Introduction

Currently, there are approximately 1,000 staff members employed across United Nations organisations, programmes and offices in Bonn.

Their work covers a wide variety of areas, but they are all linked through the contribution they make to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sustainable development meets the needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations. Reaching the seventeen SDGs in the future depends on how well we balance social, cultural, economic and environmental objectives when making decisions today.

Combating poverty is one of the top priorities of the sustainable development agenda. Economic growth is essential to reducing poverty, but efforts must also embrace environmental sustainability and social development, whilst taking cultural diversity into account. The international community is in agreement that development can only be sustainable if all the planet’s natural resources – water, land, biodiversity, sources of energy, the atmosphere and the climate system – are used in such a way, that present and future generations can live and prosper equally around the world. Achieving sustainable development requires that all stakeholders in society are actively engaged and accept their share of responsibility.

In Bonn, the United Nations organisations are supporting all efforts to achieve a sustainable future in areas such as climate change, volunteerism, desertification, disaster reduction, education, health, human security and species conservation.

Bonn has played host to United Nations organisations since 1951. Since 1996, however, the number and variety of organisations has increased rapidly, not least because of the objectives enshrined in the Berlin-Bonn Act of 1994. The German Federal Government has taken action to establish a “UN Campus” in the former government district. It consists of the former parliament buildings “Altes Abgeordnetenhochhaus” and “Neues Abgeordnetenhochhaus”, also known as “Langer Eugen”. A third building is currently under construction and is scheduled to be completed by 2020. There is an international conference center of the highest standard close to the campus – consisting of the German Bundestag’s former plenary hall and an impressive extension building. In addition, the original UN headquarters in Bonn, Haus Carstanjen, will continue to be used by UN organisations.

The extensive presence of the United Nations in Bonn is a visible symbol of international cooperation. Its growth is proof of the international community’s willingness to support the implementation of the seventeen SDGs which will secure the future of humanity on our planet.
UNCCD - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)


By striving to achieve land degradation neutrality, the UNCCD supports countries to secure the health and productivity of the land, mitigate the effects of drought and make people and ecosystems more resilient to climate change.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the only legally binding international agreement on land issues. The Convention promotes good land stewardship. Through partnerships, its 196 parties aim to implement the Convention and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 15.3 The overarching objective is to protect our land from over-use and drought, so it can continue to provide us all with food, water and energy. By sustainably managing land and striving to achieve land degradation neutrality, now and in the future, we will reduce the impact of climate change, avoid conflict over natural resources and help communities to thrive.

Eat organic and local food so that you don’t contribute to land degradation and won’t add to your carbon footprint. Use eco-friendly products for cleaning and gardening to keep water and soil unpolluted. Think how your life relates to your land’s health when you travel, shop, eat, etc.

“Old people who died 30 or 40 years ago would say that this is not their country if they were alive today. In the past, this country was very fertile and there were trees everywhere.” Head of the Mani Hashem Hima Society, Jordan
CMS - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Their Future is Our Future – Sustainable Development for Wildlife & People

CMS aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range through international cooperation.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS, also known as the Bonn Convention) works for the conservation of a wide array of endangered migratory animals such as elephants, whales, dolphins, sharks and vultures worldwide. This goal can only be achieved through negotiation and implementation of agreements and species action plans by the Member States of the Convention. CMS engages with relevant stakeholders in addressing issues such as wildlife crime, marine debris and other aspects of wildlife conservation and management. Furthermore, CMS is closely connected to the 2030 Agenda, especially concerning SDG 14 (the conservation of the oceans) and SDG 15 (the protection of terrestrial ecosystems and the halt of biodiversity loss). Implementing CMS is one means of achieving the SDGs, as the conservation of migratory animals contributes directly to sustainable development. Migratory animals must be conserved for the good of humankind.

Through supporting local NGOs, everyone can become involved in the conservation of migratory species. In everyday life, one should buy food only of sustainable and ecofriendly origin.

“Animals should be regarded like national treasures, like something that no one should be allowed to touch, enjoying absolute protection.” Yann Arthus-Bertrand
AEWA - Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds

Making flyway conservation happen

AEWA is an international treaty through which states and other stakeholders cooperate on the conservation and sustainable use of the populations of 254 species of migratory waterbirds and their habitats across 119 range states in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Greenland and the Canadian Archipelago.

AEWA brings together states and the wider international conservation community to ensure coordinated conservation and sustainable use of migratory waterbirds along the entire African-Eurasian flyway.

International cooperation across country borders is essential to ensure a favourable conservation status for migratory waterbird populations and to conserve their habitat, which consists mostly of wetlands. The legally binding AEWA Action Plan specifies core actions for contracting parties to warrant the conservation and sustainable use of migratory waterbirds. These include actions for species and habitat conservation as well as the management of human activities through various means including legal measures, sustainable use or undertaking emergency measures. Research and monitoring, education and awareness-raising, capacity-building and sustaining local livelihoods are other aspects addressed under the Agreement. By preserving waterbirds and their habitats, AEWA preserves the wider environment and its natural resources for people.

AEWA projects depend on financial and in-kind contributions from individuals, states, organizations and the private sector. Please contact the Secretariat: aewa.secretariat@unep-aewa.org

“AEWA combines a legal instrument and a community where states, NGOs and private sector cooperate to maintain a valuable shared resource.”
Szabolcs Nagy, Wetlands International

Great White Pelicans are threatened by habitat destruction and collisions with electric powerlines. Credit: Sergey Dereliev

International cooperation to protect migratory waterbirds. Credit: Tim Dodman

Greater Flamingos are highly gregarious and nest in very few colonies within the flyway. Credit: Sergey Dereliev
ASCOBANS - Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas

ASCOBANS works to protect small cetaceans of northern and western Europe through international cooperation

To protect small whales, dolphins and porpoises, the regional legally-binding Agreement ASCOBANS was concluded under the umbrella of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Its Conservation and Management Plan obliges parties to engage in habitat conservation and management, surveys and research, pollution mitigation and public information. To achieve its aim, ASCOBANS cooperates with range states that have not (yet) acceded to the Agreement, intergovernmental organizations dealing with the marine environment and fisheries, and non-governmental organizations.

Current priorities include reducing bycatch and underwater noise, understanding the impacts of emerging issues such as tidal and wave energy as well as the cumulative effects on small cetaceans and of all the human pressures on the marine environment. In a collaborative manner, ASCOBANS works to develop and agree solutions and mitigation strategies. ASCOBANS supports the SDGs related to the protection of marine ecosystems, but also in terms of education and international collaboration of its Parties.

Buy fish only from sustainable fisheries, avoid littering, support beach or river clean-ups as well as conservation organizations, and choose whale watching operators that treat the animals with respect.

“We can help lessen the burdens we have placed on harbour porpoises and other species. Let’s give them a clean and a quiet ocean to hunt and to thrive in.”

Lewis Pugh, UN Patron of the Oceans
Supporting bat populations to support our environment

Through EUROBATS 65 range states and numerous Non-Governmental Organizations are working closely together for the conservation of bats throughout Europe, Northern Africa and the Middle East.

Bats play a significant role in the ecosystems they inhabit. In Europe, bats hunt insects such as mosquitoes and moths, making bats an important link in the ecological chain. Their nutritional requirements also help prevent occasional plagues of insects. However, human activities have caused deterioration of vital bat habitats, such as forests and wetlands. This has led to a drastic decline in European bat populations, which in turn could influence entire ecosystems.

The Agreement on the Conservation of the Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS) was set up in 1991 by range states after recognizing the unfavorable conservation status of bats in Europe, Northern Africa and the Middle East. It aims to protect all 53 species of bats identified in the Agreement area through legislation, education, conservation measures and international co-operation with Agreement members and with countries that have not yet joined.

You can get involved in bat conservation, too! You don’t need to be a scientist; you just need to be concerned about bats’ problems. If you are interested to learn more about these fascinating flying mammals and to become an active bat conservationist, contact your local, regional or national bat conservation group.

“Bats comprise a fifth of the world’s mammal species and are essential to healthy environments and human economies globally. Nevertheless, they are in alarming decline.” Merlin Tuttle
Promoting learning for the world of work

Linking and fostering interaction between diverse institutions of Technical and Vocational Education and Training stakeholders to promote skills-oriented equitable, responsive, quality and inclusive lifelong learning.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) acts as part of the United Nations mandate to promote peace, justice, equity, poverty alleviation and greater social cohesion. The Centre assists Member States develop policies and practices concerning education for the world of work and skills development for employability and citizenship, particularly to achieve SDG 4 and 8 in addition to other cross-cutting impact on other goals.

The International Centre contributes to increased opportunities for productive work, sustainable livelihoods, personal empowerment and socio-economic development, through stimulating international and regional cooperation in the area of TVET:

- promoting UNESCO normative instruments and standards,
- promoting good and innovative practices in TVET,
- knowledge sharing,
- mobilizing expertise and resources,
- strengthening partnerships with other relevant agencies.

UNESCO-UNEVOC promotes knowledge sharing through its research and online communities, including the TVET Forum and UNEVOC Network Portal. Register on our portal and join the international debate.

“Being members of the UNEVOC Network, we can share our good practices with one another at the global level to improve our societies and economies.”

Fernando Rodriguez Araya Director External Cooperation National Institute of Apprenticeships (INA), Costa Rica
We’re accelerating climate action

The UNFCCC supports all aspects of the intergovernmental process to address climate change, including implementation of the Paris Agreement and all global climate action.

Among other things, the staff of UN Climate Change in Bonn supports climate change negotiations and the implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The main aim of the Paris Agreement is to keep a global average temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. UN Climate Change organizes meetings and analyzes and reviews climate change information and data reported by governments. The organization also supports governments and institutions in developing the techniques that can help increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. Climate change action seeks to accomplish Goal 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is good for many of the other SDGs agreed in 2015.

The Paris Agreement enjoys strong support from businesses, investors, cities and regions who are aligning policies and practices with the goals of the agreement. Leading representatives of these groups attend the annual UN Climate Change meetings, which are meanwhile among the largest international meetings in the world and feature shining examples of climate action and civil society advocacy.

Everyone can take climate action - from governments with ambitious climate policies to citizens who can reduce their carbon footprints by procuring clean, renewable energy and offsetting emissions they cannot avoid using UN-certified carbon credits (see http://climateneutralnow.org/Pages/Home.aspx).
Worldwide promotion of investment and technology through partnerships and business negotiations

ITPO Bonn contributes to UNIDO’s mandate of bringing about inclusive and sustainable industrial development by assisting investors in their investment- and technology-related interactions with potential partners from developing countries and economies in transition.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is the specialized UN agency that works to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) towards eradicating poverty. UNIDO’s vision is amplified by its 2013 Lima Declaration and strengthened by the global mandate the organization received through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and especially the Sustainable Development Goal 9, where the international community calls to “build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.” Overall, the organization aims to foster sustained economic growth, to create real income and safe jobs for all.

In doing so, investment promotion and the transfer of sustainable technologies have been at the forefront of these efforts. The Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) in Bonn participates in this endeavour by fostering mutually beneficial industrial cooperation between enterprises in Germany and in developing countries.

By mobilizing partners and resources to achieve larger development impact, UNIDO drives modern and green industry. Credit: UNIDO

Brokering investment and technology agreements between developed, developing countries and economies in transition. Credit: UNIDO

UNIDO ITPO Bonn opens up opportunities for investors and technology suppliers to find potential partners. Credit: UNIDO

“With the 2030 Agenda, we have it within our reach to end poverty, hunger and inequalities. Partnering up for inclusive and sustainable industrialization is one of the most effective means to do that.”
Helen Hai, UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador

UNIDO-ITPO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization - Investment and Technology Promotion Office
Science and Policy for People and Nature

IPBES provides policymakers with objective scientific assessments about the state of knowledge regarding the planet’s biodiversity, ecosystems and nature’s contributions to people, as well as the tools and methods to protect and sustainably use these vital natural assets.

IPBES is an independent intergovernmental body, established by Member States in 2012, to strengthen knowledge foundations for better policy through science, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. To some extent, IPBES does for biodiversity what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) does for climate change. Biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people underpin almost every aspect of human development and are key to the success of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. They help to produce food, clean water, regulate climate and even control disease, yet they are being depleted and degraded faster now than at any other point in human history.

There is a role for every person at every level through renewed political commitment, greater levels of resources, nomination of experts, contribution of expertise and simple word of mouth advocacy. Register as an IPBES Stakeholder www.ipbes.net/stakeholders

“Biodiversity is not just about species and environments – it’s central to human wellbeing. Our shared responsibility is to understand how and why are we degrading it and how can we do a better job of managing it in the future.”
Sir Robert Watson, IPBES Chair
UNISDR - United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Bonn Office

The UNISDR Bonn Office leads on the Sendai Framework Monitor and the coherence of the DRR and Climate Change agendas

UNISDR serves as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster risk reduction (DRR), supporting the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

UNISDR is led by the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG). The organization has approximately 100 staff located globally with its headquarters in Geneva.

To find out more about disaster risk reduction and how to get involved please visit: https://www.unisdr.org/we/campaign and www.preventionweb.net

“Reducing disaster mortality and economic losses is our collective responsibility.”
Hans T. Sy, SM Prime Holdings, Inc. Philippines
UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER - United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs/UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER facilitates the use of space-based technologies for disaster management and emergency response

The devastating impacts of natural disasters cause loss of lives and property around the world. To avoid sustainable development being undermined by natural hazards, disaster risk management based on effective early warning systems, improved understanding of risk and better information about the onset of disasters is crucial. Space technology such as earth observation, satellite telecommunications and navigation satellites can contribute to more effective disaster risk management and emergency response.

Acknowledging the benefits of space-based information for disaster risk management, the United Nations General Assembly established UN-SPIDER as a programme of UNOOSA with the mandate to provide universal access for all countries and all relevant international and regional organizations to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management and cycle.

Through its activities, UN-SPIDER contributes to reducing loss of lives and damage to property and supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
UNRIC aims to inform Europeans about issues of global reach and to promote public understanding for the goals and activities of the UN.

The United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC) is part of the UN Department of Global Communications in New York.

It is the public voice of the United Nations in Western Europe and works with all stakeholders in the region: the EU institutions, governments, all segments of civil society and of course the media. Nine geographical and thematic desks as well as a library work towards informing and engaging Europeans about issues such as peacekeeping, development cooperation, human rights, humanitarian relief assistance, environment and sustainable development.

A particular focus of UNRIC’s work lies on highlighting the manifold connections between these topics and the 2030 Agenda including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For UN Bonn, UNRIC coordinates the joint press and public relations work as well as the visitor service.

Supporting UNRIC means helping us to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Spread the word about the 17 SDGs, both off- and online. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook!

“We will speak for our rights and we will bring change through our voice. We must believe in the power and the strength of our words. Our words can change the world.” Malala Yousafzai, UN Messenger of Peace

“A better future for everyone”. UN Day celebrations. Credit: UNRIC

UNRIC’s regular film screening Ciné-ONU. Credit: UNRIC

Panel Discussion on the SDGs. Credit: UNRIC
The UN SDG Action Campaign works to empower and mobilise people across the world to take action for the Sustainable Development Goals and make them a reality by 2030.

The UN SDG Action Campaign is a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General mandated to support the UN system-wide and the Member States on advocacy and public engagement in the SDG implementation.

With a proven track record on innovative and impactful engagement techniques since 2002, the UN SDG Action Campaign works to create awareness about the 2030 Agenda, empower and inspire people across the world to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals while generating political will to make the Goals attainable by 2030.

The Global Campaign Center in Bonn is a strategic hub to deliver the UN SDG Action Campaign’s mandate to inspire people’s action on the Sustainable Development Goals. The Global Campaign Center is central to the UN’s strategy of providing real-time cutting-edge advocacy support, big data expertise and analytics to Member States and partners across the globe.

Interactive exhibitions bring people’s voices to decision makers, show interactive data on people’s perceptions of the SDGs and inspire participants to move from empathy to action through virtual reality experiences. Credit: UN SDG Action Campaign

Through the MY World 2030 Survey, people everywhere can have their say on how their country is doing on the SDGs and drive political change. Credit: photothek/Ina Fassbender

The annual Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development brings together leading thinkers, policy-makers and civil society, together with gaming experts to explore trends, innovations and tools, and transform the way we think and act on Sustainable Development. Credit: photothek/Ina Fassbender

Take the MY World 2030 survey to tell world leaders how we are doing on SDGs and visit sdgactioncampaign.org to join the action for SDGs or become a campaign partner. Together we will make these goals a reality.

“The Sustainable Development Agenda will not move forward, it is impossible for it to move forward, if we are just talking to people who agree with us. We have to be widening this conversation.” Dr. Alaa Murabit, SDG Advocate
UNSSC - United Nations System Staff College - Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development

Sharing Knowledge - Developing Leaders

The UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development designs and delivers comprehensive learning, training and knowledge management opportunities for UN staff and partner entities in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The UNSSC is the learning organization of the United Nations system, headquartered in Turin, Italy. The UNSSC designs and delivers learning programmes for UN staff and partner entities. The Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development in Bonn has been established by the UNSSC to respond to the learning, training and knowledge management needs in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The Knowledge Centre facilitates the implementation of these global agreements by offering joint learning and knowledge-sharing opportunities to all stakeholders. The Knowledge Centre offers customized training, workshops and collaborative spaces and actively engages in the successful implementation of the global plan of action for people, planet and prosperity in peace and partnership.

We invite everyone to deepen and share their knowledge of the concepts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and what they stand for through the learning opportunities and tools that the UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development provides. Join our SD Talks (http://sdtalks.unssc.org/) and Volunteer Initiative (http://simpleshow-foundation.org/) and enroll in our wide range of courses and training programmes (http://www.unssc.org/courses/).

"The courses at the UNSSC Knowledge Centre provided me with an opportunity to explore ideas and learn from each other as well as a chance to meet experts in the field of sustainable development. We go back to our countries inspired and with many new connections, which will help us to make a difference back home. Education is the first step to change attitudes and behaviors in the long term."

Dwiti Vikramaditya, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (K.I.S.S.), India

Our capacity development approach is organized around six interdependent building blocks that enhance coherence of development interventions and increase operational and conceptual capacity of UN staff as well as a multitude of other partners. Credit: UNSSC

We bring together representatives from across the spectrum of UN entities as well as representatives and policy makers from the private and public sector, academia and civil society to deliver through more systematic multi stakeholder engagement and partnerships. Credit: UNSSC

The UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development is housed in Haus Carstanjen, also called the “sustainability castle”, offering free and premium online and offline courses, training and knowledge management opportunities. Credit: Bundesstadt Bonn, Michael Sondermann

Headquarters: Turin
In Bonn since 2016
www.unssc.org
@UNSSC
@UNSSC
UNU-ViE - United Nations University - Vice-Rectorate in Europe

UNU-ViE enhances the global presence of the United Nations University and promotes knowledge sharing and collaboration in the fields of peace, development and sustainability, especially across Europe and Africa.

As the only Vice-Rectorate, the United Nations University Vice-Rectorate in Europe (UNU-ViE), established in 2007, supports the global growth of the United Nations University (UNU), with a particular emphasis on Europe and Africa.

Furthermore, UNU-ViE facilitates collaboration between the UN University and the United Nations system, and shares knowledge and expertise through the development of a range of joint programmes. Additionally, UNU-ViE promotes close cooperation with the United Nations agencies in Bonn. The knowledge UNU-ViE provides is used to inform policymakers as they work towards the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda. Key research areas focus on issues relating to peace, development and sustainability.

The Vice-Rectorate also offers key services for all UN University organisations in Bonn, including administrative, finance, ICT and communications support.

UNU-ViE is committed to ongoing cooperation with other UN agencies, as well as local, regional, national and international stakeholders.
UNU-EHS carries out cutting edge research on risks and adaptation related to environmental hazards and global change, promoting policies and programmes to reduce these risks, while taking into account the interplay between environmental and societal factors.

The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) is part of the United Nations University (UNU), a global think tank that serves as the academic arm of the United Nations.

The UNU-EHS community of scholars conducts evidence-based research to identify and assess current and future impacts of environmental risks on people, with findings used to inform policymaking at the local, national and global level. Research carried out by its experts is also used to identify vulnerabilities in the context of global change, helping to drive successful adaptation and build resilience.

The Institute’s research outputs have a global reach and are used to inform the implementation of several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including but not limited to those relating to clean water, sustainable urban areas, ecosystem services and climate change. Additionally, through its Master’s and PhD programmes and Early Career Climate Fellowship, UNU-EHS helps forge a new generation of risk and adaptation experts who can contribute to a sustainable and resilient future.

Discover the latest UNU-EHS research on our social media channels and in the Open Access publications on our website. To get involved, apply for an MSc or PhD programme, or for an Early Career Climate Fellowship in collaboration with UNFCCC as well as vacancy announcements.
World-class research and action on e-waste

SCYCLE aims to enable societies to reduce the environmental burden caused by the production, consumption and disposal of ubiquitous goods.

Since January 2016, the newly established Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme has been hosted by the UNU Vice-Rectorate in Europe.

SCYCLE’s mandate is the promotion of sustainable societies. Its activities are focused on the development of sustainable production, consumption and disposal patterns for electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), as well as for other ubiquitous goods. As such, SCYCLE leads the global e-waste discussion and advances sustainable e-waste management strategies based on life-cycle thinking.

Concretely SCYCLE fosters solutions-oriented dialogues, cooperation and consensus. Within this context SCYCLE:

• conducts research on eco-structuring towards sustainable societies;
• develops interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder public-private partnerships;
• assists governments in developing e-waste legislation and standards, meeting a growing need for such support;
• undertakes education, training and capacity development;
• facilitates and disseminates practical, science-based recommendations to the United Nations and its agencies, governments, scholars, industry and the public.
UNV - United Nations Volunteers programme

We are Inspiration in Action

UNV contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide. We work with partners to integrate qualified, highly motivated and well supported UN Volunteers into development programming and promote the value and global recognition of volunteerism.

Every year, UNV deploys over 6,500 UN Volunteers in support of the development and peace interventions of United Nations entities and other partners. Some 83 per cent of UN Volunteers come from the global South, 45 per cent are women and 29 per cent are under the age of 29. Additionally, over 12,500 UN Online Volunteers complete more than 22,500 assignments over the Internet.

UN Volunteers take action in their assignments within the nexus of the three interdependent pillars of the United Nations: peace, development and humanitarian assistance. Volunteerism empowers people to collectively act and engage across all the Sustainable Development Goals, providing an opportunity for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to be truly owned by the people. UNV is active in around 130 countries every year. With field presences in over 60 countries, UNV is represented worldwide. UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

UN Volunteers support United Nations peacekeeping missions with expertise, playing key roles in coordination, logistics and movement control. Credit: UNV, 2014

Naw Wan Gay, national UN Volunteer with UNHCR, provides services for refugees in Baan Mai Nai Soi Temporary Shelter Area, Thailand. Credit: Panupong Changchai, 2016

UN Volunteer Pastoralist Literacy and Education Specialist Solomon Bekele (centre) serves with UNESCO in Juba, South Sudan. Here, he leads a discussion meeting with community members on the benefits of education at Aliet/Warabyie cattle camp. Credit: Swokiri Jams, 2016

“At home and across borders, volunteers are at the very heart of sustainable development. Individually and collectively, they not only provide essential services: they build capacity and enable social cohesion. They facilitate the active participation that the new agenda needs. Volunteerism connects people and transforms lives, so that no-one is left behind.” Gill Greer, CEO, Volunteer Service Abroad (New Zealand), Chair of the Post-2015 Volunteering Working Group
Healthy environments for healthier people

Our vision is safe and supportive living and working environments that both protect and promote health and well-being.

WHO-ECEH is the centre of technical and scientific excellence in addressing environmental and work-related impacts on health. It provides Member States with state-of-the-art evidence on existing and emerging environmental health risks, and assists them in identifying and implementing policies to protect and promote health. It develops policy advice, international guidelines, methods and tools to inform and support decision-making by governments, health professionals, citizens and other stakeholders.

These activities are contributing to the development of healthy and safe environments that support resilient and inclusive communities. Our mission is to achieve improved and more equitable health and well-being for all people of the WHO European Region and to contribute to a global environment and health agenda.

An emerging impetus for the work of WHO-ECEH is given by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which health and well-being linked to environmental and work-related factors are outcomes, determinants and enablers of sustainable development.

“Health is our most precious possession and its protection and promotion are fundamental to the health and well-being of our societies. As Patron of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, my role is to advocate for and raise awareness of health and health-related issues.”

Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark
The United Nations in Bonn

Timeline


1953 The International Labour Organisation (ILO), headquartered in Geneva, sets up a liaison office in Bonn (in Berlin since 2004).

1979 The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), also known as the “Bonn Convention”, is signed at the Godesburg in Bonn.

1984 The CMS Secretariat is established in Bonn.

1996 The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) move into Haus Carstanjen in Bonn-Bad Godesberg.

1999 The Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North-East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of the Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS) are set up in Bonn.

2000 The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is set up in Bonn.

2003 The United Nations University’s Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) is set up in Bonn.

2004 The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) opens an office in Bonn. Ten UNICs in Western Europe are merged to form the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC), headquartered in Brussels; a liaison office for Germany remains in Bonn.

2006 Inauguration of the UN Campus in Bonn by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and German Chancellor Angela Merkel as new premises for the offices of the United Nations. The UNFCCC Secretariat remains in Haus Carstanjen pending the complete refurbishment of the second Campus building, the “Altes Abgeordnetenhochhaus”.

In October, the World Tourism Organisation’s (UNWTO) Consulting unit on Biodiversity and Tourism for Tsunami affected countries is set up in Bonn, which becomes the Consulting Unit for Tourism and Biodiversity in 2010.

2007 The International Human Dimension Programme on Global Environmental Change (UNU-IHDP) as well as the United Nations University’s Vice Rectorate in Europe (UNU-ViE) open their offices during the first half of the year. The UN Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development joins the UN organisations in Bonn in August. The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER) follows in October.

2008 The Secretariat for Studies on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (UNEP-TEEB) opens its office in Bonn (closed in 2011).

2009 The International Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO starts its work on the UN Campus Bonn (closed in 2010).

2010 The Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP), Operating Unit SCYCLE, now University of the United Nations, Vice Rectorate in Europe, Operating Unit SCYCLE (UNU-ViE SCYCLE), joins the UN organisations in Bonn.

2012 The refurbishment of the “Altes Abgeordnetenhochhaus” is completed. Most of the Climate Secretariat staff are relocated to the UN Campus.

2013 The Secretariat for Studies on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (UNEP-TEEB) closes its office.

2014 The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) starts its work in Bonn. UNU-IHDP closes its office.

2015 The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) opens an office for Investment and Technology Promotion.

The United Nations System Staff College’s (UNSSC) Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development starts its activities. The UN Sustainable Development Goals Action Campaign opens the Global Campaign Centre in Bonn.

2017 The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) opens an office for Investment and Technology Promotion.