



New UN websites & publications

UN in General

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/79/1)

English, French & Spanish: <https://undocs.org/A/79/1>

"Introduction: 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 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. ..."

United Nations Secretary-General's Call to Action on Extreme Heat

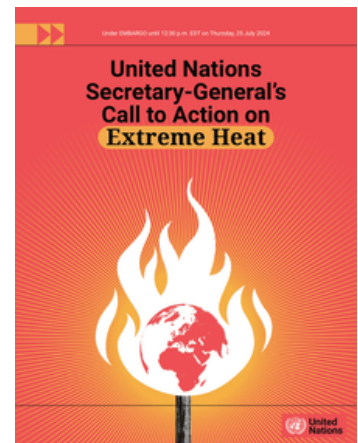
English: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/extreme-heat>

French: <https://www.un.org/fr/climatechange/extreme-heat>

Spanish: <https://www.un.org/es/climatechange/extreme-heat>

Call to Action in English: <https://tinyurl.com/4622uw3u>

Crippling heat is everywhere. Billions of people around the world are wilting under increasingly severe heatwaves driven largely by a fossil-fuel charged, human-induced climate crisis. [More than 70 per cent of the global workforce](#) – 2.4 billion people – are now at high risk of extreme heat. The most vulnerable communities are hit hardest. In response to the rapid rise in the scale, intensity, frequency and duration of extreme heat, UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 25 July 2024 called for an urgent and concerted effort to enhance international cooperation to address extreme heat in four critical areas: - Caring for the vulnerable; - Protecting workers; - Boosting resilience of economies and societies using data and science; - Limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C by phasing out fossil fuels and scaling up investment in renewable energy.



Heat at work: Implications for safety and health; A global review of the science, policy and practice (ILO)

<https://www.ilo.org/publications/heat-work-implications-safety-and-health>

This new report from the International Labour Organization (ILO), warns that more workers are being exposed to heat stress worldwide. The new data reveals that regions previously unaccustomed to extreme heat will face increased risks, while workers in already hot climates will confront ever more dangerous conditions. Heat stress is an invisible and silent killer that can quickly cause illness, heatstroke or even death. Over time it can also lead to serious heart, lung and kidney problems for workers, the study underlines. Overall, the report indicates that workers in Africa, the Arab states and Asia and the Pacific are most often exposed to excessive heat. In these regions, 92.9 per cent, 83.6 per cent and 74.7 per cent of the workforce are affected, respectively. The figures are above the global average of 71 per cent, according to the most recent figures available (2020). The fastest changing working conditions are seen in Europe and Central Asia, says the report. From 2000 to 2020 the region recorded the largest increase in excessive heat exposure, with the proportion of workers affected rising by 17.3 per cent, almost double the global average increase. Meanwhile, the Americas and Europe and Central Asia are witnessing the largest rise in workplace injuries from heat stress since the year 2000, with increases of 33.3 per cent and 16.4 per cent respectively. This is possibly due to hotter temperatures in regions where workers are unaccustomed to heat, the report notes. The report estimates that 4,200 workers globally lost their lives to heatwaves in 2020. In total, 231 million workers were exposed to heatwaves in 2020, marking a 66 per cent increase from 2000. Nonetheless, the report stresses that nine out of ten workers globally were exposed to excessive heat outside of a heatwave and eight in ten occupational injuries from extreme heat happened outside of heatwaves.



Beat the heat: Child health amid heatwaves in Europe and Central Asia (UNICEF Policy Brief)

<https://www.unicef.org/eca/reports/beat-heat-2024>

<https://www.unicef.org/eca/media/35706/file/Beat%20the%20Heat%202024.pdf>

Half of all children living in 50 countries across Europe and Central Asia are exposed to frequent heatwaves – double the global average of 1 in 4 children. More than 92 million children are already exposed to frequent heatwaves in a region where temperatures are rising at a faster rate than in any other region worldwide. Heatwaves are set to increase in frequency and intensity in the coming years as a result of accelerated global warming. Rising temperatures are expected to increase the risk of heat stress in children in 23 countries across Europe and Central Asia, and urgent measures are needed to protect the most vulnerable people of all: the youngest children.

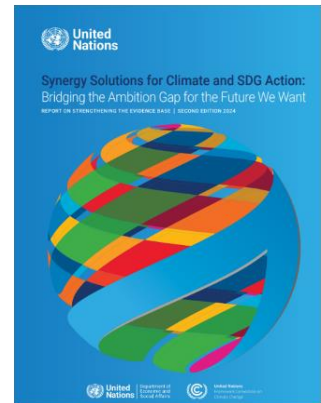


Synergy Solutions for Climate and SDG Action: Bridging the Ambition Gap for the Future We Want

<https://sdgs.un.org/publications/synergy-solutions-climate-and-sdg-action-bridging-ambition-gap-future-we-want-56106>

A new report by a UN-convened expert group will urge governments to break down siloes at national and international levels to address the climate and sustainable development crises and achieve transformative change. On 16 July, the 2024 report of the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy – co-convened by UN DESA and UN Climate Change (UNFCCC) – was presented to delegates at a special event of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in New York. The report, a practical response to uncovering challenges and opportunities for revitalizing action towards just and equitable societies

on a healthy planet, comes at a crucial time. By 2025, all parties to the Paris Agreement are scheduled to submit new NDCs, which must be more ambitious and build adequate resilience to climate change. The upcoming COP29 in Baku later this year is an opportunity to set a new target for climate finance and ensure a just transition to keep the average temperature rise under the 1.5-degree threshold this century. This report offers a roadmap for breaking down fragmentation and achieving the deep transformative changes required. Focusing on synergies between climate action and sustainable development is vital to overcoming challenges, providing win-win solutions, and minimizing trade-offs.

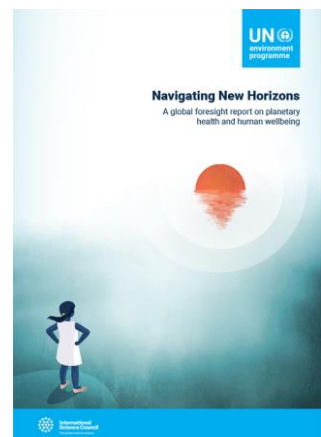


Navigating New Horizons: A Global Foresight Report on Planetary Health and Human Wellbeing

Report in English, Executive Summary in English, French, Spanish & Portuguese: <https://www.unep.org/resources/global-foresight-report>

As environmental, technological and societal change join forces to disrupt human and planetary health, the world must get better at tracking and responding to a host of emerging challenges, according to a new report from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Science Council (ISC), released on 15 July 2024.

The report identifies eight critical global shifts that are accelerating the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. The shifts include humanity's degradation of the natural world, the rapid development of technologies such as AI, competition for natural resources, widening inequalities and declining trust in institutions. These shifts are creating a polycrisis, in which global crises are amplifying, accelerating and synchronizing – with huge implications for human and planetary wellbeing. Eighteen accompanying signals of change – identified by hundreds of global experts through regional and stakeholder consultations that included youth – offer a deeper glimpse into potential disruptions, both positive and negative, that the world must prepare for.

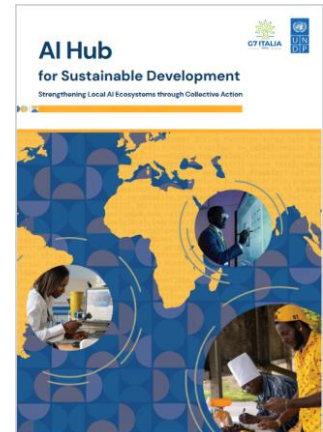


Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

AI Hub for Sustainable Development: Strengthening Local AI Ecosystems through Collective Action

<https://www.undp.org/publications/ai-hub-sustainable-development-strengthening-local-ai-ecosystems-through-collective-action>

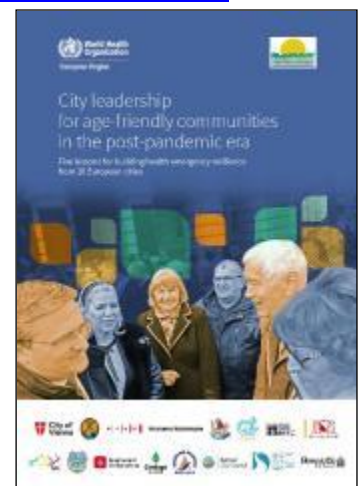
The G7 Leaders' Summit in June 2024 welcomed the Italian Presidency's decision to establish the AI Hub for Sustainable Development, in collaboration with UNDP. As affirmed in the G7 Leaders' Declaration, the AI Hub aims to enable multi-stakeholder partnerships to support local AI digital ecosystems, strengthen capacities to advance AI for sustainable development, and complement existing initiatives including the AI for Development Donors Partnership. This is the first public report on the co-design of the AI Hub. It lays out initial suggestions and consolidated feedback from local AI ecosystems to understand opportunities and enhance ongoing AI development initiatives underway.



City leadership for age-friendly communities in the post-pandemic era: five lessons for building health emergency resilience from 16 European cities (WHO/Europe)

<https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2024-8409-48181-74811>

The COVID-19 pandemic hit older people hardest. This policy brief, intended for planners, policy-makers and politicians, was produced by the 16 cities of a Healthy Ageing Task Force and the WHO Regional Office for Europe. During the pandemic, cities provided leadership and innovative programmes to meet the four key challenges of survival, equity, creating conditions for people to adapt and thrive, and ensuring older people have a voice which is listened to and acted upon. Drawn from the experience of the cities, five lessons should inform age-friendly, resilient and adaptive cities for all types of health emergency: building resilience together; using a cycle of preparedness, response and recovery; adopting an all-hazards approach; investing in community infrastructure; and creating systems for feedback from older citizens. Older people should not be left behind when cities prepare for, respond and recover from future crises.



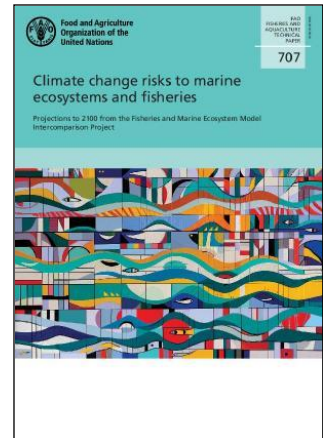
The report was co-produced by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the cities of Barcelona (Spain), Belfast (United Kingdom), Brno (Czechia), Çankaya (Türkiye), Derry/Londonderry (United Kingdom), Győr (Hungary), Horsens (Denmark), Łódź (Poland), Metamorphosis (Greece), Muratpaşa (Türkiye), Newcastle (United Kingdom), Novi Sad (Serbia), Rijeka (Croatia), Udine (Italy), Utrecht (Netherlands, Kingdom of the) and Vienna (Austria).

Climate change risks to marine ecosystems and fisheries: Projections to 2100 from the Fisheries and Marine Ecosystem Model Intercomparison Project (FAO)

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1379en>

New projections highlight potential climate risks to exploitable fish biomass for nearly all regions of the world's ocean, including top producer countries and those with high reliance on aquatic foods, according to a report released on 10 July 2024 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Global projections of exploitable fish biomass show declines of more than 10 percent, particularly under the high-emissions scenario, by mid-century for many

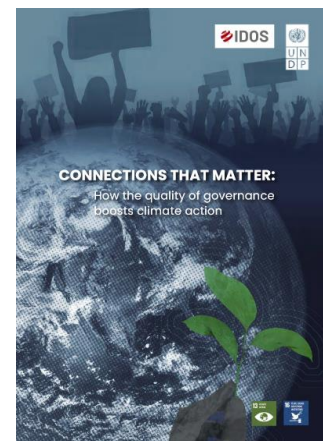
regions of the world, said the report. By the end of the century, under the high-emissions scenario, which projects global warming of 3–4.0 °C, declines worsen to 30 percent or greater in 48 countries and territories. In contrast, under the low-emissions scenario, which projects global warming of 1.5–2 °C, changes stabilize between no change and a decrease of 10 percent or less across 178 countries and territories by the end of the century. Notable declines include those for top fish producer nations, which worsen towards the end of the century under the high-emissions scenario, for example 37.3 percent for Peru’s and 30.9 percent for China’s Exclusive Economic Zones but stabilize under the low-emissions scenario. The report was produced by the [Ecosystem Model Intercomparison Project](#) (FishMIP), an international network of researchers working with FAO to understand the long-term impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems and fisheries through a set of state-of-the-art numerical models. It was released during the Thirty-sixth session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI36) held between 8 and 12 July 2024 at FAO headquarters in Rome.



Connections that matter: how the quality of governance boosts climate action

<https://www.undp.org/publications/connections-matter-how-quality-governance-boosts-climate-action>

This report reflects the findings of a systematic literature review jointly undertaken by the UNDP Global Policy Centre for Governance and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability. The report offers aggregated empirical insight from across the globe about how inclusive, effective and accountable governance systems produces positive effects on climate action. The report aims to galvanize development actors and stakeholders to invest in SDG 16 and the strengthening of governance systems, and to better identify pathways that raise the ambition and effectiveness of climate action.



Creative Economy Outlook 2024 (UNCTAD)

<https://unctad.org/publication/creative-economy-outlook-2024>

The [creative economy](#) includes audiovisual products, design, media, music, performing arts, publishing and visual arts. An evolving concept by nature, it involves goods and services based on creativity and intellectual capital as primary inputs. With exports of these products growing strongly in recent years, robust regulatory frameworks are necessary to ensure technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) benefit everyone and foster a competitive and sustainable creative economy. That’s the main message from the Creative Economy Outlook 2024 released by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The report comes as government officials, businesses and researchers convene in Geneva for the [11th Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development](#) from 10 to 12 July. The meeting looks closely at global trade trends of creative services amid the growing impact of digitalization on development opportunities, challenges and policy implications. Participants also discuss [ways to better collect and leverage statistics on trade in services](#).



Digital Economy Report 2024 (UNCTAD)

<https://unctad.org/publication/digital-economy-report-2024>

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) launched The Digital Economy Report 2024 on 10 July 2024, shedding light on the significant environmental impact of the global digital sector and the disproportionate burden developing countries bear. This detailed report highlights that while digitalization drives global economic growth and offers unique opportunities for developing countries, its environmental repercussions are becoming increasingly severe. Developing countries remain unevenly affected both economically and ecologically due to existing digital and development divides but they have the potential to leverage this digital shift to foster development. The report emphasizes the pressing need to address the environmental costs of rapid digital transformation. Key concerns include the depletion of finite raw materials for digital and low-carbon technologies, escalating water and energy consumption and the growing issue of digitalization-related waste. As digitalization progresses at an unprecedented rate, understanding its link to environmental sustainability becomes increasingly critical.



Disability weights for noise-related health states in the WHO European Region

<https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2024-9196-48968-72969>

Following the publication of the 2018 Environmental noise guidelines for the European Region, WHO set out to update environmental noise related disability weights to enhance health risk assessment in the field. The “European noise disability weights measurement study”, on which this report is based, aimed to derive disability weights for several environmental and non-environmental noise related health states using standardized and comparable methods. A nationally representative sample survey was administered in the general populations of four countries of the WHO European Region – Hungary, Italy, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Sweden. Disability weights for moderate and severe annoyance were estimated to be 0.006 and 0.011, respectively. The disability weight for sleep disturbance was estimated to be 0.009. The set of European noise disability weights is a valuable resource for use in future environment-related health risk assessments across the WHO European Region and beyond.

Gender Equality Accelerators (UN Women)

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/07/gender-equality-accelerators>

This booklet introduces the 10 Gender Equality Accelerators, designed to propel progress and ensure substantial results in line with the SDGs. Through them, UN Women addresses the pressing need for strategic action to achieve gender equality and women’s rights. The accelerators are not a ‘one size fits all’ solution but are tailored to fit individual national contexts and priorities, implemented in collaboration with national stakeholders. The booklet emphasizes the importance of synergies between normative, operational, and coordination aspects to achieve sustainable and long-lasting results. By collaborating with allies, leveraging expertise, and harnessing available capacities, significant progress can be made. The Gender Equality Accelerators represent a call to action for governments, the UN system, and civil society to drive transformative change, advancing gender equality and the rights of women and girls worldwide. The Accelerators are a blueprint that UN Women offers to the UN Resident Coordinator system for collective action to achieve gender equality and contribute towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Closing the Gap: Trends in Adaptation Finance for Fragile and Conflict-affected Settings (World Bank)

<https://hdl.handle.net/10986/41912>

Global funds to support climate adaptation are a lifeline for low-income countries, and nowhere is this more evident than in settings facing fragility and conflict. While there is little question that countries on the World Bank's Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations (FCS) list are underserved in terms of adaptation finance received from international funders, the scale and nature of the financing gap compared to other low-income countries are less clear. By consolidating a decade's worth of climate finance data from international funders, this report examines global financial flows to support adaptation in fragile and conflict affected settings. Using a database that covers international climate finance commitments from major bilateral, multilateral, and philanthropic funders, it explores the size and nature of adaptation finance to FCS. The analysis goes further than existing studies, by comparing not just the financial flows going to FCS and non-FCS countries, but also those going to different FCS countries. This allows us to determine whether adaptation finance is targeting the most vulnerable countries and begin to explore factors associated with differences in funding allocations. This report is part of a wider research program aimed at uncovering barriers and entry points to scaling adaptation finance as part of the World Bank's Scaling Adaptation Finance in Fragile Environments (SAFFE) activity.

Guideline on the Integration of Sand and Dust Storm Management into Key Policy Areas (FAO / UNCCD)

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd1543en>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) have published this comprehensive guideline designed to raise awareness among policymakers about the significant development challenges posed by Sand and Dust Storms (SDS), which are often inadequately addressed. SDS can have severe impacts on agriculture, human health and infrastructure, and require urgent and coordinated policy responses. The new guideline emphasizes the necessity for increased political attention, robust assessments, and actionable data to manage SDS hazards more effectively. It draws on a wide range of scientific, technical, and evidence-based resources provided by FAO, UNCCD and members of the United Nations Coalition on Combatting Sand and Dust Storms, alongside contributions from global experts and partners. The guideline is designed to be a voluntary resource for regional, national, and sub-national authorities, as well as other stakeholders involved in developing and implementing SDS-related policies and initiatives. It builds upon the UNCCD Policy Advocacy Framework for Sand and Dust Storms, which outlines essential principles and an enabling environment aimed at preventing and mitigating the sources and socioeconomic impacts of SDS, thereby enhancing productivity and resilience.



Integrated Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines: Principles and strategic actions (FAO)

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1090en>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has released guidelines in July 2024 for countries outlining how to manage the risks of damaging wildfires, which can threaten people and the environment. The guidelines update previous FAO fire management voluntary guidelines that were published two decades ago and incorporates new content to address challenges stemming from the current climate crisis. Extreme wildfires are projected to become about [50 percent more frequent by the end of the century](#) and environmental changes linked to climate change, such as increased drought, high air temperatures and strong winds, are likely to result in [hotter, drier, and longer fire seasons](#). Currently, around [340 million to 370 million](#)



[hectares](#) of the Earth's surface are burned by wildfire annually. When these wildfires become extreme, they can adversely affect sustainable development, threaten communities' livelihoods, and generate large volumes of greenhouse gas emissions.

Mind the AI Divide: Shaping a Global Perspective on the Future of Work

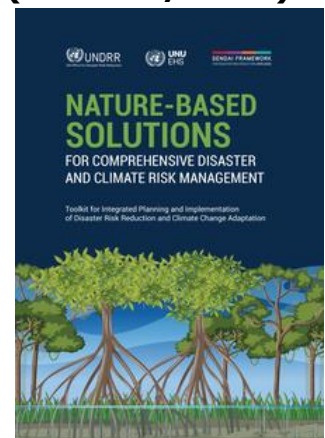
<https://www.ilo.org/publications/major-publications/mind-ai-divide-shaping-global-perspective-future-work>

The Artificial Intelligence revolution will only widen the gap between high and low-income countries unless cooperative international action is taken, this new report from the ILO and the UN Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Technology warns. The report found that AI is revolutionizing industries worldwide, offering tremendous opportunities for innovation and productivity. However, it is also exacerbating economic and social inequalities due to uneven rates of investment, adoption, and use. This emerging "AI divide" means high-income nations disproportionately benefit from AI advancements, while low- and medium-income countries, particularly in Africa, lag behind. The workplace is where Artificial Intelligence can lead to productivity gains and improved working conditions. Unequal access to infrastructure, technology, quality education, and training, however, could lead to uneven adoption of AI, which would, in turn, deepen inequalities globally.

Nature-based solutions for comprehensive disaster and climate risk management: Toolkit for integrated planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (UNDRR / UNU)

<https://www.undrr.org/publication/nature-based-solutions-comprehensive-disaster-and-climate-risk-management-toolkit>

The toolkit on nature-based solutions for comprehensive disaster and climate risk management (CRM-NbS Toolkit) aims to support countries in making nature-based solutions (NbS) an integral part of planning under the comprehensive disaster and climate risk management (CRM) approach considering both disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change. As a summary, this toolkit proposes a checklist for checking progress along the sequence of tools proposed in this toolbox, thereby helping to "take the steps" for planning NbS as a coherent order of actions for CRM. It also informs on the integration of national and subnational agendas for cooperation and coordination among various governance levels and multiple sectors.



New estimates of the cost of ending poverty and its global distribution (UNU- WIDER Working Paper 46/2024)

<https://doi.org/10.35188/UNU-WIDER/2024/508-0>

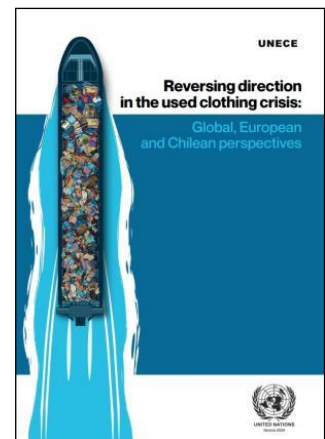
This paper makes new estimates of the cost of ending poverty and the global distribution of both the cost and poverty itself. First, the paper discusses definitions of 'ending' poverty, arguing that there is an overemphasis (e.g. SDG 1) on the extreme poverty line which is insufficient for multiple reasons. Second, we turn to the question of the location of global poverty. Although it is commonly noted that global poverty is increasingly located within sub-Saharan Africa and in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS), there is a less discussed distribution of global poverty between countries where official development assistance (ODA) matters substantially, and those countries where ODA is no longer financially significant relative to the recipient countries' growing economic size. A new typology of countries is presented based on the intersection of ODA importance vis-à-vis national resources and FCAS/non-FCAS countries. Finally, new estimates are made for the cost of ending global poverty and for the global distribution of that cost and of poverty itself.

Reversing direction in the used clothing crisis: Global, European and Chilean perspectives (UNECE / UNECLAC)

Report: <https://unece.org/info/publications/pub/391996>

Executive Summary: <https://tinyurl.com/2tf7da3a>

The textile industry has evolved from a production model based on natural fibres and protectionist policies for local industry to a model where synthetic fibres have become pervasive, production has been offshored, and the speed of manufacture and distribution of products has increased rapidly. Most of the fashion industry operates under the fast-fashion model, which involves more collections per year, generally at low prices, used for less and less time. This has led to a growing rate of overproduction and overconsumption of clothes. These excesses have boosted the development of an important market for second-hand clothes, with international trade worth USD 9.3 billion in 2021. These garments largely flow from higher- to lower-income countries. The main exporters (by value) are the EU, China, the United States, and the United Kingdom, and the principal importers are Pakistan, Ukraine, Kenya, and Chile.



Sport and Gender Equality Game Plan: Guidelines for gender-transformative sport policies and programmes (UNESCO)

<https://tinyurl.com/y4k3yf9u>

On the eve of the Olympic Games, a new UNESCO report reveals that women and girls are still far from having equal access to sport at any level, professional or amateur. UNESCO urgently calls on its 194 Member States to tackle these inequalities by putting in place the recommendations contained in the report. On 24 July, the Organization brought together sports ministers from around the world at its Paris headquarters to develop concrete political actions.

The UNESCO Sport and Gender Equality Game Plan is a road-map for policy-makers in both governments and sports organizations responsible for driving forward gender equity. It highlights three urgent challenges facing girls and women in sport:

- Ending gender-based violence in sport;
- Reducing teenage girls' dropout from sport;
- More women needed in sports leadership roles.



The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024: Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1254en>

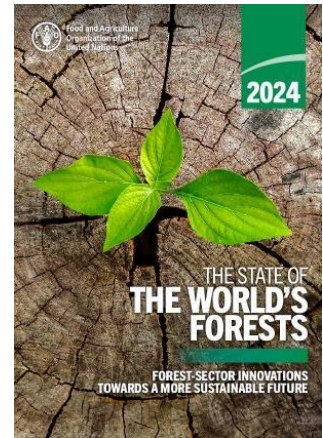
This year's report provides timely and relevant recommendations regarding the efficient use of innovative financing tools and reforms to the food security and nutrition financing architecture. Establishing a common ground on how food security and nutrition financing is defined, along with methods for its tracking, measurement and implementation, is an important first step towards sustainably increasing the financing flows needed to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and to ensure access to healthy diets for all, today and tomorrow. To this end, insights of this report are particularly important in light of the next Summit of the Future in September 2024 and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in June and July 2025.



The State of the World's Forests 2024: Forest-sector innovations towards a more sustainable future (FAO)

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1211en>

Innovation is essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also an important accelerator for the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems and for achieving global goals such as the eradication of hunger and poverty and the sustainable management and use of natural resources. But innovation does not arise in a vacuum. Among other things, it requires enabling policies; strong, transformative partnerships; investment; an inclusive culture that is open to and encouraging of new ideas; and a willingness to take calculated risks. This edition of The State of the World's Forests (SOFO) provides highlights on the state of the world's forests and explores the transformative power of evidence-based innovation in the forest sector, ranging from new technologies to creative and successful policies and institutional changes, to new ways of getting finance to forest owners and managers. Eighteen case studies from around the world provide a glimpse at the wide range of technological, social, policy, institutional and financial forest-sector innovations – and combinations of these – being tested and implemented in real-world conditions. SOFO 2024 identifies barriers to, and enablers of, innovation and enumerates five actions for empowering people to apply their creativity in the forest sector to solve problems and scale up positive impacts.



A Threat to Progress: Confronting the effects of climate change on child health and well-being] (Karolinska Institutet / UNICEF)

English, French & Spanish: <https://www.unicef.org/reports/threat-to-progress>

Climate change is impacting almost every aspect of child health and well-being from pregnancy to adolescence. Children are disproportionately affected by climate change because they are uniquely vulnerable to environmental hazards compared to adults. While the evidence on the impact of climate change on children's health and well-being is growing, research often focuses on the effects of individual hazards. This report aims to provide a comprehensive 'stocktake' of the impacts of climate change on children across six major hazards that impact their health and well-being: extreme heat, droughts, wildfires, floods and storms, air pollution and ecosystem changes. This report makes three recommendations with accompanying specific actions: - Reduce emissions to meet 1.5°C degree threshold ensuring the best interest of the child; - Protect children from the impact of climate change; - Prioritize child health and well-being in climate policy, investment and action.

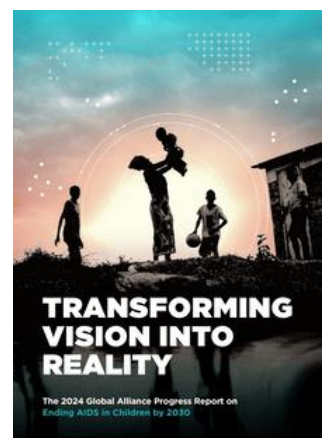


Transforming Vision into Reality: The 2024 Global Alliance Progress Report on Ending AIDS in Children by 2030

Report in English, Executive Summary in English, French & Portuguese:

<https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2024/transforming-vision-into-reality>

Despite progress made in reducing HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths among children, a new report released on 22 July 2024 by the [Global Alliance for Ending AIDS in Children by 2030](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2024/transforming-vision-into-reality) shows that an urgent scale up of HIV services in countries worst affected by the pandemic is required to end AIDS by 2030. The report shows that programmes targeting vertical transmission of HIV have averted 4 million infections among children aged 0-14 years old since 2000. Globally, new HIV infections among children aged 0-14 years old have declined by 38% since 2015 and AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 43%.



Among the 12 Global Alliance countries, several have achieved strong coverage of lifelong antiretroviral therapy among pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV, with Uganda nearing 100%, United Republic of Tanzania at 98%, and South Africa at 97%. Mozambique has achieved 90% coverage, with Zambia at 90%, Angola at 89%, Kenya at 89%, Zimbabwe at 88%, and Cote d'Ivoire at 84%.

The Urgency of Now: AIDS at a Crossroads — 2024 global AIDS update

<https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2024/global-aids-update-2024>

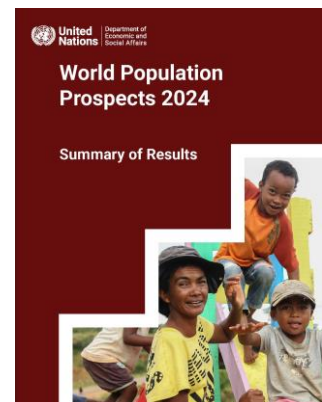
This new report released on 22 July 2024 by UNAIDS shows that the world is at a critical moment that will determine whether world leaders meet their commitment to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. The report brings together new data and case studies which demonstrate that the decisions and policy choices taken by world leaders this year will decide the fate of millions of lives and whether the world's deadliest pandemic is overcome. Whilst the end of AIDS is within our grasp, this decade, currently the world is off track. Globally, of the 39.9 million people living with HIV, 9.3 million, nearly a quarter, are not receiving life-saving treatment. As a consequence, a person dies from AIDS-related causes every minute. Leaders pledged to reduce annual new infections to below 370 000 by 2025, but new HIV infections are still more than three times higher than that, at 1.3 million in 2023. And now cuts in resourcing and a rising anti-rights push are endangering the progress that has been made.



World Population Prospects 2024 (UN/DESA)

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/world-population-prospects-2024>

According to the World Population Prospects 2024: Summary of Results published on 11 July 2024, it is expected that the world's population will peak in the mid-2080s, growing over the next sixty years from 8.2 billion people in 2024 to around 10.3 billion in the mid-2080s, and then will return to around 10.2 billion by the end of the century. The size of the world's population in 2100 is now expected to be six per cent lower—or 700 million fewer—than anticipated a decade ago. The earlier population peak is due to several factors, including lower levels of fertility in some of the world's largest countries, especially China. Globally, women are having one child fewer, on average, than they did around 1990. In more than half of all countries and areas, the average number of live births per woman is below 2.1—the level required for a population to maintain a constant size over the long term without migration—and nearly a fifth of all countries and areas, including China, Italy, the Republic of Korea and Spain, now have "ultra-low" fertility, with fewer than 1.4 live births per woman over a lifetime. As of 2024, population size has peaked in 63 countries and areas, including China, Germany, Japan and the Russian Federation, and the total population of this group is projected to decline by 14 per cent over the next thirty years. For another 48 countries and areas, including Brazil, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Türkiye and Viet Nam, the population is projected to peak between 2025 and 2054. In the remaining 126 countries, including India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan and the United States of America, the population is expected to increase through 2054 and, potentially, to peak in the second half of the century or later. In nine countries of this last group, including Angola, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger and Somalia, very rapid growth is projected, with their total population doubling between 2024 and 2054.



see also: Growing or shrinking – what do the latest trends tell us about the global population? (10 June 2024): <https://www.un.org/en/desa-en/growing-or-shrinking-%E2%80%93-what-do-latest-trends-tell-us-about-global-population>

World Trade Statistics 2023: Key insights and trends – WTO new interactive tool

https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statistics2023_e.htm

The World Trade Organization (WTO) issued on 31 July 2024 “World Trade Statistics 2023”, a new interactive tool presenting key data and trends for international merchandise and commercial services trade in 2023. The digital platform allows users to



view the latest trends in world trade, in terms of both value and volume, using filters to display the data by economy, region, selected grouping, product group and services sector. Among the interactive charts featured are “Growth in merchandise trade value and volume”, the “Top 20 exporters in merchandise trade” and “Growth in commercial services”. The charts illustrate the evolution of trade while tables in Excel format complement the graphics.

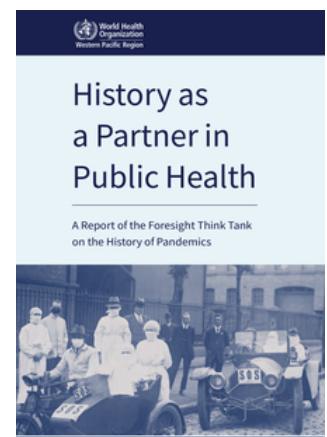
Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)



History as a Partner in Public Health: A Report of the Foresight Think Tank on the History of Pandemics (WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific)

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290620471>

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Data, Strategy and Innovation group of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific collaborated with eight historians to delve into the history of pandemics. This report captures their analysis of 14 interconnected themes that have significance for past and future pandemics. These are: pandemic narratives; social contracts; data and trust; mental health and emotional suffering; rumours and conspiracy; changed behaviours; international versus national interests; political and social movements; getting the response right; inequalities; community; innovations; the environment; and the economy. By understanding historical precedents, health decision-makers can better respond to future public health threats.



International Peace and Security

Concept note for the Security Council ministerial open debate on the theme "Multilateral cooperation in the interest of a more just, democratic and sustainable world order"

English, French & Spanish: <https://undocs.org/S/2024/537>

The Russian Federation, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of July 2024, held an open debate on 16 July 2024 on the theme "Multilateral cooperation in the interest of a more just, democratic and sustainable world order". This concept note was prepared for the meeting.

see also: Polarised Security Council debates meaning of multilateralism (UN News, 16 July 2024): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152166>

Concept note for the Security Council debate on the theme "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security: the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)"

English, French & Spanish: <https://undocs.org/S/2024/538>

The Russian Federation, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of July 2024, held a debate on the theme "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security: the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)" on 19 July 2024. This concept note was prepared for the meeting.

Concept note for the Security Council briefing on women and peace and security entitled "Sustaining women and peace and security commitments in the context of accelerated drawdown of peace operations"

English, French & Spanish: <https://undocs.org/S/2024/573>

The Security Council held a briefing on 7 August 2024 on women and peace and security entitled "Sustaining women and peace and security commitments in the context of accelerated drawdown of peace operations", convened by Sierra Leone in its capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of August 2024. This concept note was prepared for the meeting.

Concept note for the Security Council briefing on the theme "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts in West Africa and the Sahel"

English, French & Spanish: <https://undocs.org/S/2024/589>

The Security Council held a briefing on 8 August 2024 on the theme "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts in West Africa and the Sahel", convened by Sierra Leone in its capacity as President of the Council for the month of August 2024. This concept note was prepared for the meeting.

Concept note for the Security Council high-level debate on "Maintenance of international peace and security: addressing the historical injustice and enhancing Africa's effective representation on the Security Council"

English, French & Spanish: <https://undocs.org/S/2024/574>

The Security Council will hold a high-level debate on "Maintenance of international peace and security: addressing the historical injustice and enhancing Africa's effective representation on the Security Council", to be convened on 12 August 2024 by Sierra Leone in its capacity as President of the Security Council for August 2024. This concept note was prepared for the meeting.

Concept note for the Security Council high-level open debate on “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: the New Agenda for Peace – addressing global, regional and national aspects of conflict prevention”

English, French & Spanish: <https://undocs.org/S/2024/581>

The Security Council will hold a high-level open debate on “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: the New Agenda for Peace – addressing global, regional and national aspects of conflict prevention”, to be convened on 21 August 2024 by Sierra Leone in its capacity as President of the Council for August 2024. This concept note was prepared for the meeting.

A Conceptual Analysis of the Overlaps and Differences between Hate Speech, Misinformation and Disinformation (June 2024)

<https://tinyurl.com/yymn7mdx>

As part of events marking the 3rd International Day for Countering Hate Speech on 18 June 2024, a new report was released examining hate speech, misinformation and disinformation, particularly in conflict-affected and high-risk areas. The report found that the tendency to group these distinct concepts together without taking into account their differences can make it difficult to address them more effectively. Commissioned by the United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG), and written by Dr. Claire Wardle from Brown University’s School of Public Health, *the report* aims to support both those working on the issues, as well as the general public to navigate hate speech, disinformation and misinformation in complex environments, by helping to clarify what these concepts mean, what they look like, and how best to respond.

Digital Technologies for Environmental Peacebuilding: Horizon scanning of opportunities & risks

<https://www.unep.org/resources/report/digital-technologies-environmental-peacebuilding-horizon-scanning-opportunities>

This report specifically delves into how digital technologies can be harnessed to manage environmental and natural resource risks that contribute to insecurity and social conflict, as well as the opportunities they present for peacebuilding, cooperation, and social cohesion. We examine relevant use cases spanning the peace and security continuum and conclude with a set of important policy and governance recommendations. The report is designed to inform and contribute to significant upcoming frameworks addressing digital technologies, including the Summit of the Future and the Global Digital Compact, among others.



Dynamics and unintended effects of unilateral coercive measures against the Syrian Arab Republic (ESCWA)

<https://unescwa.org/publications/dynamics-effects-measures-syrian-arab-republic>

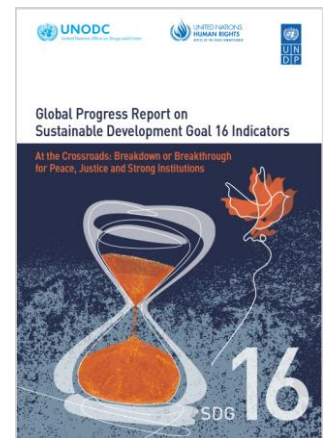
The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has released on 12 July 2024 this report, shedding light on the impact of these sanctions on various aspects of people’s life in Syria. The report captures the perceptions of 1,179 Syrian respondents, distributed across the whole of Syria. It also includes insights from semi-structured interviews with practitioners and experts. The key findings of the report reveal that a 66% of survey respondents across the whole of Syria expressed opposition to the sanctions, highlighting their adverse effects on their daily life regardless of gender, education, age, political affiliation, or region. Even respondents who supported the sanctions recognized their negative impacts on their livelihoods.



Global Progress Report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 Indicators – At the Crossroads: Breakdown or Breakthrough for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (UNODC / OHCHR / UNDP)

<https://www.undp.org/publications/2nd-global-progress-report-sdg-16-indicators>

The 2nd Global Progress Report on SDG16 Indicators represents a unique and pivotal UN inter-agency effort toward supporting the realization of the 2030 Agenda. This report reveals critical trends that, if not reversed, could jeopardize the achievement of all goals set by the international community, leaving an increasing number of people behind. Released in 2023, the first joint Global Progress Report on SDG 16 served as a wake-up call for action on strengthened efforts towards justice, peace, and strong institutions. The report portrayed a sobering picture, revealing that progress toward the 2030 Agenda was alarmingly off track, with advancements on goal 16 worryingly slow. In some instances, even moving in the wrong direction. The report, however, acknowledged some significant strides towards supporting countries in addressing data gaps through partnership, technical assistance and production of evidence. This report, the second dedicated to Goal 16, compiles contributions from all indicators in a single document providing the best regional and global data that the UN system can offer across all targets. The data, statistics and accompanying analysis spotlight trends that have and will continue to shape our world, policy options and underscore the urgent need for action to reverse negative trends and to foster a more just and sustainable future.



Making Progress on SDG 16: Unlocking the Power of Example (UNDP)

<https://www.undp.org/publications/making-progress-sdg-16-unlocking-power-example>

This publication is about the power of example. It is about how governments, people and institutions are putting peace, justice and inclusion at the center of transformation. 16 examples to inspire action on Sustainable Development Goal 16, on peace, justice and strong institutions. We know that Goal 16 is a cornerstone for achieving all SDGs and interlinks deeply with the achievement of most other parts of the Agenda 2030. The 2nd Global Progress Report on SDG 16 produced by the leading UN entities responsible for globally tracking progress on SDG 16 paints a bleak picture as we have now crossed the halfway mark to Agenda 2030. Governance systems are indeed failing many people, the world is becoming more dangerous, people are increasingly divided, and justice is being denied for too many. But there are some bright spots. This publication aims to shed light on these bright spots where UNDP is working hand in hand with partners.

The report notes the positive trend in the diversity of representation in public institutions, with more gender parity in some regions and improvements in the inclusion of young people. Governments are also increasingly prioritizing policies and initiatives which are making real and crucial progress on peace, justice and inclusion. Our hope is that this compilation will serve as inspiration for policymakers, civil society and practitioners in designing the responses that are needed to refocus efforts, accelerate and deepen implementation of Goal 16.



Development of Africa

Africa Sustainable Development Report 2024: Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions

<https://repository.uneca.org/handle/10855/50186>

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the African Development Bank (AfDB), presented on 16 July 2024 the 2024 Africa Sustainable Development Report (ASDR), at an event held on the margins of the UN High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in New York. Scaled-up access to concessionary development financing, strengthened climate information and early warning systems, and economic reforms are amongst the key recommendations raised in the new ASDR. The report provides an in-depth review of African countries progress towards five sustainable development goals and their 32 targets to meet the 2030 Agenda and the African Union 2063 Agenda. The five SDGs under review are: ending poverty (Goal 1); eliminating hunger (Goal 2); combating climate change (Goal 13); promoting peaceful societies (Goal 16) and strengthening global partnerships (Goal 17). The research shows that Africa is on track to reach only less than three of the 32 targets assessed in this report (ASDR-2024) and that setbacks have been recorded for 8 of them, with slow progress or status quo registered for the remaining targets.



Human Rights

De Facto Authorities' Moral Oversight in Afghanistan: Impacts on Human Rights (July 2024)

https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/moral_oversight_report_english_final.pdf

This report is part of a series of thematic studies on current human rights issues of concern, carried out by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan's (UNAMA) Human Rights Service in the framework of Security Council Resolution 2626 (2022), which was most recently extended by Resolution 2727 (2024). Resolution 2626 tasks UNAMA with engaging with "all stakeholders at the national and subnational levels and civil society and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the protection and promotion of the human rights of all Afghans," and to "monitor, report and advocate with regard to the situation for civilians (and) the prevention and elimination of violence." As part of this engagement, Afghanistan's de facto authorities were invited to provide factual comments on the content of the report. They responded in Pashto to UNAMA on 13 May 2024 and the response is included in full in the Annex. Their comments related to specific incidents and issues have been incorporated within the text of the report as appropriate and are italicized.

Detention in the context of the escalation of hostilities in Gaza (October 2023-June 2024) (Thematic Report, 31 July 2024)

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/detention-context-escalation-hostilities-gaza>

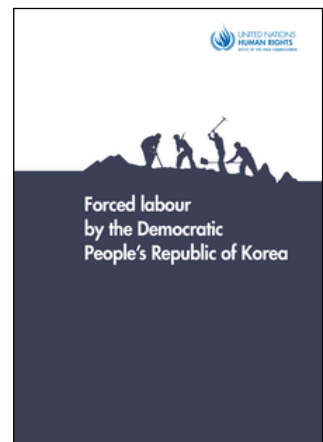
The UN Human Rights Office published on 31 July 2024 this report on arbitrary, prolonged and *incommunicado* detention by Israeli authorities, affecting thousands of Palestinians since last October. The report also covers allegations of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, including sexual abuse of women and men. Since 7 October, thousands of

Palestinians – including medical staff, patients and residents fleeing the conflict, as well as captured fighters – have been taken from Gaza to Israel, usually shackled and blindfolded. Thousands more have been detained in the West Bank and Israel. They have generally been held in secret, without being given a reason for their detention, access to a lawyer or effective judicial review, the report states. At least 53 Palestinian detainees are known to have died in Israeli military facilities and prisons since the horrific attacks by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups against Israeli civilians on 7 October. The staggering number of men, women, children, doctors, journalists and human rights defenders detained since 7 October, most of them without charge or trial and held in deplorable conditions, along with reports of ill-treatment and torture and violation of due process guarantees, raises serious concerns regarding the arbitrariness and the fundamentally punitive nature of such arrests and detention, said UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk.

Forced labour by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (OHCHR)

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/forced-labour-democratic-peoples-republic-korea>

The use of forced labour by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) against its citizens has become deeply institutionalised and raises a broad range of serious human rights concerns, according to a report by the UN Human Rights Office released on 16 July 2024. The report is based on various sources, including 183 interviews conducted between 2015 and 2023 with victims and witnesses of forced labour who managed to escape and now live abroad. The report looks at six distinct types of forced labour: labour in detention, compulsory State-assigned jobs, military conscription, the use of revolutionary “Shock Brigades”, work mobilisations and work performed by people sent abroad by the DPRK to earn currency for the State. The report concludes that people in North Korea are “controlled and exploited through an extensive and multi-layered system of forced labour” that is “directed towards the interests of the State rather than the people.” The system “acts as a means for the State to control, monitor and indoctrinate the population,” the report says.



OHCHR Toolkit: Ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)

English & Spanish: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/tools-and-resources/toolkit-ratifying-convention-against-torture-and-other-cruel-inhuman>

This toolkit presents the benefits of ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), answers questions on its content and application, provides a simplified version of the provisions of the Convention and provides practical information on ratification and accession of treaties.

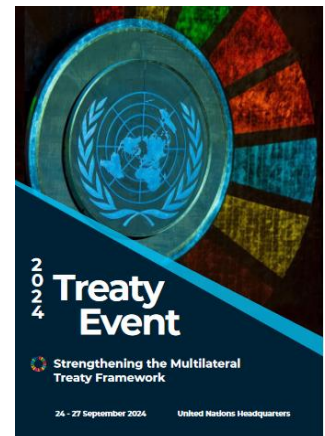
Justice and International Law

Treaty Event 2024: Strengthening the Multilateral Treaty Framework (24 – 27 September 2024, United Nations Headquarters)

English: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7umnaf>

French: <https://tinyurl.com/yp7ws564>

This year's Treaty Event will be held from 24 to 27 September 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, in conjunction with the general debate of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly. The Treaty Event will highlight multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, promoting in particular the Sustainable Development Goals. These cover a wide range of areas of global concern, including human rights, disarmament, penal matters, law of the sea, and the environment. The Treaty Event may also be used to sign and ratify or accede to any treaty for which the Secretary-General acts as depositary.



Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Counter-terrorism

Beneath the Surface: Terrorist and Violent Extremist Use of the Dark Web and Cybercrime-as-a-Service (UNICRI / UNOCT)

https://unicri.it/sites/default/files/2024-07/DW_BtS.pdf

The convergence of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism with cybercrime presents a formidable challenge. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy ([A/RES/77/298](#)), and its successive reviews, have expressed concern over the misuse of the Internet and other information and communications technologies by terrorist groups and individuals, yet the intricacies of the relationship between terrorism and violent extremism on the one hand and cybercriminality on the other remain nebulous – particularly in the darker corners of the Internet. This report – a collaboration between the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) at the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) – investigates the complex interplay between these two worlds, focusing in on the cybercrime-as-a-service phenomenon that has emerged on the dark web over the course of the past two decades.



Good Practices in Accelerating the Capture of Illicitly-Acquired Assets – July 2024 (UNICRI)

https://unicri.it/index.php/Publication/Good_Practices_Accelerating_Capture_Illicitly-Acquired_Assets

This report, which was produced within the framework of an EU-funded project, focuses on advancing the capabilities of Member States in combating organized crime and promoting development through effective asset recovery. This is done by presenting, through a number of case studies, the usefulness of adopting accelerated mechanisms for asset recovery. Such modalities may include, for example, civil confiscation, enhanced powers of the tax authorities or social welfare institutions, as well as plea bargaining and administrative confiscation. The report addresses the critical challenge of fighting organized crime



and corruption by dismantling their financial bases. The goal is to strengthen law enforcement's ability to – through proven effective and efficient modalities – trace, seize, and confiscate assets that fuel criminal activities, emphasizing the need to ensure that crime does not pay. The publication showcases national and global strategies for accelerated modalities to confiscate illicitly-acquired assets and urges the adoption of these mechanisms through a framework rich in successful case studies. The report aims to align regional practices with international standards to enhance cross-border cooperation against illicit financial flows.