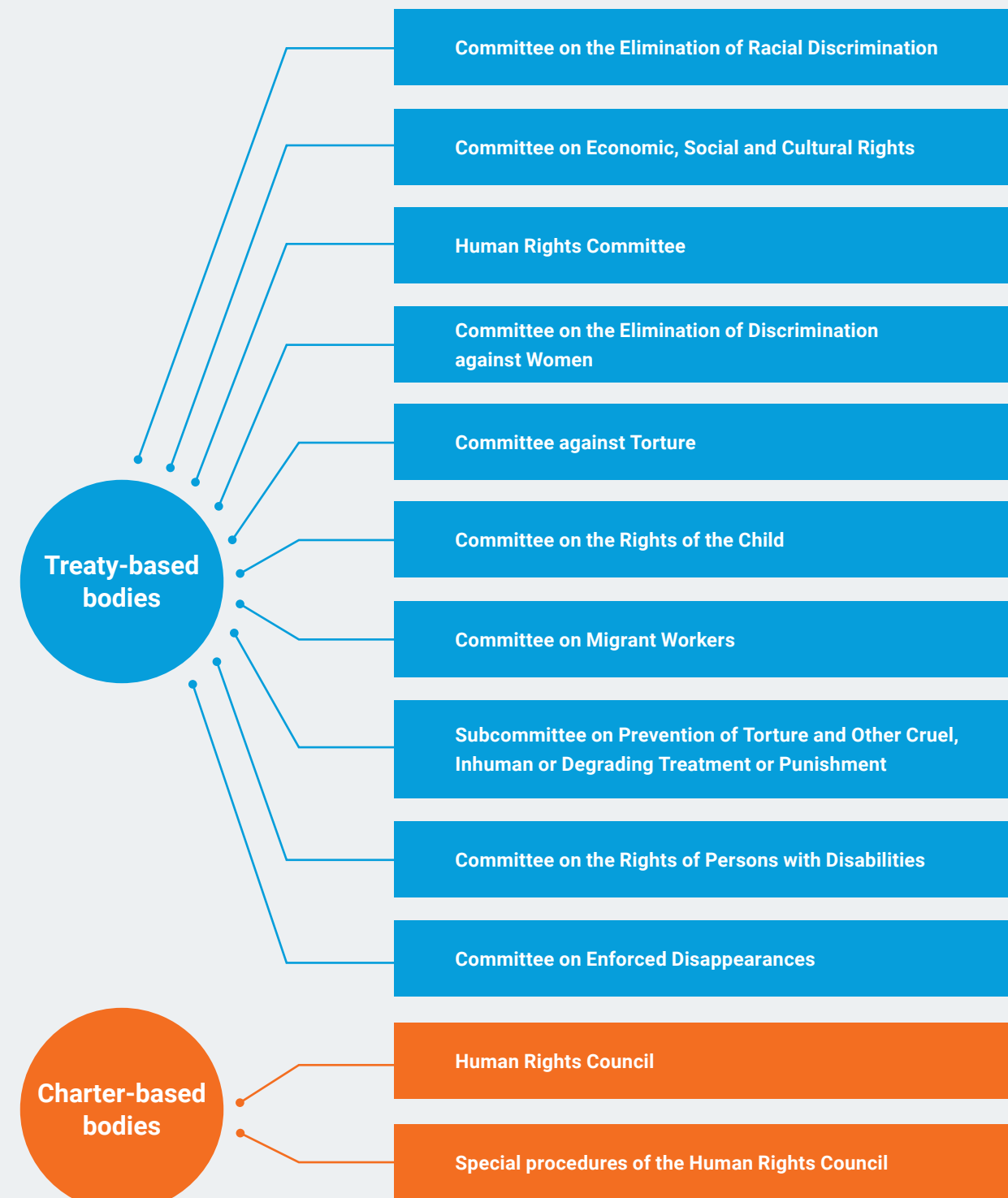
**564**

human rights staff across United Nations peace missions

(Idlib; April 2023) © OCHA/Ali Haj Suleiman

Our report on privacy rights influenced a landmark ruling by the European Court of Human Rights, ensuring that technology is grounded in human rights principles. We have also established a first-ever centre for core expertise in innovation, data and statistics, digital transformation and foresight in service of humanity and of embracing human rights as a driving force to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

## Expertise and support for the Human Rights Bodies





# Securing humanitarian assistance

Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance

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Displaced women and children stay warm around a campfire in Nangarhar, eastern Afghanistan.

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(Nangarhar; November 2023) © UN-Women/Sayed Habib Bedill

## What we do

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- Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response
- Emergency support services
- Humanitarian information and advocacy
- Natural disaster reduction
- Policy and analysis

## Our team

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- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction





A supply shipment arrives at the Port-au-Prince airport in Haiti.

(Port-au-Prince; May 2024) © UNICEF/Herold Joseph



“Each year, the humanitarian community is called on to do more, but the funding gap is vast. To stem the rising tide, we must innovate, share the burden and put crisis-affected people at the heart of our efforts.”

**Martin Griffiths**,  
former Under-Secretary-General  
for Humanitarian Affairs and  
Emergency Relief Coordinator

## Context

Humanitarian crises soared in 2023 and were devastating for the most vulnerable people. Those crises severely strained the global humanitarian system and **disproportionately affected women and children**. Conflict, disease and disasters were amplified by climate change, causing record levels of displacement and hunger and a risk of famine – even in areas that had never before been at risk. **International humanitarian law and human rights violations continued with impunity**, including attacks on civilians, hospitals, humanitarian aid and schools. **More United Nations aid workers died in 2023 than ever in history**.

## Our goals

Alongside our partners, **we coordinate neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian responses** to the world’s worst crises. **We alleviate human suffering** and provide timely and life-saving assistance. We promote adherence to humanitarian principles and respect for international humanitarian and human rights law. We **mobilize anticipatory,**

**evidence-based approaches to early action and rapid response** as part of effective coordination. We also convene Governments, partners and communities **to reduce disaster risk and losses**.

## Our achievements

In 2023, we coordinated humanitarian assistance that **reached over 128 million people in 74 countries**, representing 62 per cent of total identified humanitarian needs. This work was enabled by donors, who **provided nearly \$23 billion of the over \$56 billion needed** in total. While substantial, that amount was still well below the \$30 billion provided in 2022. This **record funding shortfall** forced us to make difficult prioritization decisions to meet the most urgent needs.

**Our largest operations supported humanitarian responses to protracted crises**. We coordinated assistance for over 27 million people in Afghanistan and 11 million people in Ukraine. We also supported responses to newly emerging or intensified crises, such as in the Sudan, where we coordinated support for 8 million people. **Our coordination and response efforts were essential in alleviating human suffering for millions of people** in Yemen and in the Horn of Africa. We also supported the global response to devastating earthquakes in Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye and cholera outbreaks and floods in Libya, Malawi and Mozambique.

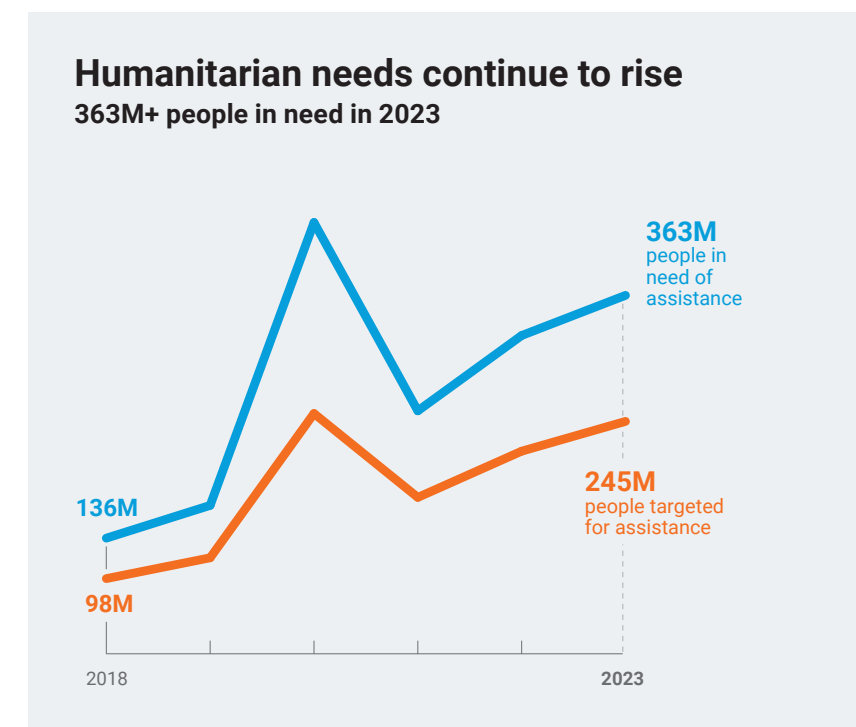
**Our support for coordination of humanitarian assistance**

**\$23B**  
mobilized in humanitarian assistance

**245M+**  
people targeted for assistance

**128M+**  
people assisted

**74**  
countries affected and in need of humanitarian assistance



“The impact of disasters is increasingly eroding development gains, with dire consequences for people, society and the ecosystems on which we depend. Our task is to accelerate, bringing a dramatic shift from managing disasters to managing risk.”

**Kamal Kishore**,  
Special Representative of  
the Secretary-General for  
Disaster Risk Reduction

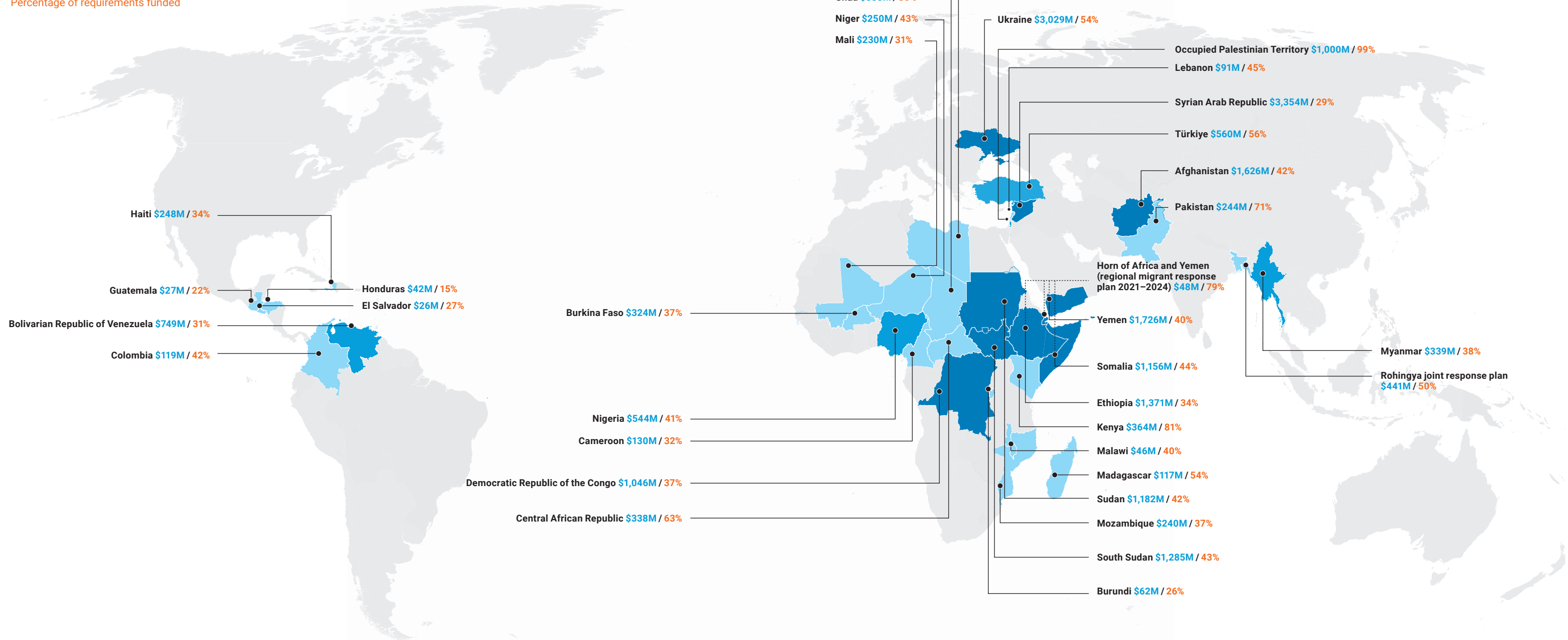


# In 2023, the United Nations helped to mobilize \$23 billion of the \$56 billion needed to assist 128 million people in 74 countries and territories

## Humanitarian funding received

- <\$500M in funding
- \$500M to \$1B in funding
- >\$1B in funding

## Percentage of requirements funded



The depiction and use of boundaries and related data shown on maps are not guaranteed to be error free, nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Note: Funding totals and percentages include humanitarian response plans, regional response plans, emergency response plans and flash appeals.





United Nations personnel assess and evacuate patients at the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip.

(Khan Yunis; February 2024) © Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Support provided to the Occupied Palestinian Territory required substantial and sustained humanitarian operations. The Secretary-General **also appointed a Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator** and presented options to monitor humanitarian pauses and corridors. **Despite the death of over 200 colleagues, the United Nations continued to deliver humanitarian assistance to people in Gaza.**

We delivered time-sensitive humanitarian assistance to address record levels of food insecurity and avert escalation to famine. Devastation and destruction, whether caused by humans or nature, invariably led to hunger and sickness. In response, **we facilitated the delivery of food, cash and voucher assistance to 120 million people globally, as well as agriculture assistance to 30 million people.** For instance, our crop seed programme in the Sudan yielded food that fed over 13 million people for seven months.

**We coordinated health assistance that reached 46 million people in 2023.** That included support for over 3,500 health facilities with sexual and reproductive health services, health protection for 12 million people and gender-based violence prevention and response services for 4.2 million people. We also facilitated the delivery of over 2 million mental-health consultations to people affected by humanitarian crises.

## Complex Risk Analytics Fund

The Complex Risk Analytics Fund is an innovative financing instrument that mobilizes \$20 million each year to unlock the potential of data for smarter crisis support. As a multilateral partnership, the Fund invests in cutting-edge analytics to help the United Nations family and its partners to anticipate, prevent and address emergencies. With a growing ecosystem that now encompasses over 120 partners and 40,000 users worldwide, data supported by the Fund already enhance over \$12 billion in international assistance – ensuring that aid reaches people earlier, faster and in a more targeted and effective manner. The Fund is scaling up its investments to focus on critical data, risk analytics, local capacity and a stronger risk data ecosystem.

**COMPLEX RISK ANALYTICS**  
Fund



Around 32,000 refugees in Burundi were affected by ongoing heavy rains and severe flooding in East Africa, triggered by El Niño.

(Bujumbura; April 2024)  
© UNHCR/Bernard Ntwari





An internally displaced boy collects water at the Ribat camp in Lahij, Yemen.

### Early warnings save lives

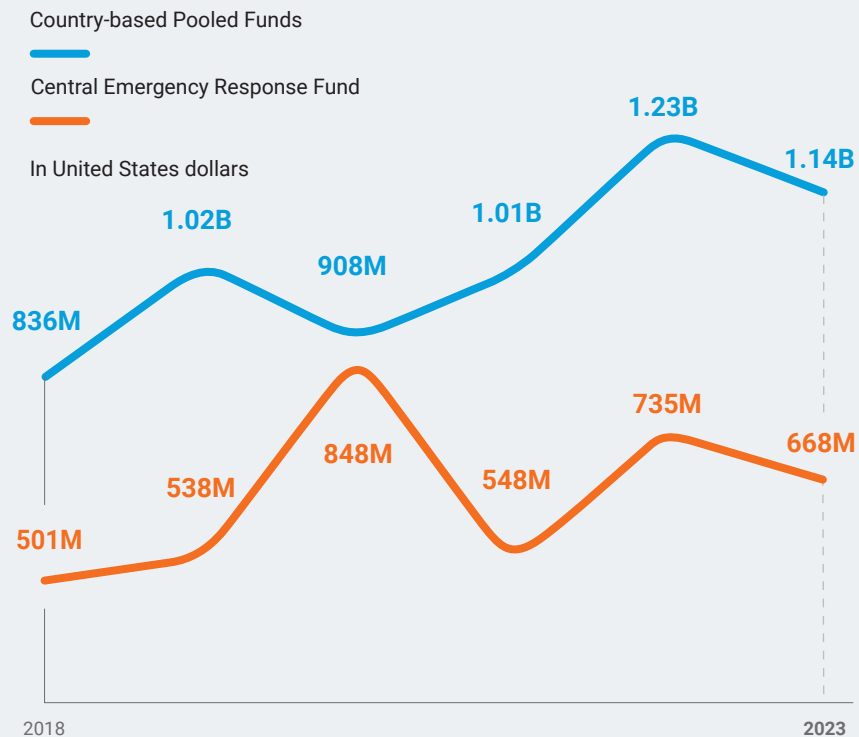
Early warning systems are among the most cost-effective ways to save lives, but they cover less than half of the world's population. The Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All initiative is aimed at streamlining efforts, optimizing funding and ensuring inclusivity in early warning systems. Under the initiative, the United Nations collaborated with partners in Somalia on a flood forecast and anticipatory action plan. As a result, early warnings reached 440,000 people ahead of the October 2023 floods in southern Somalia, with \$2.7 million in cash transfers provided to 219,000 people. The initiative is currently active in over 30 countries.

(Lahij; February 2023) © YPN Media for OCHA/Ala'a Noman

**Our Central Emergency Response Fund and country-based pooled funds disbursed nearly \$1.8 billion to enable timely and effective life-saving humanitarian responses**, including in underfunded crises. Our newly launched climate action account, an innovative financing solution, helps the Fund to fill a critical niche in climate finance and rapidly scale up responses to climate-related shocks.

The humanitarian community scaled up anticipatory approaches and early warning and early action systems in 2023, including for climate-related hazards in Bangladesh, Fiji, Nepal, the Philippines and Yemen. That **enabled humanitarian organizations to act ahead of predicted natural hazards and disease outbreaks, thus mitigating humanitarian impacts while reducing response costs**. The Central Emergency Response Fund provided over \$142 million to partners for anticipatory and early action to combat rising food insecurity and the effects of El Niño. The country-based pooled funds provided over \$16 million for anticipatory and early action funding for Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.

### United Nations humanitarian pooled funds critical to response



### Central Emergency Response Fund climate action account

The Central Emergency Response Fund is the leading global humanitarian funding tool, allocating \$500 million to \$800 million per year for emergencies. The Fund has pioneered anticipatory action to save lives and help to mitigate humanitarian impacts. Launched at the twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Fund's climate action account provides an efficient avenue for climate finance to assist the world's most vulnerable communities who are facing the consequences of the climate crisis. The new account will allow the Fund to scale up climate-related humanitarian action, through anticipatory action and response, in line with its life-saving mandate.



United Nations humanitarian staff discuss the impact of Tropical Cyclone Freddy with public school staff in the village of Mahela, Madagascar.

(Mahela; February 2023) © OCHA/Viviane Rakotoarivony





Relief kits are distributed in Ouaddaï Province in Chad to newly arrived refugees from the Sudan.

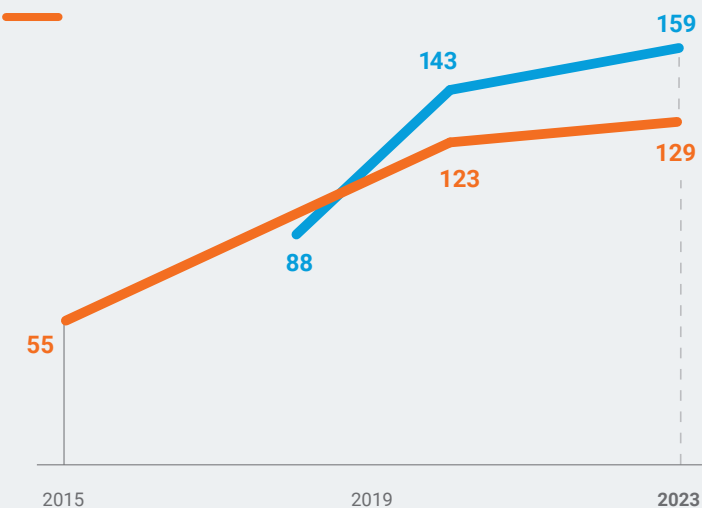
(Ouaddaï; May 2023)  
© UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

Under the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, **72 Member States conducted national implementation reviews and submitted voluntary national reviews.** Those reviews were completed alongside contributions from United Nations system entities, including 7 regional reports, 13 reports from non-State stakeholders, a global report on 25 non-State stakeholder constituencies and 14 thematic studies. Those reviews and reports **informed negotiations on the political declaration of the midterm review, adopted by the General Assembly in May 2023.** The reports encourage the adoption of a risk-informed and prevention-oriented approach in all decision-making, investment and behaviour on disaster risk management and development planning.

## Disaster risk reduction globally

Countries with disaster risk reduction strategies

Countries using the Sendai Framework monitor

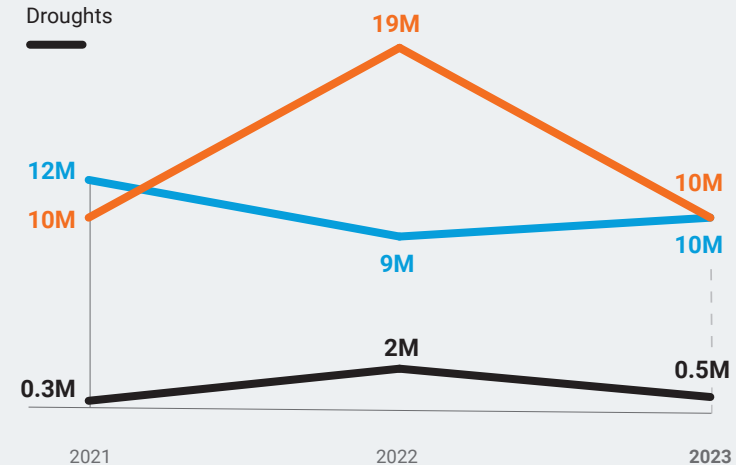


## Weather-related internal displacements, 2021–2023

Floods

Storms

Droughts



## Our support for disaster risk reduction

**533M**

people live in cities enrolled in the “Making Cities Resilient” 2030 initiative

**12,000+**

people engaged in training, webinars and events

**159**

Member States reported on Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 global indicators through the Sendai Framework monitor



# Advancing justice and international law

Promotion of justice and international law

The International Court of Justice holds a hearing at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands.

(The Hague; April 2024) © UN Photo/Frank van Beek

## What we do

- Settlement of legal disputes submitted by States and provision of advisory opinions on legal questions
- Legal services for the United Nations as a whole
- Legal services for United Nations organs and funds and programmes
- International accountability mechanisms
- Custody, registration and publication of treaties
- Development and codification of international law
- Law of the sea and ocean affairs
- International trade

## Our team

- Office of Legal Affairs





Winning photo for the “Underwater Sea Scapes” category in the 2023 World Oceans Day photo competition.

© Andy Schmid, United Nations World Oceans Day 2023

## Context

The **principles of justice and international law, as well as of the peaceful settlement of disputes, are enshrined in the first two Articles of the Charter** of the United Nations. Those principles therefore constitute the very foundation upon which the international community cooperates.

## Our goals

The United Nations **promotes justice and international law through its actions and mandates**, such as those related to international trade, oceans and the law of the sea, treaties and international agreements, peace operations, international tribunals and other international accountability mechanisms, and sanctions. In addition, **the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations**, settles legal disputes submitted by States and provides advisory opinions on legal questions.

## Achievements

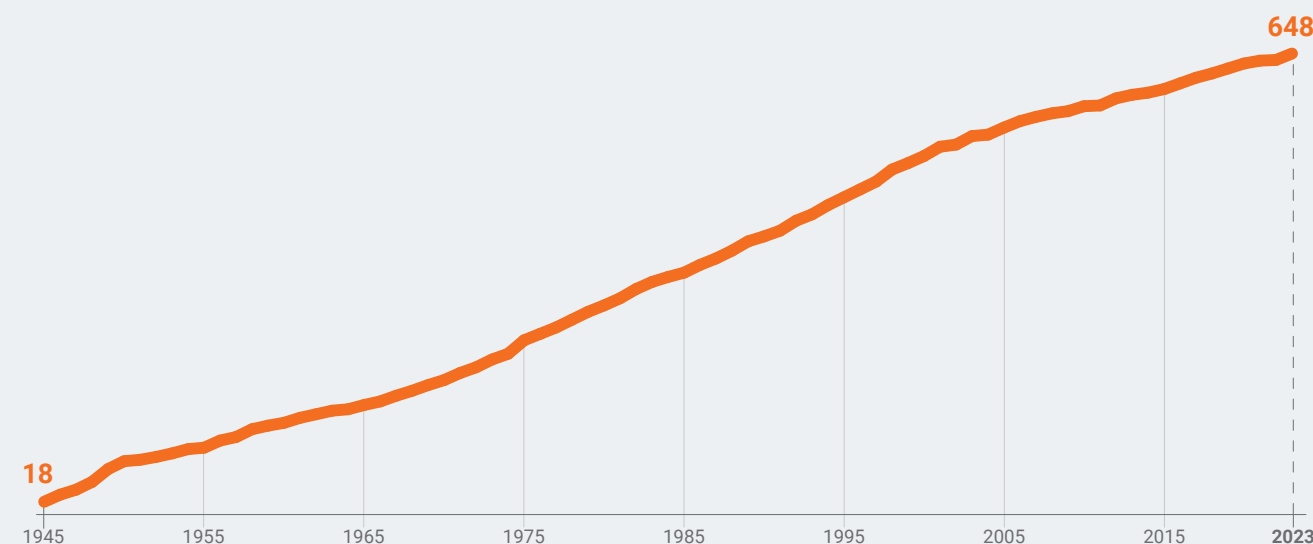
The International Court of Justice **considered high-profile cases and delivered judgments on the merits in the proceedings** concerning the following: *Question of the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf between Nicaragua and Colombia beyond 200 Nautical Miles from the Nicaraguan Coast (Nicaragua v. Colombia)*; *Certain Iranian Assets (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)*; and *Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*. The Court was also seized of five new contentious cases, including the proceedings concerning the following: *Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic)* and *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)*, in both of which **the Court indicated provisional measures**.



“We are the ‘succeeding generations’ that the Charter promised to save from the scourge of war. Respect for international law is the cornerstone of that promise.”

**Miguel de Serpa Soares**,  
Under-Secretary-General for  
Legal Affairs

## Rising number of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General







The former Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Alatoi Ishmael Kalsakau, briefs reporters on the draft resolution requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States in respect of climate change.

(New York; March 2023)  
© UN Photo/Manuel Elías

The Secretariat transmitted to the Court documentation likely to assist with the questions posed by the General Assembly in its requests for advisory opinions on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and on the obligations of States in respect of climate change.

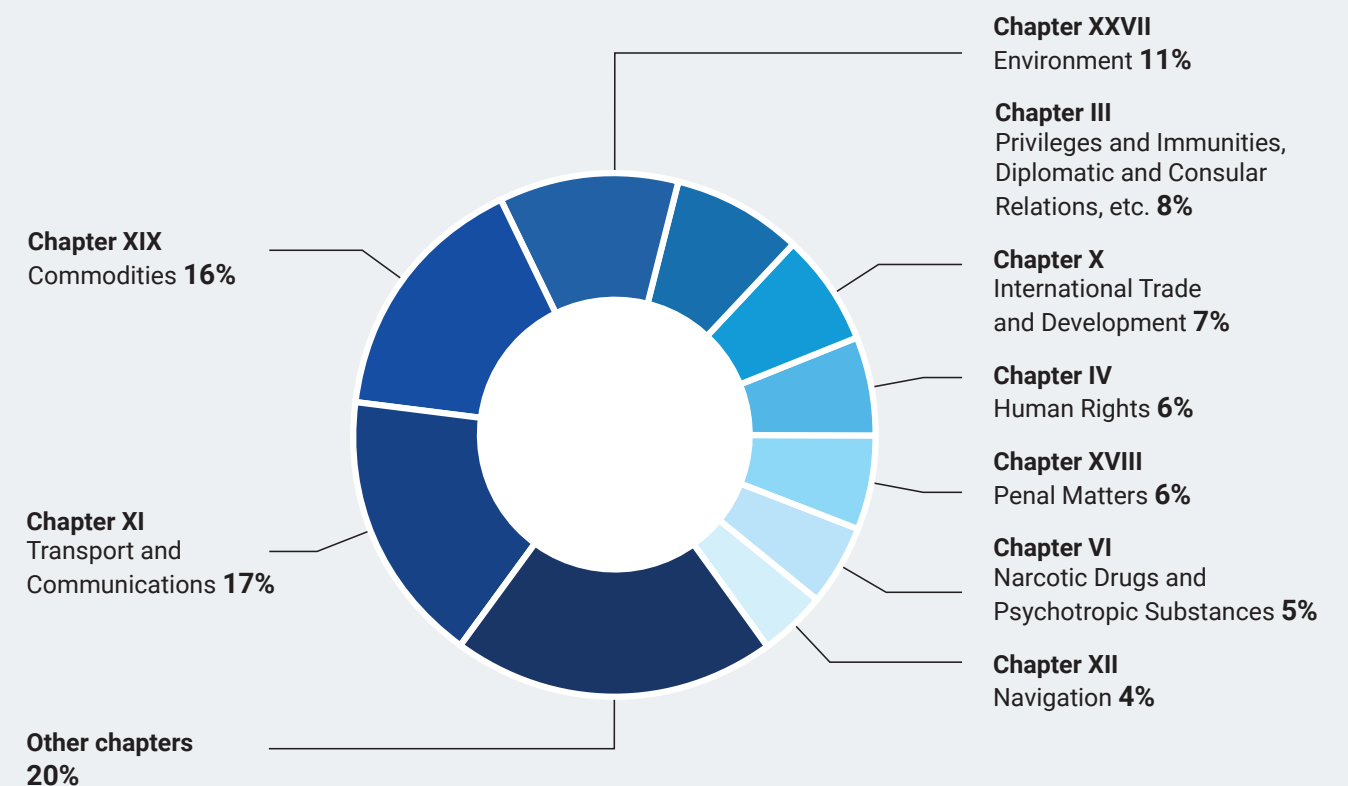
With the indefinite stay of proceedings in the case of *Prosecutor v. Félicien Kabuga* in September 2023, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals concluded its core crimes proceedings and continued to implement its other residual functions. Following the completion of its non-judicial residual functions, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon closed on 31 December 2023.

In a major display of support for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, **80 countries and the European Union signed the Agreement** upon its opening for signature during the annual treaty event, organized during the high-level week of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session.

In addition, the United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships opened for signature at a ceremony in Beijing on 5 September 2023. The Convention establishes a harmonized regime for giving international effect to judicial sales, while preserving national law governing the procedure of judicial sales and the circumstances in which judicial sales confer clean title.

### Multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General address matters of worldwide importance

Multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, proportion by Chapter (as of March 2024)





# Championing disarmament

Advancement of disarmament  
and non-proliferation

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A view of the Peace Bell court at United Nations  
Headquarters, a symbol of global disarmament and  
harmony.

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(New York; November 2023) © UN Photo/Loey Felipe

## What we do

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- Multilateral negotiations and deliberations
- Weapons of mass destruction
- Conventional arms
- Information and outreach
- Regional disarmament

## Our team

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- Office for Disarmament Affairs





Children paint a mural in a community with explosives contamination on the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

(Damascus; April 2023)  
© UNMAS/Dima Fallouh

## Context

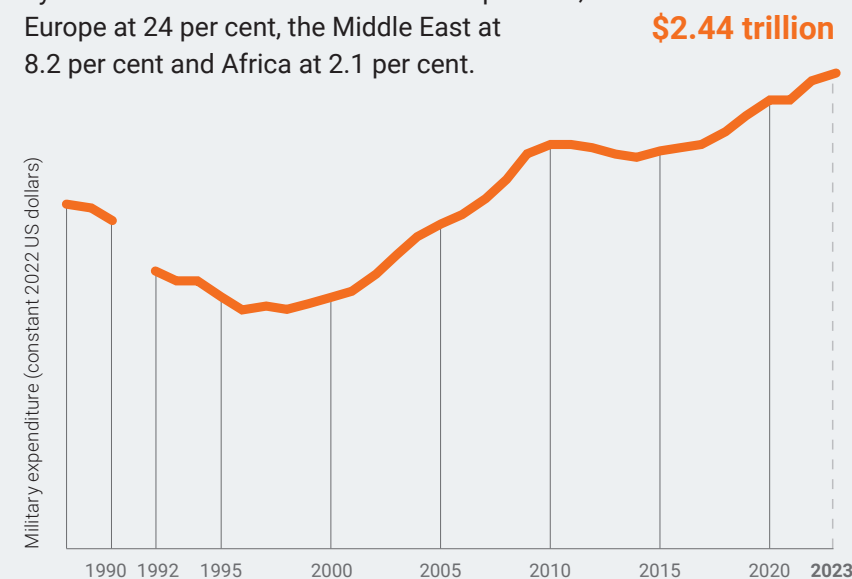
**Civilians are bearing the brunt of armed conflict** amid escalating global tensions. The threat of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction persists, while **military spending rises** and conventional arms, especially illicit small arms and light weapons, increasingly proliferate. **Emerging technologies pose additional challenges** to security.

## Our goals

Our work enables high-level international negotiations and practical disarmament efforts on the ground. Our priorities are: eliminating nuclear weapons; upholding the prohibition of other weapons of mass destruction; regulating conventional weapons; responding to the challenges of emerging weapons technologies; and promoting regional disarmament and public awareness. Those actions are essential to promoting a holistic approach to security through vigorous diplomacy, disarmament and sustained peace efforts.

## Global military expenditure increased to a record \$2.44 trillion in 2023

Countries in the Americas accounted for 41 per cent of total global military spending in 2023, the largest regional share overall, followed by countries in Asia and Oceania at 24 per cent, Europe at 24 per cent, the Middle East at 8.2 per cent and Africa at 2.1 per cent.



Note: The absence of data for the Soviet Union in 1991 means that no total can be calculated for that year.  
Source: SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, April 2024.

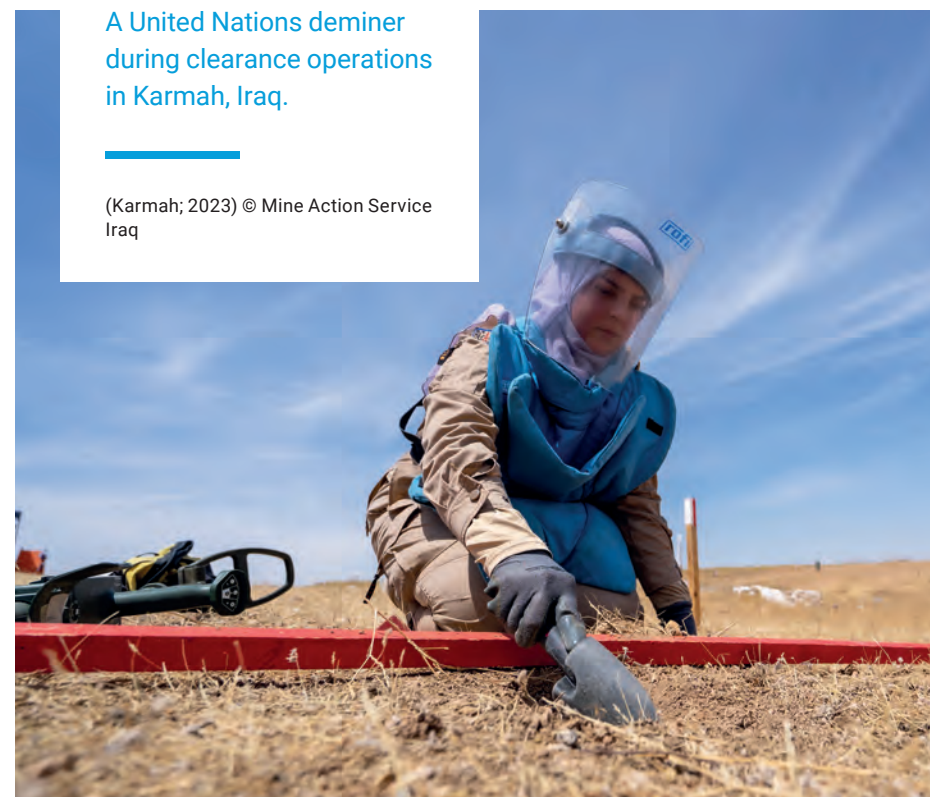


“Disarmament is essential to and indivisible from broader peace and security and development objectives.”

**Izumi Nakamitsu**,  
Under-Secretary-General and  
High Representative for  
Disarmament Affairs

A United Nations deminer during clearance operations in Karmah, Iraq.

(Karmah; 2023) © Mine Action Service Iraq





## Our disarmament work

637

rostered experts for the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of the Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons

122

arms control-related projects funded, benefiting 148 Member States

37%

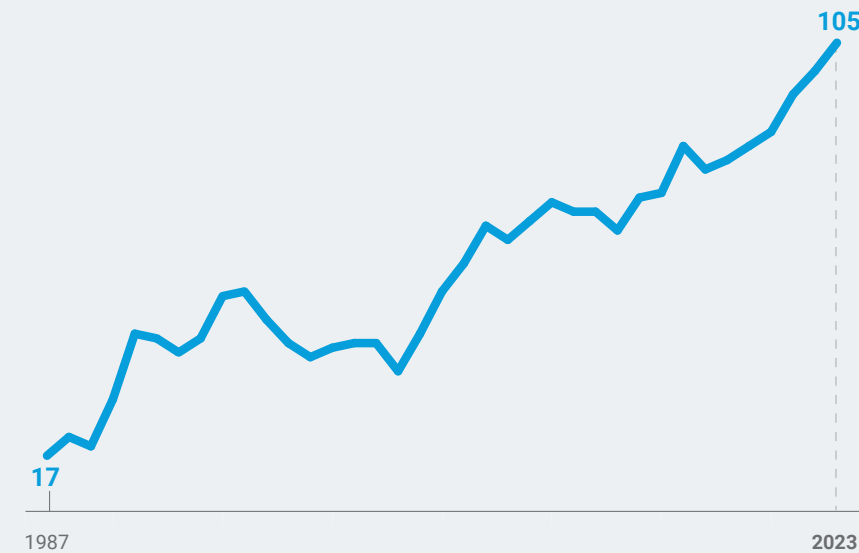
of Member States reported on their arms exports and imports to the Register of Conventional Arms

33%

of Member States submitted reports to the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures

## Rising number of confidence-building measure reports

In 2023, a record number of 105 reports were submitted by States parties to the Biological Weapons Convention.



## Our achievements

At a time of heightened global uncertainty, we supported the implementation of the two major treaties on the prohibition and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. We facilitated international dialogue on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons among 191 Governments, aimed at strengthening their commitments to a world free of nuclear weapons. In addition, we worked with the 24 Member States and observer States from the Middle East to make progress towards a new treaty aimed at freeing the region of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

To uphold the prohibition of other weapons of mass destruction, we facilitated the creation of a new international working group to strengthen the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and support its global implementation. We also enhanced the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons by providing a more geographically diverse and better-trained roster of potential investigators.



Ammunition technical experts during an all-women training session on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.

(Wiener Neustadt; October 2023) © UN Office of Disarmament Affairs

To strengthen the international response to risks from cyberspace, we helped to launch a global directory of points of contacts to facilitate communication between national authorities during cybersecurity incidents. The tool will contribute to a safer, more secure and peaceful online domain. We also supported multilateral discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems and the prevention of an arms race in outer space and supported new initiatives on the military use of artificial intelligence.

## Gender parity in disarmament

45%

of statements were made by women during meetings of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025

23

First Committee resolutions mention "gender", "women", or "diversity"





Participants attend the 2024 Vienna Conference on Autonomous Weapons Systems.

(Vienna; April 2024)  
© United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs/Ana Moruja Nigro

To limit the impact of ammunitions on humans, we supported the creation of a **new global framework** to reduce their illicit trafficking, diversion and accidental explosion. We also linked weapons and ammunition management with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and community violence reduction programmes in Cameroon and Somalia. Through our Saving Lives Entity fund, we **promoted better control of small arms and light weapons for more sustainable security** and development, with new projects in Ghana, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Panama and Papua New Guinea.

We convened 16 Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to tackle illicit firearms and ammunition trafficking and launched a similar process for Central America. In addition, we engaged with national authorities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America on small arms control and gender-based violence prevention.

## Youth in disarmament

**2,100+**  
applicants from 145 countries  
for the Youth Leader Fund  
for a World without Nuclear  
Weapons

**910**  
applicants to the Youth  
Champions for Disarmament  
training programme, of which  
54 per cent are young women

In 2023, we launched the **new Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons**, which, to date, has **supported the education of 100 young people from over 60 countries as disarmament advocates**. Through other youth education tools, such as our Disarmament Education Dashboard, we empower women, young people and other partners to participate in global policymaking and disarmament processes.



United Nations personnel inspect an unexploded 1,000-pound bomb on a main road in Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip.

(Khan Yunis; April 2023) © OCHA/Themba Linden



# Combating drugs, crime and terrorism

Drug control, crime prevention  
and combating terrorism

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United Nations personnel conduct an inspection  
under the Initiative on the Safe Transportation of  
Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports  
(Black Sea Initiative).

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(Istanbul, Türkiye; February 2023) © UNODC/Duncan Moore

## What we do

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- Countering the world drug problem
- Countering transnational organized crime
- Countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism
- Countering corruption
- Justice
- Research, trend analysis and forensics
- Policy support
- Technical assistance

## Our team

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- United Nations Office on  
Drugs and Crime
- Office of Counter-Terrorism



An officer trains to inspect a vessel in Bangladesh through the Global Maritime Crime Programme.

(Patuakhali; November 2023) © UNODC/ Duncan Moore



## Our achievements

The world confronted increasingly complex challenges related to drugs and crime in 2023, including the alarming growth of synthetic drug markets, escalating cybercrime and rising environmental crimes. We leveraged our **expansive field network across 150 countries and territories** to support Governments in advancing more dynamic response strategies.

In Afghanistan, we **provided over 80,000 people with opium-alternative sustainable livelihood opportunities**. We also provided psychosocial support, testing for HIV and hepatitis B and C and drug use prevention activities to nearly 40,000 people.



“The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is emblematic of the multilateral resolve to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.”

**Vladimir Voronkov**, Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism



“The impact of drugs, crime, corruption, and terrorism is growing, as they intersect with global crises. We must invest in prevention and build resilience to these threats, to protect people and make progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.”

**Ghada Waly**, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## Context

In today’s complex global landscape, **terrorism and transnational organized crime destabilize regions, communities and lives**, especially in conflict areas. Climate change, political instability and displacement amplify existing vulnerabilities and can be linked to escalating illicit trade and diverse forms of trafficking.

## Our goals

**The United Nations is committed to making the world safer** from drugs, crime and terrorism. Our work supports Governments in combating these threats through prevention, criminal justice responses and international cooperation. We assist in setting and implementing international standards and norms, as well as in **ensuring compliance with obligations in international instruments on drugs, corruption, transnational organized crime and terrorism**.



The General Assembly adopts the eighth review resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

(New York; June 2023) © UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras



## Our support for crime prevention, drug control and anti-corruption

**176,000**

user visits to the early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances database

**64,000**

registered users of the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs

**2,200+**

seizures of illicit commodities, drugs and explosive precursors

**4**

anti-corruption hubs

To contain illicit trafficking and related crimes, we increased our border management support, which contributed to the **seizure of 250 tons of cocaine, over 200 tons of precursor chemicals and nearly half a million weapons and explosives**. We provided quality assurance to forensic drug testing and toxicology laboratories worldwide, leading to the safe disposal of 350 tons of cocaine. We also **supported 83 countries in combating maritime crime, emphasizing regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing**. To assist in tackling maritime security challenges in the Gulf of Guinea, we supported eight countries in assessing and amending their legal frameworks to address piracy and maritime crimes. To support evidence-based policies in the Sahel, we released threat assessments of transnational organized crime, offering comprehensive insights into illicit trade and its socioeconomic impact in the region.

To assist the most vulnerable people with addictions, **we reached over 67,000 individuals in 43 countries with drug treatment and care services**, such as quality assurance, treatment referrals and family therapy, including in humanitarian settings. We also trained over 2,000 local service providers in evidence-based, gender-responsive and human rights-based HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs and people in prisons.



The United Nations delivers a patrol vessel and essential equipment to the Somali Police Force Coast Guard to strengthen coastal security.

(Mogadishu; February 2024) © UNODC/Mokhtar A. Mohamed



Participants at the opening session of the third United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

(New York; June 2023)  
© UN Photo/Manuel Elías

To help to combat trafficking in persons and in firearms, we worked to deepen international commitments for action. In 2023, the number of countries that ratified or acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, both supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, increased to 182 and 123, respectively. On the ground, **we provided technical assistance to over 3,300 crime prevention and criminal justice practitioners**, fostering expertise worldwide. To help to protect those most vulnerable, we aligned our system-wide efforts behind a new strategy focused on ending violence against children.

In order to further accountability in the fight against corruption, **we organized the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption**, underlining the need to safeguard the rule of law and restore trust in institutions. This was the most inclusive Conference yet, with **over 2,000 people in attendance**, representing Governments, civil society, academia, business and youth.

On the ground, **we trained over 3,000 officials in 75 countries on criminal justice responses to terrorism** and supported Mozambique in developing a national counter-terrorism strategy.

## Using behavioural science to counter violent extremism

In the Middle East, we launched the Behavioural Insights Academy in Qatar with Hamad Bin Khalifa University to integrate behavioural science into global strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism.



## Our data and research impact and reach

**4M**

downloads and 3 million visits to research websites

**500,000+**

data points available on the drugs and crime data portal

**3,250+**

people trained on drugs and crime statistical methods

**29**

research partnerships established

## Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact

**237,250**

visits to the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform

**137**

Member States and 47 Compact entities

**28**

country assessments by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

## Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week

In 2023, we held the third Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations in New York. We brought together over 1,000 people from 160 countries, international and regional organizations, United Nations entities, civil society organizations, think tanks, academic and research institutions and private sector companies to participate in the third United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, convened on the theme of addressing terrorism through reinvigorated multilateralism and institutional cooperation. The multi-stakeholder event provided a platform for knowledge-sharing, collaboration and in-depth discussions on the practical implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Supporting the fight against terrorism remained a top priority. In alignment with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, our targeted efforts prioritized human rights and gender equality. To help to confront terrorism in Africa, **we convened the second high-level meeting of the Marrakesh Platform in Morocco**, enhancing coordination among African counter-terrorism agencies. Nearly 70 Member States have joined the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme. Over 130 Member States participated in the Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism.

Our new Gender and Identity Factors Platform, launched during Counter-Terrorism Week, is facilitating knowledge exchange between Governments, civil society and academia worldwide. The Week culminated in the adoption of the eighth review resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the General Assembly, preserving the consensus behind the Strategy since 2006. In addition, in 2023, the International Monetary Fund became the forty-sixth member of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, **the largest coordination framework within the United Nations system.**

On the sixth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, we launched the Legacy Project **to showcase the testimonies of victims and the resources critical to their recovery and healing**, aimed at inspiring and educating younger generations. We also honoured the voices and experiences of victims and survivors of terrorism through the “Memories” campaign, with exhibitions across Spain emphasizing the importance of remembering and paying tribute to victims worldwide.



People attend the release of the “Memories” campaign for victims of terrorism.

(Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain; June 2023) © United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

## Counter-Terrorism Week by the numbers

**4,500+**

participants

**160**

Member States represented

## Our counter-terrorism work

**7,700+**

people trained through 109 capacity-building activities

**1,000+**

focal points connected through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform

**140**

high-level bilateral meetings with Member States and other partners

**9**

high-level and 8 regional conferences organized on technical issues relating to counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism



# Enhancing our operations

Effective functioning of  
the Organization



## What we do

- General Assembly affairs and conference management
- Global communications
- Oversight
- Management strategy, policy and compliance
- Offices away from Headquarters
- Operational support

## Our team

- Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
- Department of Global Communications
- Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
- Department of Operational Support
- Department of Safety and Security
- Office of Internal Oversight Services
- United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna
- United Nations Ethics Office
- Office of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
- Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate

Interpreters work from booths overlooking the General Assembly Hall during the 16th plenary meeting of the seventy-eighth session.



## Our effective functioning efforts

**120M+**  
users visited un.org

**27.5M**  
unique downloads from United Nations Digital Library

**185,000**  
United Nations system personnel have access to iSeek, the United Nations intranet

**3,900+**  
meetings and events streamed on United Nations WebTV



“We work to build an Organization that is forward looking and responsive to the needs of the people we serve.”

**Catherine Pollard**,  
Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance



United Nations staff conduct an inter-agency joint security assessment in Ethiopia following an influx of refugees from neighbouring Somalia.

(Somali Regional State; June 2023) © Department of Safety and Security

## Our work and people

Over 35,000 United Nations Secretariat staff members work at 467 duty stations across the globe. The Secretariat strives to uphold the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct, efficient management of resources and effective delivery on mandates.

### Mental health and well-being in the workplace

We recently launched the United Nations System Workplace Mental Health and Well-being Strategy for 2024 and beyond. The Strategy was unanimously endorsed by the High-Level Committee on Management and represented a significant step forward in our commitment to promoting mental health and well-being for our workforce.

## Our achievements

Shifting from a biennial to an annual budget has enabled a more results-oriented culture. Programme plans and resource requirements are adjusted more often, on the basis of more recent performance information, making our planning more responsive. Annual spending reviews support the optimization of resources for more effective mandate implementation. We also strengthened a culture of efficiency in field operations by adopting a data-driven approach to budget formulation and by achieving cost efficiencies and cost avoidance in a range of areas.



“The Organization is committed to delivering holistic support solutions in increasingly complex operating environments, ensuring the support needs of a diverse client base and improving service delivery through technology, skills and culture.”

**Atul Khare**,  
Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support



A view of the intercultural and interreligious dialogue and panel discussion on building bridges between East and West.

(New York; June 2023) © UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

### Communicating with global audiences

**70M**  
social media followers through @unitednations accounts across platforms in nine languages

**52M+**  
video views of content on the United Nations YouTube channel in English

**275,000+**  
visitors taking guided tours of the United Nations in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi





“Exploring innovative approaches for the use of technology in delivering high-quality, multilingual conference services is key to supporting the Organization’s pursuit of solutions to global issues.”

**Movses Abelian,**  
Under-Secretary-General  
for General Assembly and  
Conference Management

## Multilingualism and diplomacy at work

**1.5B**  
words across documents in the six official languages

**32M**  
documents downloaded from the Official Document System

**135,000**  
sessions logged into the e-deleGATE platform for diplomats

**20,000**  
hours of simultaneous interpretations in the six official languages



A ceremony marks the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

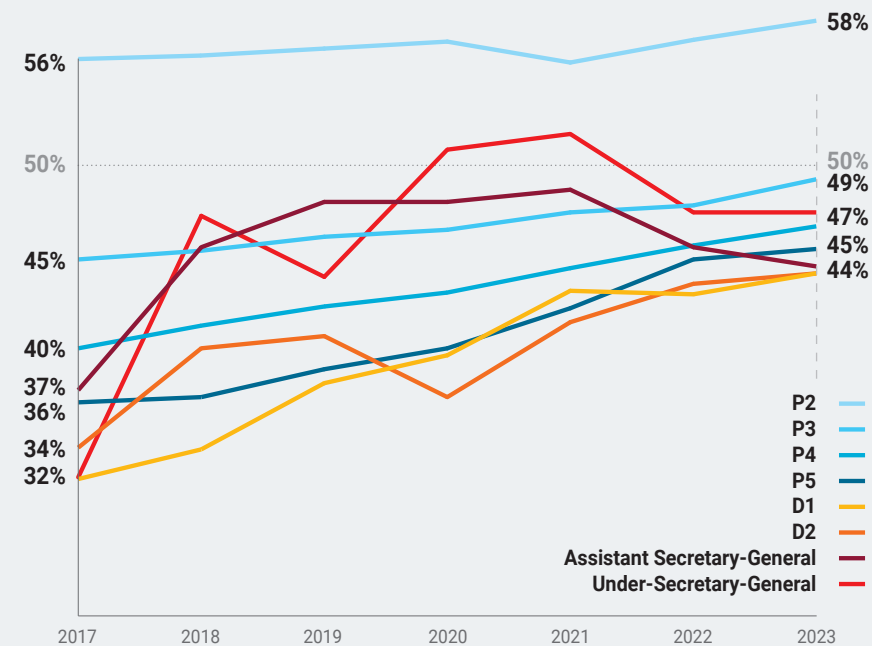
(Geneva; January 2023) © UN Photo/Violaine Martin

Dedicated portals **improved transparency** by providing more information to Member States on our workforce and on our financial and programme performance. The Member States Portal for Uniformed Capabilities Support provides information to troop- and police-contributing countries on the status of their claims and payments. Empowering staff to make data-driven decisions using Umoja self-service analytics and enterprise dashboards **enabled more effective decision-making**.

Attaining equitable geographical distribution and wide geographical representation, as well as attaining gender parity among staff in the Secretariat, remained key priorities for the Organization as a whole. **The Secretariat is on track to achieving gender parity at the organizational level by 2028**, but more work remains to be done to achieve parity at every level of every entity. The General Assembly decision to widen the system of desirable ranges increased the number of geographical posts, leading to a reduction in the number of Member States that were un-, under- or overrepresented. In early 2024, 123 Member States were within range, compared with 103 in December 2023.

## Commitment to gender parity yields results

Percentage of women staff on fixed-term appointments at the Professional level and above, 2017–2023

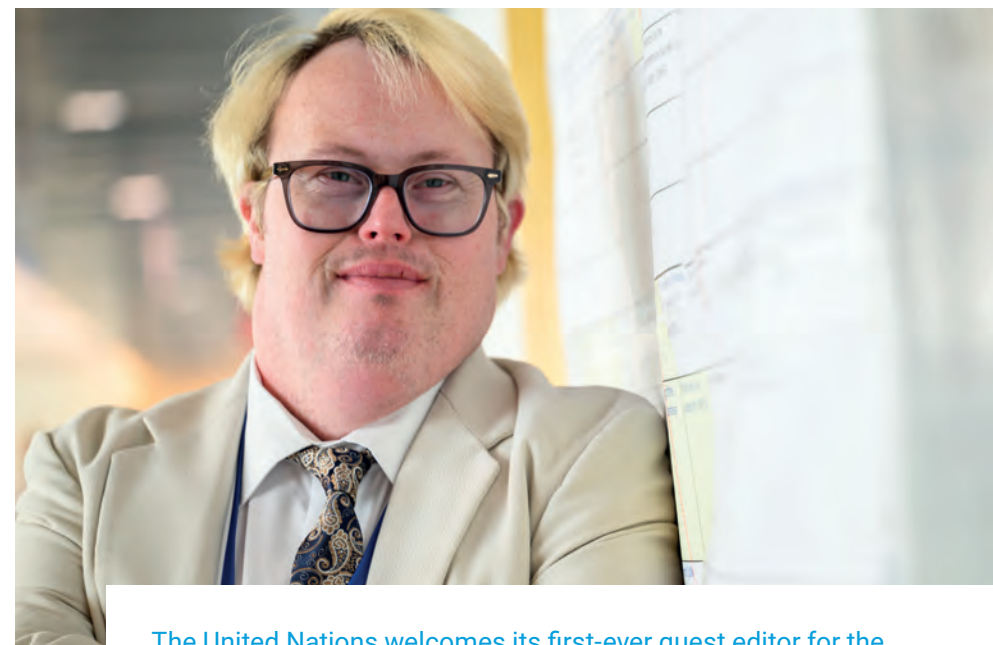


With the launch of the system-wide strategy on gender parity, the Secretary-General is committed to advancing parity across the system at all levels, beginning with international Secretariat staff at Professional level and above, on fixed-term, continuous and permanent/indefinite appointments.



“More than ever, our work is essential to ensuring that United Nations managers and staff act as good stewards of the resources of the Organization, accountable for upholding its values while achieving mandated results.”

**Fatoumata Ndiaye,**  
Under-Secretary-General for  
Internal Oversight Services



The United Nations welcomes its first-ever guest editor for the United Nations News live blog on the opening day of the seventeenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

(New York; June 2024) © UN Photo/Mark Garten



“Responsible personal use of social media as international civil servants is integral to strengthening the ethical culture of the Organization.”

**Thi Kim Xuan Nguyen,**  
Acting Director, Ethics Office

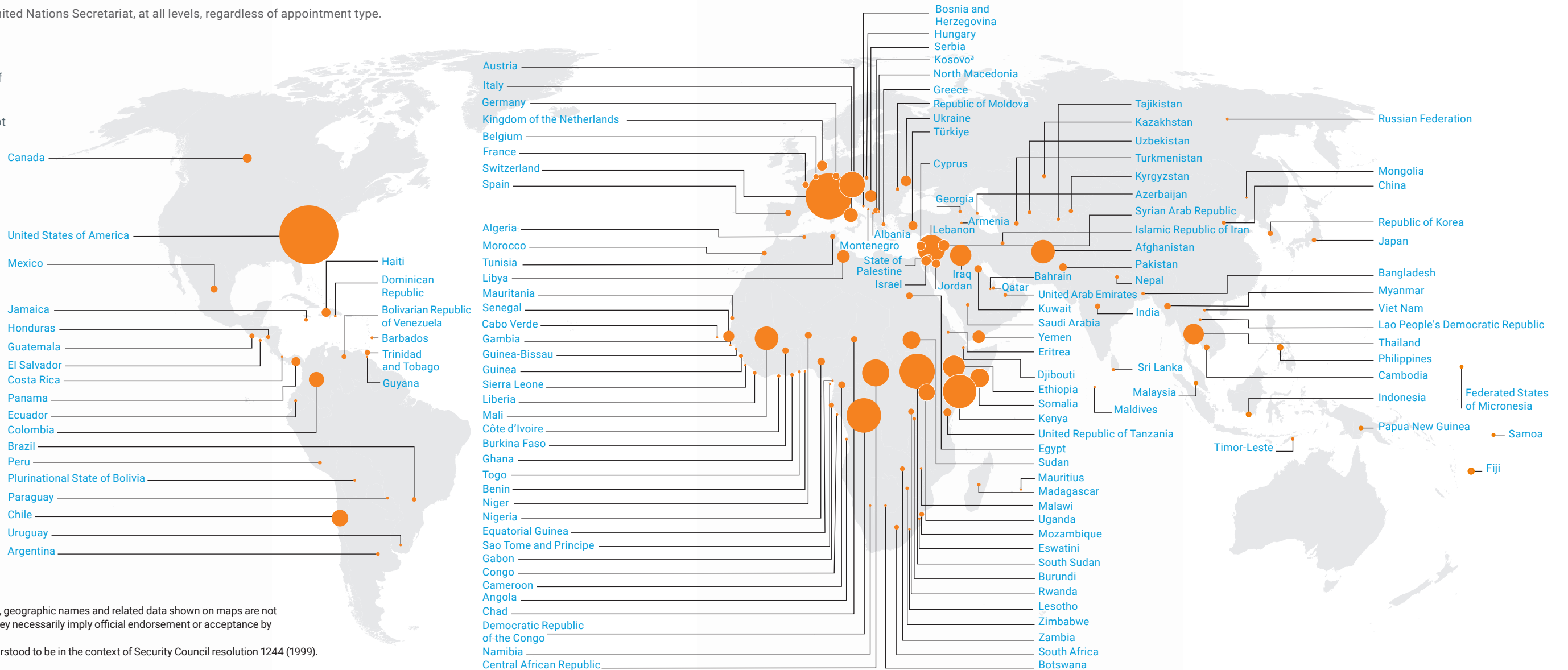


# Over 35,000\* staff worked for the United Nations Secretariat worldwide in 2023

This includes all staff of the United Nations Secretariat, at all levels, regardless of appointment type.

● Represents number of staff

Countries hosting fewer than nine employees are not included on the map.

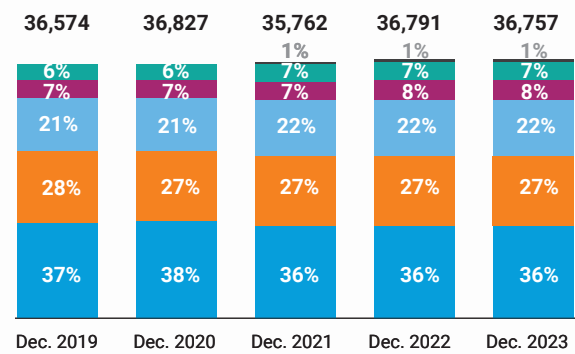


The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on maps are not guaranteed to be error free, nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

\*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

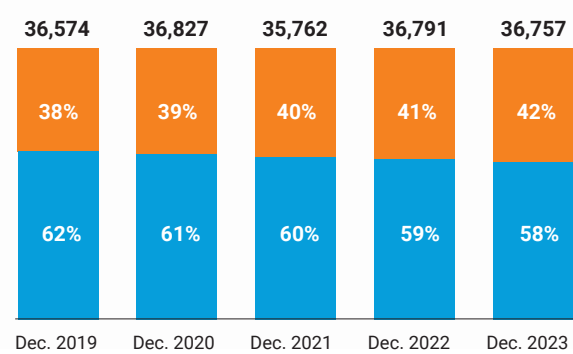
## Staff by regional group

● Africa ● Western Europe and Others ● Asia-Pacific  
● Latin America and the Caribbean ● Eastern Europe ● Other

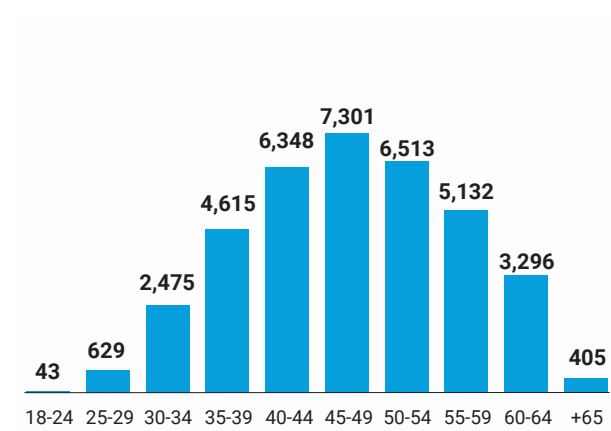


## Staff by gender

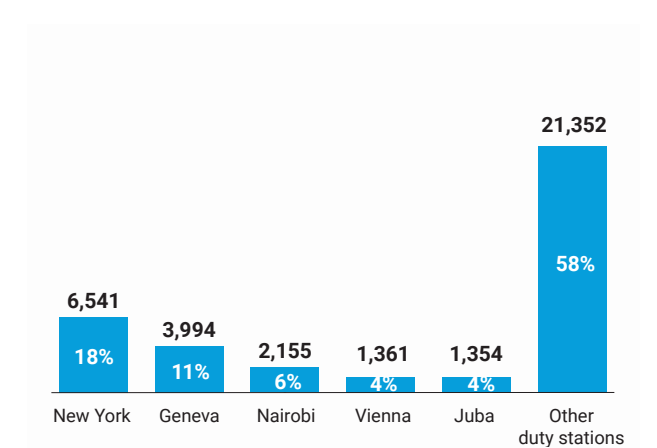
● Male ● Female



## Staff by age



## Staff by location



\*Data provided in the text reflect the most recent information available as at the end of April 2024, while the corresponding infographics display data up to the end of December 2023.

Note: The five regional groups were formed to facilitate the equitable geographical distribution of seats among the Member States in different United Nations bodies.

"Other" includes staff from the State of Palestine and staff who are stateless.





“Victims’ rights first. Our advocacy ensures that victims of sexual exploitation and abuse have voice, assistance and justice.”

**Najla Nassif Palma,**  
Victims’ Rights Advocate

The Anti-Racism Office led efforts to implement the strategic action plan for addressing racism and promoting dignity for all in the United Nations Secretariat. **The Ethics Office of the Secretariat reinforced the protection of staff** against retaliation for reporting misconduct or cooperating with audits and investigations. **We also advanced the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy across system organizations.**

Committed leadership, adequate resources and constant vigilance are crucial to effectively combating sexual exploitation and abuse. To strengthen the victim-centred approach in our prevention and response efforts, we issued a statement on victims’ rights in all official and some local languages.

The Department of Safety and Security, alongside other members of the United Nations security management system, continued to enable the delivery of programmes globally. **The safety and security of United Nations personnel, especially those who are locally recruited, remains a concern amid complex crises.**

We strengthened our situational awareness, procedures and surge modalities to ensure the effective operational closure of MINUSMA and the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan in complex and rapidly evolving environments. We **promoted environmentally responsible operations** to benefit host countries and communities. Through the triangular partnership programme, we reinforced institutional and operational cooperation with regional organizations.

Our communications teams **responded quickly to major crises** and covered the Organization’s activities around the world by disseminating timely and fact-based information and campaigns. They **initiated the development of the Global Principles for Information Integrity, to address misinformation, disinformation and hate speech** in the public sphere.



“Anybody serving under the United Nations flag should uphold our values. We need to make a commitment here and now to stop sexual exploitation and abuse.”

**Christian Saunders,**  
Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

In support of Member States, the Secretariat expanded the accessibility and functionality of the multilingual e-deleGATE platform, including by adding a new module on candidatures and elections. We also further **automated data capture to expedite the production of procedural documentation.**

Pioneering the use of generative artificial intelligence, **we established a dedicated laboratory to undertake pilot projects, including data-driven storytelling.** We integrated strategic foresight into our work, leveraging artificial intelligence for workforce planning.

Ultimately, the continued effectiveness of our work depends on the availability of cash. In 2023, the regular budget cash situation steadily worsened. Lower collections and the return of credits to Member States depleted reserves. In early 2024, **the Organization had to implement stringent spending restrictions to avert payment defaults due to cash shortages.**



“Security was at the forefront of the Organization’s crisis response in 2023, ensuring safe and secure operations while enhancing resilience, planning and emergency response capabilities.”

**Gilles Michaud,**  
Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security



The biannual session of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination convenes at the Greentree Estate on Long Island, New York.

(New York; November 2023) © UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



“The world today needs healthy information ecosystems if we want informed, stable and united societies.”

**Melissa Fleming,**  
Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications







# The United Nations System



**Notes:**

- Member of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).
- The United Nations Office for Partnerships is the focal point vis-à-vis the United Nations Foundation, Inc.
- IAEA and OPCW report to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA).
- WTO has no reporting obligation to the GA, but contributes on an ad hoc basis to GA and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) work on, inter alia, finance and development issues.
- Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations whose work is coordinated through ECOSOC (intergovernmental level) and CEB (inter-secretariat level).
- The Trusteeship Council suspended operations on 1 November 1994, as Palau, the last United Nations Trust Territory, became independent on 1 October 1994.
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.
- The secretariats of these organs are part of the United Nations Secretariat.
- The Secretariat also includes the following offices: the Ethics Office, United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, and the Office of Administration of Justice.
- For a complete list of ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies see [un.org/ecosoc](http://un.org/ecosoc).

This Chart is a reflection of the functional organization of the United Nations System and for informational purposes only. It does not include all offices or entities of the United Nations System.



