

# For Humanity

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

2025

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United  
Nations

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**United  
Nations**

Cover:  
A little boy in Yemen enjoys a happy and active life after making a full recovery from acute malnutrition, thanks to a United Nations therapeutic feeding programme.

(Lahj, Yemen; December 2024)  
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Note: This report is issued in response to Article 98 of the Charter of the United Nations, which mandates the Secretary-General to provide an annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization. The key priorities covered in the report correspond to the eight priorities established by the General Assembly, together with a final chapter on the effective functioning of the Organization.

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Effective functioning of the Organization



# Introduction

Opening by the Secretary-General

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A view from outside the “Large Nature Model: Coral” exhibit, a digital art installation by Refik Anadol on display at United Nations Headquarters during the Summit of the Future and the high-level week of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly.

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(New York; September 2024) © UN Photo/Loey Felipe

## Highlights from across the United Nations system

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- Achievements of the United Nations family in 2024
- Expenditures across key priority areas in 2024
- Pact for the Future
- Strengthening the United Nations for a changing world



Youth representative Ghanim Mohammed Al Muftah, from Qatar, addresses the General Assembly during the Summit of the Future.

(New York; September 2024)  
© UN Photo/Loey Felipe



“The present report demonstrates that despite enormously trying times – indeed, precisely because of them – we can and must keep pushing for the better world that we know is within reach.”

António Guterres,  
Secretary-General

The present report looks back on a year of headwinds and hope for humanity. In 2024, deadly conflicts continued to inflict massive suffering and displacement. Our planet shattered new heat records. Poverty, hunger and inequalities rose, while transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence expanded without effective guardrails, and international law and human rights were trampled.

In the face of such challenges, the United Nations worked to translate our shared values into meaningful action on the ground for people around the world.

In 2024, through 40 special political missions and offices and 11 peacekeeping operations, we worked to prevent the outbreak, escalation and continuation of conflicts.

Together with partners, we delivered life-saving assistance and protection to more than 116 million people. In countries and areas that are enduring conflicts, such as the Horn of Africa, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen and beyond, we delivered food, nutrition, water, sanitation, education, healthcare, shelter and protection.

We responded to disasters, including floods in South-East Asia and the Sudan, Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean, an earthquake in Vanuatu and drought in Southern and Eastern Africa.

# Achievements of the United Nations family in 2024

The United Nations Secretariat is part of the wider United Nations family with over 100 bodies, including some 30 agencies, funds and programmes (see chart on page 110 for all entities in the United Nations system).

139M

people assisted and protected while fleeing war, famine and persecution

123M

people provided with food and assistance in over 120 countries and territories

3M

lives saved a year through vaccines supplied to 45% of the world’s children

194

nations working with the United Nations to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C

67,500

peacekeepers and civilian personnel maintaining peace in 11 operations around the world

4B

people affected by global water crisis that the United Nations is tackling

80

treaties/declarations to protect and promote human rights globally

\$50B

appeal coordinated for the humanitarian needs of 198 million people

48

countries assisted with their elections, using diplomacy to prevent conflict

11M

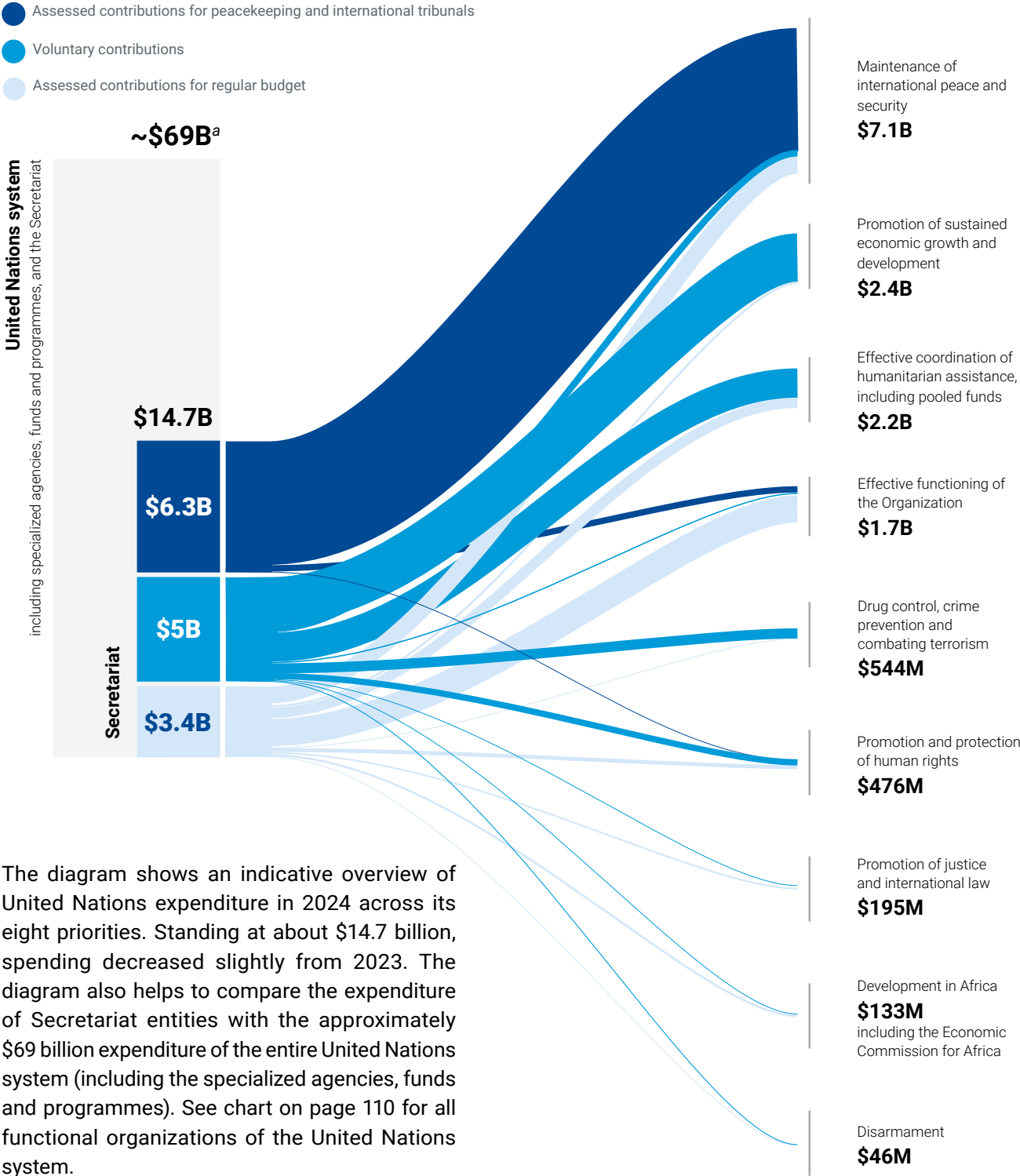
people provided with sexual and reproductive health services



Ten ways the United Nations makes a difference



Expenditures across key priority areas in 2024



The diagram shows an indicative overview of United Nations expenditure in 2024 across its eight priorities. Standing at about \$14.7 billion, spending decreased slightly from 2023. The diagram also helps to compare the expenditure of Secretariat entities with the approximately \$69 billion expenditure of the entire United Nations system (including the specialized agencies, funds and programmes). See chart on page 110 for all functional organizations of the United Nations system.

<sup>a</sup>Number refers to 2023

This diagram is provided for illustrative purposes only. The financial years for the regular budget (2024) and for peacekeeping operations (2023/2024) differ. Allocation of resources to priorities is based on the United Nations programme budget. Data for the United Nations system are based on indicative reports to the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. For detailed information, please refer to the audited financial statements.



In September 2024, Member States adopted the Pact for the Future, which sets out vital measures to help revitalize the multilateral system and its solutions for people and planet.

In the Pact, Member States called for strengthening the machinery of peace by prioritizing the tools of conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. In 2024, we began a review of our peace operations, including peacekeeping and special political missions, to more effectively address today’s complex threats to peace and security.

The Pact also includes support for a Sustainable Development Goal stimulus and a call to reform the global financial architecture. Working with multilateral development banks and Governments, we are advocating changes in global economic governance in key areas, including debt relief, tax cooperation and strengthening the representation of developing countries at decision-making tables.



“While humanity continues to face enormous headwinds, our shared commitment to all people on a liveable planet offers hope for a future where peace, justice, and sustainability are a lived reality for all.”

Amina J. Mohammed,  
Deputy Secretary-General

The President of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, Philemon Yang, rings the Peace Bell at United Nations Headquarters to mark the International Day of Peace in 2024.

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





# Pact for the Future



The adoption of the Pact demonstrates that countries are committed to an international system with the United Nations at its centre. Leaders set out a clear vision of a multilateralism that can deliver on its promises, is more representative of today’s world and draws on the engagement and expertise of governments, civil society and other key partners.

## Sustainable development and financing for development

The Pact calls for urgent, bold action to turbocharge the Sustainable Development Goals, eradicate poverty and hunger, close the financing gap for developing countries, promote equality and resilience and confront climate change – placing people, planet and justice at the centre of sustainable progress.

## International peace and security

The Pact for the Future renews global commitment to peace, placing stronger diplomacy, civilian protection and conflict prevention at its core. It advances nuclear disarmament, curbs the weaponization of new technologies and strengthens humanitarian aid, gender-responsive peacebuilding and counter-terrorism – while aligning military spending and financial systems with efforts to address instability and uphold human rights.

## Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

The Pact champions inclusive access to science and digital tools, bridging global divides and ensuring technology serves the public good – for people and planet. It calls for ethical innovation, capacity-building and cooperation to harness emerging technology for sustainable development, gender equality and human rights.

## Youth and future generations

The Pact places young people at the centre of global progress, committing to investments in education, health and decent work, and ensuring their rights, voices and leadership shape decisions today. It pledges meaningful youth participation in national and global processes and calls for long-term thinking in policy and planning. It marks a turning point in how we consider those who will live with the consequences of today’s choices.

## Transforming global governance

The Pact calls for a more inclusive, effective and representative international system, fit for the world of today and responsive to the challenges faced by developing countries. It advances reforms of the Security Council, United Nations bodies and the international financial architecture to strengthen multilateral cooperation across sectors, rebuild trust and turbocharge implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## Global Digital Compact

Agreed by consensus by world leaders in September 2024 as an annex to the Pact for the Future and informed by over two years of consultations across the globe, the Global Digital Compact advances a vision of digital cooperation grounded in human rights and sustainable development. It commits to closing all digital divides and delivering an inclusive digital economy, building an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space, strengthening international data governance and governing artificial intelligence for humanity.

## Declaration on Future Generations

Adopted as an annex to the Pact for the Future, the Declaration on Future Generations marks a historic first: a global agreement to systematically take future generations into account in today’s decisions. It promotes peace, sustainability and justice and sets out principles and actions to embed future-focused decision-making across national and global governance systems.

On the climate crisis, we supported 170 countries in preparing or implementing their nationally determined contributions to reduce emissions. We also provided funding and support for 35 developing countries to accelerate low-carbon development initiatives, such as electrification, energy efficiency and low-emission infrastructure, through the Global Environment Facility.

The adoption of the Global Digital Compact as an annex to the Pact for the Future was a milestone, showcasing the proactive response of the United Nations to contemporary challenges. It not only underscores our collective commitment to bridging the digital divide and promoting digital inclusion but also demonstrates our dedication to safeguarding human rights in the digital age. By addressing the pressing issues of our time, the United Nations is paving the way for a more equitable and sustainable future, ensuring that digital technologies are harnessed for the benefit of all humanity.

Now in the implementation phase, we began developing a report on innovative voluntary financing for artificial intelligence so that all countries can benefit from the technology and are now working to support Member States as they establish an Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence and a Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance to develop effective global guardrails that protect people as the technology expands.



“The United Nations continues to serve as a force for global solutions. Together, we can reform systems, advance equity and build a sustainable future.”

E. Courtenay Rattray,  
Chef de Cabinet

### UN80 Initiative

.....

In March 2025, the Secretary-General launched the UN80 Initiative to transform how the United Nations works – identifying efficiencies, reviewing how mandates are implemented and examining potential structural changes and programme realignment within the United Nations system. The goal is to build a more agile and accountable United Nations that can more effectively implement the Pact for the Future, the 2030 Agenda and the New Agenda for Peace.

Learn more about the Initiative



Explore the mandate registry



“With the Pact for the Future, we have a generational chance to renew multilateralism – making it more inclusive, effective and responsive to an evolving global landscape.”

Guy Ryder,  
Under-Secretary-General for Policy





Children find shade and take part in recreational activities organized by United Nations personnel in front of destroyed buildings in the Gaza Strip.

(Khan Younis; June 2024)  
© UNRWA/Mohammed Hinnawi

We also made progress in keeping the promises set out in the Pact on delivering for youth and future generations. For example, we began developing a Global Youth Investment Platform to ensure that national funding mechanisms and investment platforms are focused on the needs of young people.

In line with the Declaration on Future Generations, also adopted in September, we applied strategic foresight to planning, policy and action,

including through multi-year strategic plans for the United Nations, and established a strategic foresight network and community of practice to ensure that our policies, programmes and field operations are aligned with the challenges we foresee in the years ahead.

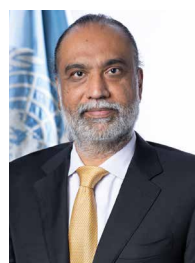
In all aspects of this important work, we consolidated our United Nations 2.0 initiative to enhance efficiencies and innovations across the Organization by harnessing data analytics and digital transformation.





Children address the opening plenary session of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Colombia on the topic of environmental awareness and responsible use of technology.

(Cali; October 2024) © UN Photo/Santiago Puentes Viana



“The establishment of the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies reflects the growing importance of a coordinated, inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach to the governance of technologies anchored in the Charter of the United Nations, human rights and the sustainable development agenda.”

**Amandeep Gill,**  
Under-Secretary-General  
and Special Envoy for Digital  
and Emerging Technologies

## Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies

On 1 January 2025, the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies was established, following a General Assembly decision and the adoption of the Global Digital Compact at the Summit of the Future. The Office serves as advocate and focal point for digital cooperation and supports senior leadership, multi-stakeholder policy dialogue and interagency coordination between the Compact and the World Summit on the Information Society frameworks, advancing an inclusive, secure and human-centred digital society.

Drawing on the recommendations of the Secretary-General’s high-level advisory body on artificial intelligence (AI), the Office provided secretariat support to the intergovernmental process co-facilitated by Costa Rica and Spain on modalities for an independent international scientific panel on AI and a global dialogue on AI and developed a report on innovative voluntary financing options for AI capacity-building, drawing on recommendations of the high-level advisory body. Following the launch in September 2024 of the Universal Digital Public Infrastructure Safeguards Framework, the Office, alongside the United Nations Development Programme, is stewarding multi-stakeholder groups to refine and implement it in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Our vital work depends on fostering a supportive and respectful workplace that truly represents the people of our world. We have achieved gender parity among senior leadership and resident coordinators since 2020, and for the first time in our history, we reached gender parity in the Professional and higher categories.

In 2024, through the work of our network of Anti-Racism Advocates, we continued to engage with staff and leadership across our Organization and deliver training, advocacy and accountability reviews to ensure that the United Nations always lives up to its values, within our Organization and beyond.

The present report demonstrates that despite enormously trying times – indeed, precisely because of them – we can and must keep pushing for the better world that we know is within reach. We will renew our efforts to achieve peace, foster sustainable development and defend and uphold human rights, for all of humanity.

# Strengthening the United Nations for a changing world

## United Nations 2.0

United Nations 2.0 is our change agenda for new expertise and ways of working, leveraging more innovation, data, digital, behavioural science, and foresight to amplify our impact.



## United Nations Global Pulse

The United Nations Global Pulse initiative is the Secretary-General’s innovation lab, working to scale new solutions that inform, inspire and strengthen a future-ready Organization.



## United Nations Futures Lab

The United Nations Futures Lab works across the Organization to apply futures thinking and strategic foresight in planning, policymaking and decision-making.



## Secretary-General’s Scientific Advisory Board

The new Scientific Advisory Board advises United Nations leaders on breakthroughs in science and technology – how to harness their benefits and mitigate potential risks.





# Forging pathways for sustainable development

Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development

Participants gather for the opening of the Summit of the Future, with Youth Lead for the Future as the opening Action Day theme.

(New York; September 2024) © UN Photo/Loey Felipe



## What we do

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

## Our team

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





“In today’s challenging multilateral landscape, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is stepping up its efforts to support Member States in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.”

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

## Sustainable Development Goals stocktaking days

**8,400+**  
media articles

**236**  
side events

**90+**  
senior government officials  
convened

**36**  
countries reported on progress

## Context

With just five years until 2030, progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is too slow and has been impeded by persistent inequalities, mounting debt, trade tensions, conflict and climate disruptions. The promise of leaving no one behind is not yet fulfilled. Gender equality remains elusive in all domains, including economic rights, participation and access to new technologies and political representation.

The Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, meets with fishermen from the Fisherfolk Association in Antigua and Barbuda, during the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

(Codrington; May 2024) © UN Photo/Alban Mendes de Leon

## Our goals

Despite the challenging global context, the Organization, along with its partners, remains steadfast in supporting efforts towards achieving the Goals. Building on renewed momentum from the Pact for the Future, United Nations country teams, led by resident coordinators, are enhancing country-level support in line with national priorities.





Participants gather within the venue at the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

(Baku; November 2024) © United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat/Kamran Guliyev



“As we adapt to changing times, charting a new development course provides a framework for building a future that is resilient, equitable and sustainable.”

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

# Our achievements

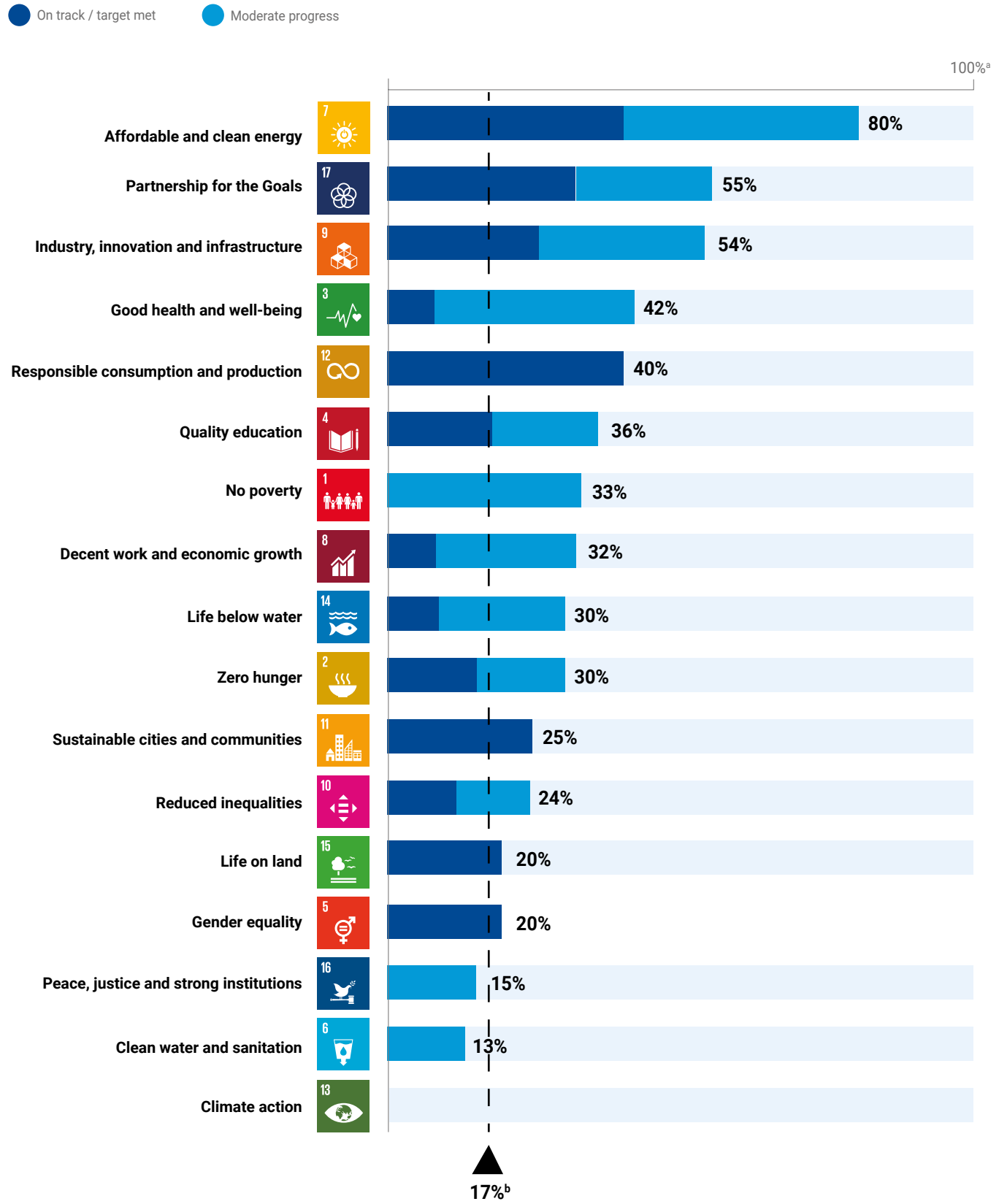
## Implementing the 2030 Agenda

At the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development, we brought together over 90 high-level officials to review progress on the 2030 Agenda and share innovative acceleration solutions.

Despite several setbacks, the latest data on progress towards achieving the Goals reveal some signs of progress. For the first time, in 2023, over half of the world’s population (52.4 per cent) was covered by at least one social protection benefit, an increase from 42.8 per cent in 2015. The percentage of young people completing upper secondary school increased from 53 per cent in 2015 to 60 per cent in 2024. Literacy skills are improving and gender gaps in education are narrowing. Significant progress has been recorded on various health indicators, including the under-5 mortality rate and the number of people affected by communicable diseases. Renewable energy innovation surged, driven by record investments. Digital connectivity grew from 40 to 68 per cent over the past decade and electricity access rose from 87 to 92 per cent between 2015 and 2023.

We scaled up support for community-level action to deliver the Goals, backing hundreds of locally led efforts on the ground. Through the Local2030 coalition, we supported 30 community initiatives and a capacity-building programme to help mobilize knowledge and investment for sustainable development.

## 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: an overview of progress







Global Youth Ambassador Sarah Baharaki addresses the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum 2024 on reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of crises.

(New York; April 2024)  
© UN Photo/Evan Schneider

## Scaling up financing for development

Scaling up coalitions and platforms for more inclusive, resilient and sustainable financing is critical to delivering the 2030 Agenda. In the Pact for the Future, Member States called for international financial architecture reform, while preparations for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development served as a platform to tackle global economic challenges, debt sustainability, tax cooperation and investment in the Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goal Stimulus Leaders Group, convened by the Secretary-General, garnered support from Heads of State and Government, elevating political ambition for financial architecture reform and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal stimulus.

To advance global economic governance, the General Assembly adopted the terms of reference for a United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation, which will be critical for building a more inclusive and equitable global tax system.

Investment mobilization efforts also gained traction, especially around key transformative pathways, namely food systems, energy, digital transformation, education, jobs and social protection, and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, which are catalysts for acceleration towards achieving the Goals. The ninth Sustainable Development Goals Investment Fair showcased over \$13 billion in projects featuring government-industry partnerships.

## Leaving no one behind

Supporting marginalized groups and people in vulnerable situations remained our priority, including the provision of support for the displaced, children, young people, older persons, Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities. The *World Social Report 2024* demonstrated how converging shocks disproportionately affect disadvantaged populations, urging swift action for inclusive, resilient growth. In parallel, the United Nations E-Government Survey 2024 highlighted the need to rapidly accelerate the digital transformation as an enabler of equitable and sustainable development.

The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries was integrated into national plans to strengthen resilience against future shocks and support structural transformation in the least developed countries, with several countries set to graduate by 2029: Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nepal, Senegal and Solomon Islands.

We launched a dedicated workstream under the framework of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States to support the establishment of a Centre of Excellence. We also leveraged the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework and the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network to foster sustainable action on climate, tourism, energy and financing.

At the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Cairo, stakeholders adopted a call to action to address the global housing crisis and transform informal settlements in order to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The *Disability and Development Report 2024* contained a call for urgent action to close the persistent gaps between persons with and without disabilities in the area of food security and in access to healthcare, energy and technology.

In Haiti, we launched a call to action, through the President of the Economic and Social Council, to address the needs of children and young persons facing violence, poverty and malnutrition.



“The graduation from the least developed country category marks not just a new chapter, and new opportunities, but also a critical test of the graduating country’s resilience in navigating a more complex development landscape. This achievement is a powerful testament to the impact of effective partnership and multilateral cooperation.”

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

### A pact for a sustainable future

The Pact for the Future, adopted by consensus at the Summit of the Future in September 2024, represents a leap forward in advancing global cooperation and turbocharging efforts to achieve the Goals. To confront current realities and address the challenges of the future, the Pact outlines renewed commitments to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda, including calls to harness technology for sustainable development and reform the global financial system to better serve and represent the interests of developing countries.





“Space is an accelerator for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, from connectivity, food security and disaster relief to combating rising sea levels. The United Nations convenes, and scales solutions.”

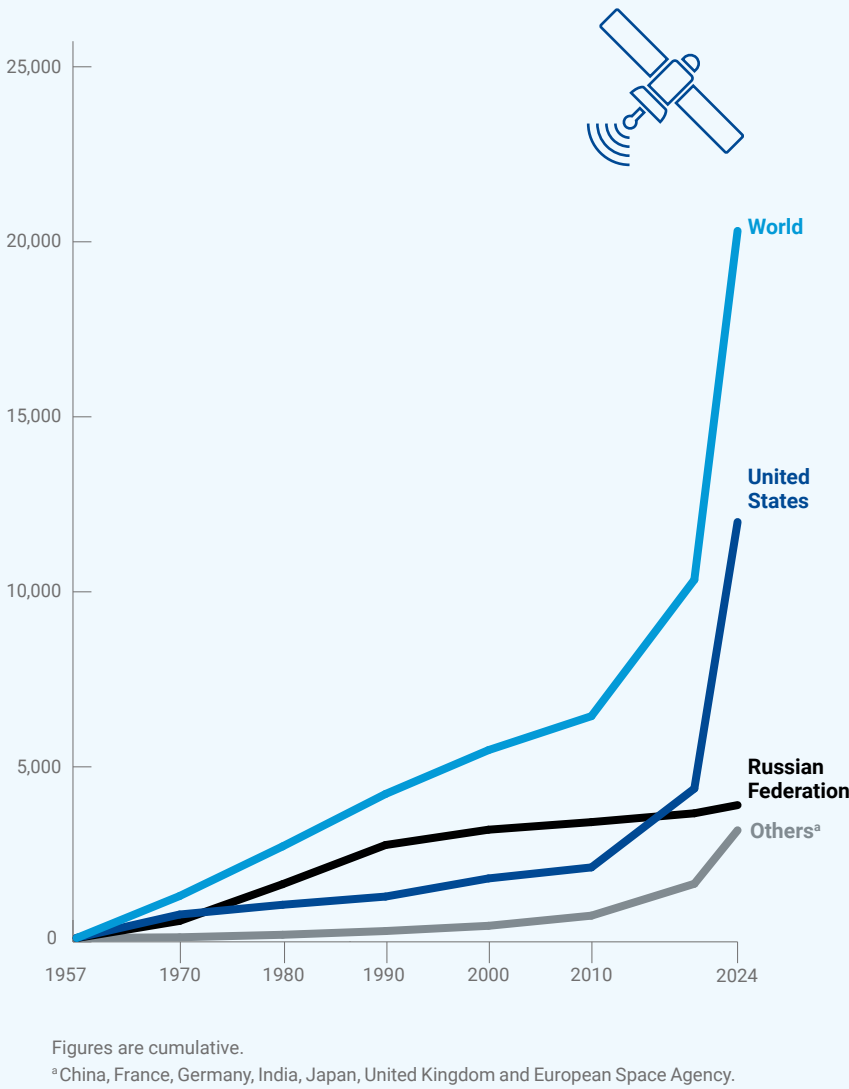
**Aarti Holla-Maini,**  
Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs



“We need to put an end to the global housing crises affecting around 3 billion people. We cannot allow another generation of children to be born in slums. Without a proper roof over their heads, people cannot reach their full potential.”

**Anacláudia Roszbach,**  
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Number of objects launched into space



Climate action

Climate action was strengthened through renewed political momentum in 2024, as countries advanced their implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Organization supported 64 countries in producing their first biennial transparency reports and helped 170 countries to prepare their nationally determined contributions due in 2025, providing targeted implementation support in 30 countries.

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants facilitated the development by 30 countries of methane reduction road maps aimed at achieving the target of a 30 per cent reduction in methane emissions by 2030. Eight countries ratified, accepted or approved the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, while 70 others advanced energy-efficient cooling systems through our Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

The Global Environment Facility provided over \$200 million in grant funding in 2024, which helped 35 developing countries to accelerate low-carbon development, reached over 17 million people and cut emissions equivalent to removing 65 million cars from the roads. Adaptation initiatives launched in 50 countries are expected to benefit 3.5 million people who are facing such climate impacts as drought and rising sea levels and to restore 241,000 hectares of land.

The Presidency of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change launched the Baku Initiative for Finance, Investment and Trade Dialogue to support developing countries in enhancing nationally determined contributions, adaptation plans and long-term low-emission development strategies. In the *World Cities Report 2024*, strategies are outlined for local and regional governments to embed climate action into urban development policies and budgets.

The United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme reinforced the role of science in environmental policymaking, adopting 15 resolutions in 2024 to advance multilateral action on climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Plastic pollution negotiations make headway

In November and December 2024, the United Nations supported negotiations towards a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. During talks held in the Republic of Korea, over 3,300 delegates from more than 170 countries convened for the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, during which they agreed on a Chair’s text that will serve as the starting point for renewed negotiations in 2025.



“Temperatures are rising. Ecosystems are disappearing. Pollution remains a deadly threat. The world must pull together to build a fairer, more sustainable planet.”

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



“The pace of the clean energy transition is accelerating worldwide. Investing in climate action is good for people and economies. It yields good jobs, improved health outcomes, business opportunities and is already driving economic growth in many countries across the world.”

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





Participants attend a high-level side event to kick off Beijing+30, held during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly.

(New York; September 2024)  
© UN-Women/Radhika Chalasani

# Gender equality

In 2025, 30 years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, gender equality remains one of the world’s greatest challenges – and most transformative opportunities. Despite persistent barriers, pivotal progress was made in 2024 through local leadership, improved policy frameworks and new global partnerships.

The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund has mobilized over \$250 million and supported more than 1,400 grass-roots organizations in fragile settings since 2016. Eight new national action plans on women and peace and security were adopted in 2024, bringing the total to 112.

We supported care policies, practices and the delivery of services across 50 countries and six regions. We advanced efforts to end gender-based violence through the new African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls.

Our investment in national statistical systems has expanded the usage of gender data in over 76 countries, influencing more than 38 policies and programmes. The Gender Action Plan to Support the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 was launched following consultations with 70 Member States and over 500 stakeholders.

With women holding less than 27 per cent of seats in parliaments globally in 2023, The *Gender Snapshot 2024* set out estimates that gender parity in parliaments may not be achieved until 2063. At the current rate of progress, it will take a further 137 years to end extreme poverty among women. Despite these challenges, we helped over 3,500 civil society and women-led organizations and 1,000 partners to strengthen their leadership and capacity to shape gender-responsive legislation and policymaking, reflecting our commitment to gender equality and women’s rights globally.



“Championing the rights, equality, and empowerment of ALL women and girls is fundamental for a more just, stable, and peaceful world. Let us turn our commitments into action and make that world a reality.”

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

## Spotlight Initiative

**384M**

**people** reached through campaigns to prevent violence against women and girls

**\$195M**

**delivered to civil society organizations** through the Initiative

**5,000**

local and grass-roots **women’s rights organizations** reported having greater influence and agency

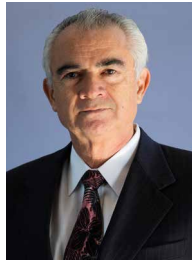
**50**

**countries** strengthened national action plans to eliminate violence against **women and girls**

## System-wide action for gender equality

Launched by the Secretary-General on International Women’s Day in 2024, the United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan is aimed at accelerating progress on gender equality across the United Nations system. Its five pillars are designed to drive transformative change for gender equality throughout the system. Within its first year of implementation, 75 per cent of United Nations entities had established steering mechanisms at the senior level, and 86 per cent ensured the participation of organizations representing women and girls in strategic engagements and United Nations convenings, as demonstrated in the progress report published in 2025 and the companion compilation of promising practices. On International Women’s Day 2025, the Secretary-General launched the Gender Equality Clarion Call, reaffirming our collective commitment to gender equality amid growing challenges and pushbacks through four urgent priorities: championing leadership; countering regression; dismantling inequalities; and protecting women human rights defenders.





“To return to a path of sustainable growth and overcome its development traps, Latin America and the Caribbean should implement productive development policies with sectoral efforts as proposed by ECLAC to drive vital transformations in the region and accelerate Sustainable Development Goal achievements.”

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

## Regional support

The five regional commissions convened annual forums on sustainable development, serving as intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platforms for policy discussions and regional evaluations of progress towards the 2030 Agenda. These forums engaged thousands of participants to generate regional insights for the high-level political forum on sustainable development, facilitate peer learning through voluntary national reviews and shape regional perspectives on the Pact for the Future. The regional commissions also provided regional follow-up to and reviews of the global programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Their efforts also supported the implementation of 38 projects in total, which were focused on areas such as digital transformation, capacity-building and climate resilience.

The regional collaborative platforms have been instrumental in linking global mandates and country-level action by offering timely, integrated policy and technical support to resident coordinators and United Nations country teams. Those efforts included mobilizing capacity and resources from the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund so as to deliver strategic, cross-border surge support to country teams in the central Sahel and resulted in the launch, jointly with the transitional authorities, of 10 programmes in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger.



“We must strengthen regional cooperation to support actions that confront regional, transboundary and common challenges as well as to reaffirm our commitment to advancing sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.”

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



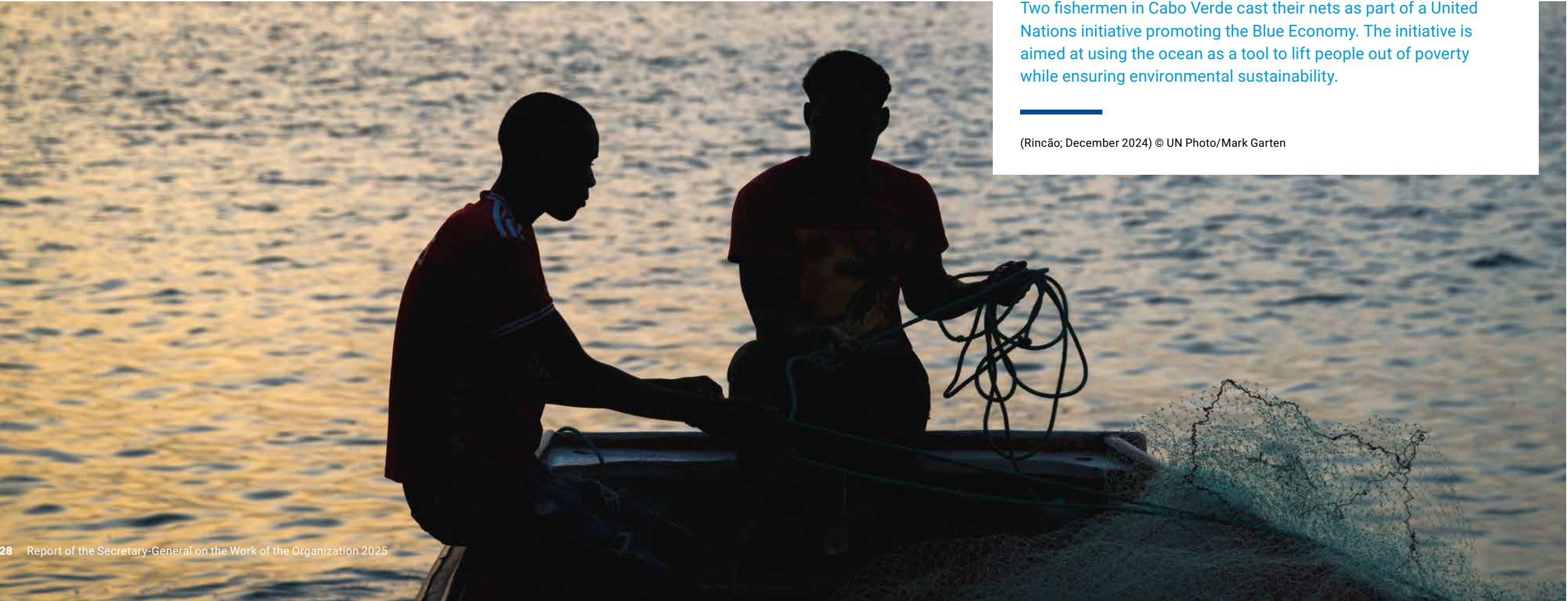
“To help countries navigate growing pressures, we are increasing our investment in artificial intelligence-powered tools, foresight, data analytics, modelling and early warning systems across our areas of work.”

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



“The success of the Sustainable Development Goals is dependent on our ability to unleash Africa’s full potential. Access to predictable resources can deliver the prosperity promised in the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.”

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



Two fishermen in Cabo Verde cast their nets as part of a United Nations initiative promoting the Blue Economy. The initiative is aimed at using the ocean as a tool to lift people out of poverty while ensuring environmental sustainability.

(Rincão; December 2024) © UN Photo/Mark Garten



“Ten years of Sustainable Development Goal implementation highlight the potential of focusing on key, interlinked areas to accelerate progress, such as the energy transition, connectivity and the local dimension.”

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





The Secretary-General holds a dialogue with resident coordinators at United Nations Headquarters.

(New York; October 2024)  
© UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

## Resident coordinator system

In 2024, the resident coordinator system operated in over 160 countries and territories, coordinating and overseeing country-level support. Independent surveys of impact and performance indicate that these system-wide efforts have yielded substantial progress, with 89 per cent of host governments agreeing that the Organization provided policy advice in an integrated manner, up from 88 per cent the previous year.

Resident coordinators lead United Nations country teams that support national Governments in their design of cross-sectoral policies and regulatory frameworks. These policies identify opportunities for public and private investments and set out provisions for the convening of diverse stakeholders to unlock tailored financing solutions to accelerate the achievement of the Goals. Their work also included building capacity for public institutions and civil society.

## In focus: resident coordinator system

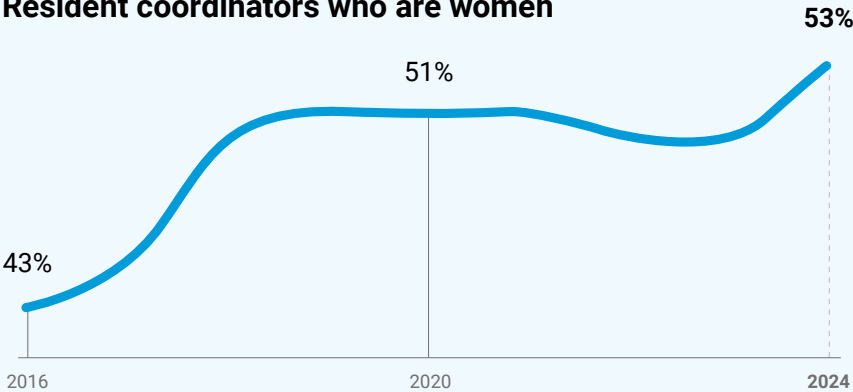
Under strengthened resident coordinator leadership, the United Nations development system continued to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in countries. Efforts to strengthen the leadership, impartiality, accountability and effectiveness of the resident coordinator system are yielding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



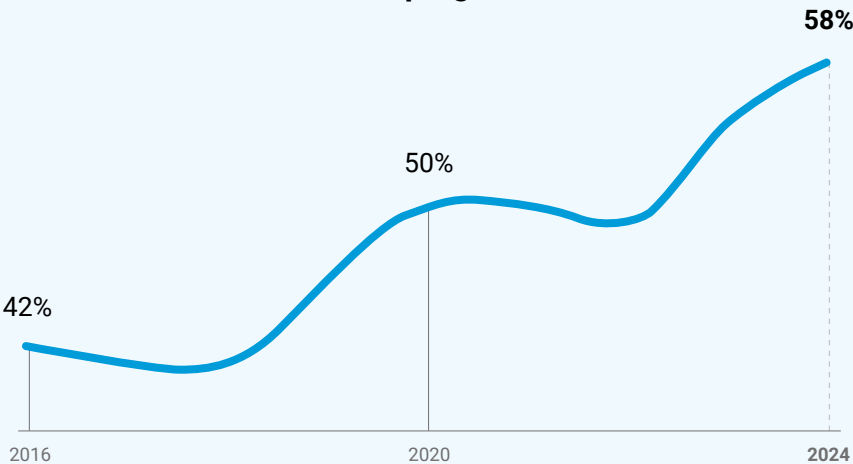
“The resident coordinator system brings together United Nations teams, governments and partners to improve the lives of people around the world through tangible development results.”

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

### Resident coordinators who are women



### Resident coordinators from programme countries



## Host Government perceptions of resident coordinators

**98%**  
said the activities of the United Nations in country were aligned with their development needs and priorities

**93%**  
said resident coordinators and United Nations country teams provided support for needed changes in national policies

**87%**  
said resident coordinators and United Nations country teams built up capacity of public institutions and civil society for Sustainable Development Goal acceleration



# Fostering peace and security

Maintenance of international peace and security

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Armed forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo participate in training on jungle combat techniques provided by the United Nations.

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(Beni; April 2024) © MONUSCO/Ado Abdou

## What we do

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

## Our team

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





“The work of maintaining international peace and security is more difficult today than at any other time in at least a generation. With the Pact for the Future, the global community agreed on an overarching vision to help us meet the moment. It won’t be easy, but it is our collective responsibility to make this vision a reality.”

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

## Context

Multilateral peace and security efforts are under unprecedented and significant strain. Conflicts impose severe human and economic costs, while increasing geopolitical tensions foster uncertainty and hinder multilateral efforts. By adopting the Pact for the Future, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and to improving global governance for a just, secure and sustainable world. In implementing the Pact, the Organization is reviewing the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations, to assess how our future peace and security efforts can adapt to evolving needs.

Independent expert Isha Dyfan meets with federal government officials in Somalia to discuss the country’s human rights situation.

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

## Our goals

We support Member States in advancing international peace and security, guided by the Charter and the mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Leveraging all the diplomatic tools of the Charter and the Secretary-General’s good offices, we assist Governments in responding to political crises and in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts. We promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and young people in political and peace processes. The prevention of genocide and other atrocity crimes, conflict-related sexual violence, violations of children’s rights in armed conflict and sexual exploitation and abuse remains central to our work.



“One of the UN’s most visible and effective tools, United Nations peacekeeping has helped countries emerge from conflict, supporting transitions, protecting civilians and fostering stability. At a time of radical changes in conflict and geopolitics, a unified membership will be critical towards our common response to the multiple challenges of the future.”

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

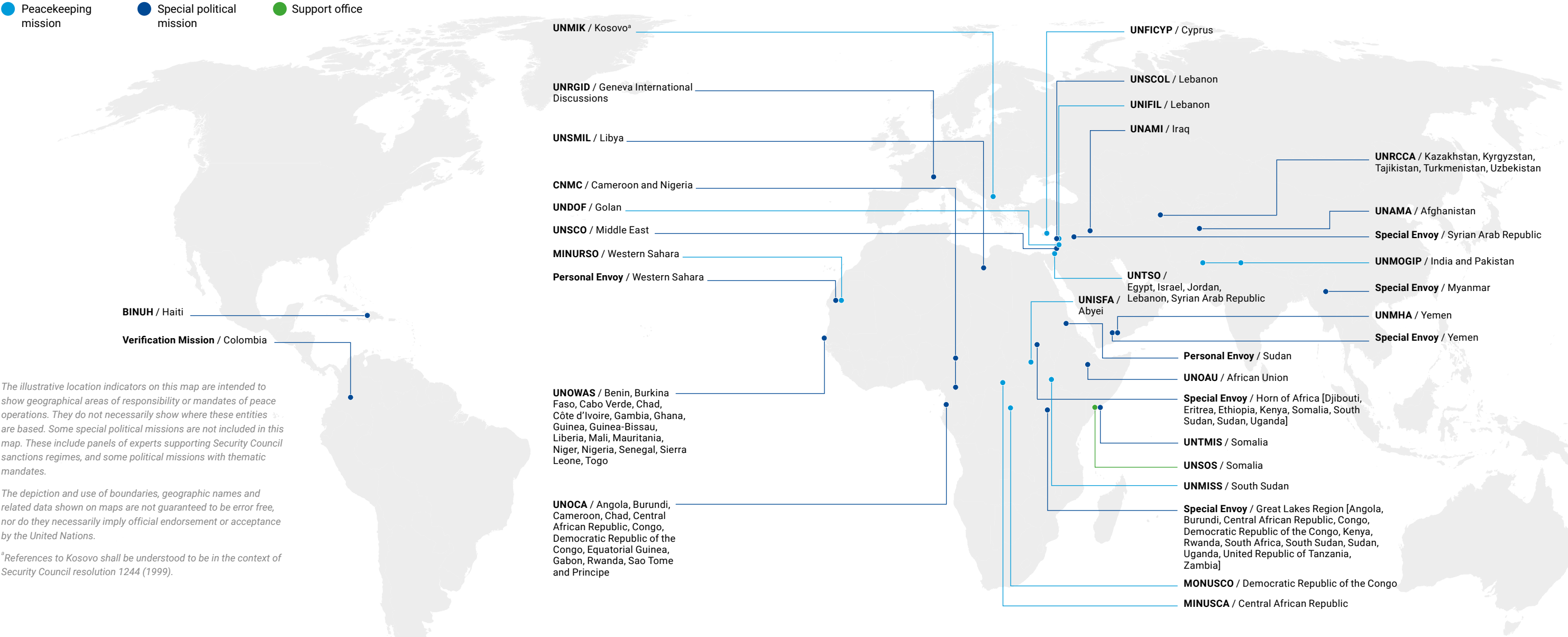
## Supporting mediation efforts

**167**  
**mediation support**  
assignments on constitution-making, security arrangements, gender and inclusion, and natural resources

**28**  
**country** settings across  
5 regions



Peacekeeping operations, special political missions and support offices



Acronyms

<b>BINUH</b>	United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	<b>UNDOF</b>	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force	<b>UNOCA</b>	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	<b>UNTMIS</b>	United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia
<b>CNMC</b>	United Nations support team to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	<b>UNFICYP</b>	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	<b>UNOWAS</b>	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	<b>UNTSO</b>	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
<b>MINURSO</b>	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara	<b>UNIFIL</b>	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	<b>UNRCCA</b>	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia		
<b>MINUSCA</b>	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic	<b>UNISFA</b>	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei	<b>UNRGID</b>	United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions		
<b>MONUSCO</b>	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	<b>UNMHA</b>	United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement	<b>UNSCOL</b>	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process		
<b>UNAMA</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	<b>UNMIK</b>	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo <sup>a</sup>	<b>UNSMIL</b>	United Nations Support Mission in Libya		
<b>UNAMI</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq	<b>UNMISS</b>	United Nations Mission in South Sudan	<b>UNSOS</b>	United Nations Support Office in Somalia		
		<b>UNMOGIP</b>	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan				
		<b>UNOAU</b>	United Nations Office to the African Union				



Our peacekeeping work

**67,500**  
total uniformed peacekeepers and civilian personnel

**5,900+**  
women peacekeepers

**1,980**  
women civilian personnel

**114**  
troop- and police-contributing countries

**11**  
peacekeeping operations

The Secretary-General, António Guterres, meets with peacekeepers and assesses damage to United Nations watchtowers and other infrastructure in South Lebanon.

(Naqoura; January 2025)  
© UNIFIL/Pascal Gorriz

Our achievements

Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

Support to the Security Council remains central to our work. In 2024, we supported the holding of 429 formal and informal meetings, as well as the adoption of 46 resolutions and seven statements by the President. We also supported the holding of 115 meetings of the Council’s subsidiary bodies.

Despite rising threats, we continued to deliver on the ground, protecting hundreds of thousands of civilians daily and advancing peace processes. Through our 40 special political missions and 11 peacekeeping operations,

we supported Member State initiatives in preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, we engaged with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including the Syrian interim authorities, during the political transition in line with the principles of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) in order to de-escalate violence, protect civilians and prevent regional spillover. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank and the broader region, we closely engaged all parties to end violence, enhance humanitarian access and sustain assistance to affected populations. We reinforced advocacy for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, whose critical humanitarian and human development role has been under immense threat. In Lebanon, the Organization supported de-escalation and a resumption of a cessation of hostilities in line with our mandate under resolution 1701 (2006), enabling people to return to their homes on both sides of the Blue Line. The unified commitment of troop- and police-contributing countries remained critical to these efforts.

Peace and development advisers

**119**  
international advisers in 74 countries

**43**  
national advisers







The United Nations hosts a women's security awareness training session in Iraq.

(Baghdad; April 2025) © United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

### Towards gender parity

**32%**  
women among heads and deputy heads of missions

**23%**  
women among military observers and staff officers

**8%**  
women in military contingents

In the Sudan, our diplomatic efforts to help end the conflict and initiate a political process included establishing the Sudan Consultative Group for enhanced mediation efforts. We also convened proximity talks to improve humanitarian access and protect civilians. In Abyei, our efforts to promote peaceful coexistence supported a decline in intercommunal violence.

The Secretary-General hosted the Greek Cypriot leader and the Turkish Cypriot leader, the first convening since 2021, to encourage progress and revive dialogue. Despite ongoing challenges in the buffer zone, our peacekeeping mission continued to support measures to foster trust between Cypriot communities. In Kosovo,<sup>1</sup> we contributed to community dialogue and promoted intercultural youth exchanges to reduce tensions and foster social cohesion.

In Colombia, to consolidate peace and uphold human rights and justice for victims of armed conflict, we assisted national efforts to implement the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, including by accelerating comprehensive rural reform and land redistribution.

<sup>1</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

On Afghanistan, we convened Special Envoys in the Doha process to discuss counter-narcotics efforts and the private sector, in order to help address basic needs and enhance coordination between the international community and the de facto authorities. In Libya, we facilitated trust-building among security actors in a new joint technical team to support the ceasefire agreement of 2020. We also amplified efforts towards a resolution of the political crisis in Myanmar, including durable solutions for Rohingya refugees.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we continued to support dialogue and conditions for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in order to deter threats from armed groups and protect civilians. In South Sudan, we strengthened local conflict resolution by supporting community-led peace efforts and training local leaders in mediation.

Our partnerships with regional organizations remained essential to advancing peace and political solutions, including through joint efforts to advance Security Council resolution 2719 (2023), which enables funding for African-led peace operations. Together, we accompanied political transitions across several countries in West Africa, the Sahel and Central Africa and helped to resolve a post-electoral impasse in Sierra Leone.

### Peacebuilding Fund's portfolio, donor base and reach

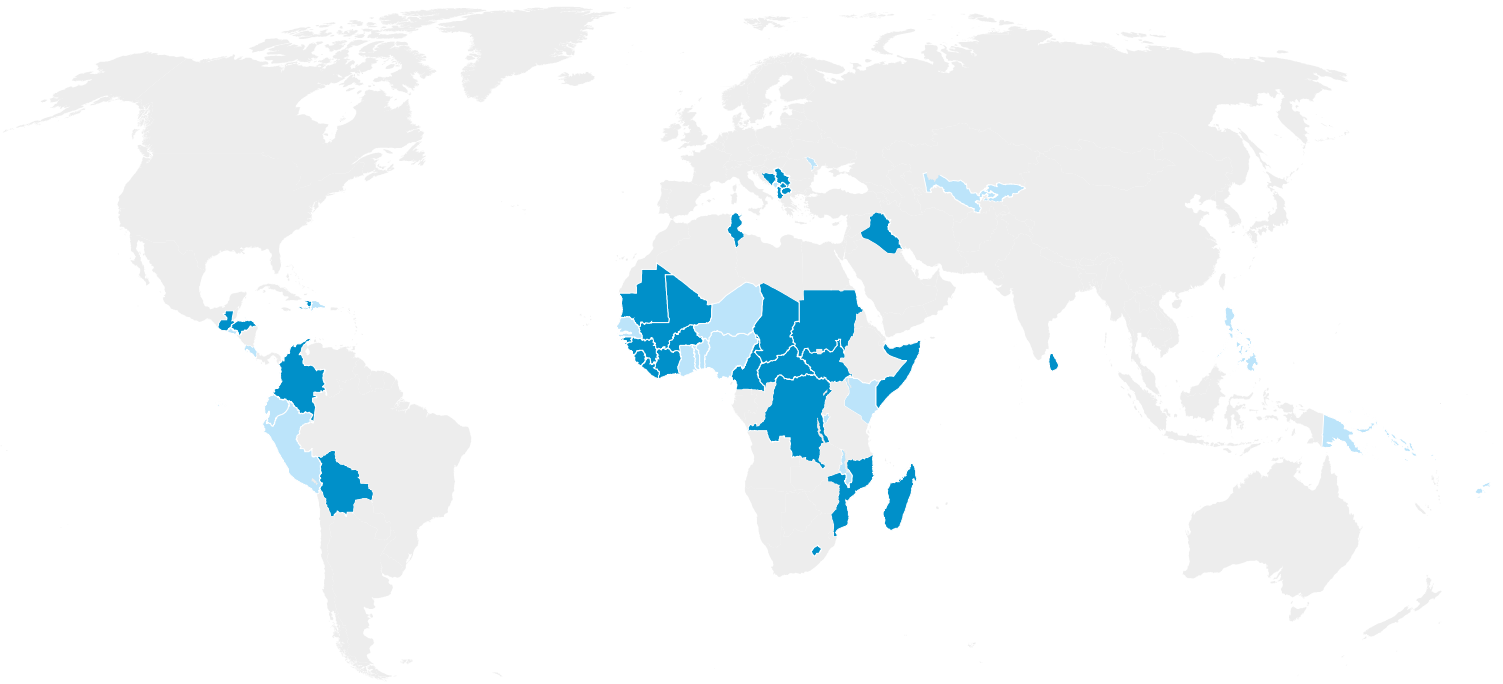
**\$143M**  
in donor commitments from 36 countries

**\$116M**  
in approved budget

**32**  
countries and territories approved for funding

### Peacebuilding Fund: 32 new countries and territories approved and 51 countries received ongoing support

● New    ● Ongoing



The boundaries shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined.



Our electoral assistance

48  
Member States and territories assisted

24  
needs assessments conducted

20  
elections and referendums supported

Our support for the rule of law and security institutions

1.9M  
explosive items and weapons removed or destroyed by United Nations mine action programmes

10,300+  
people participated in community violence reduction projects

3,954 km<sup>2</sup>  
of road confirmed safe through mine action programmes

Women and peace and security

In 2025, 25 years after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), gender equality and women’s participation remain critical in peace and political processes. In October 2024, the Secretary-General initiated a common pledge, which invites mediation actors to commit to actions supporting the goal of increased participation of women in such processes. In Afghanistan, we advocated firmly for the human rights and freedom of women and girls. We promoted women’s participation in the first local elections held in the Central African Republic for 37 years, helping to ensure gender parity in voter registration and supporting the first National Parity Observatory. In Haiti, we facilitated consultations with hundreds of women and youth representatives to advance women’s political participation.

Peacebuilding support

In 2024, with the support of the Secretariat, the Peacebuilding Commission considered 34 countries and regions in its engagements and provided advice to the Security Council on 11 occasions. The Commission enabled countries to share lessons regarding their national prevention and peacebuilding plans, including in Guatemala, Kenya, Mauritania, Norway and Timor-Leste. The Peacebuilding Fund allocated over \$116 million across 32 countries and territories, exceeding its goal of dedicating 30 per cent of funds to gender equality and women’s empowerment. A quarter of allocated funds facilitated the transition from peacekeeping and peace operations in eight countries, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Electoral assistance

In 2024, approximately 4 billion people were eligible to vote in elections across more than 70 Member States, including in some of the world’s most populous countries. In order to support Member States in conducting credible, peaceful and inclusive elections, we provided technical assistance to Member States on a variety of issues, including participation challenges and a rapidly changing information ecosystem. We strengthened global partnerships through joint capacity development initiatives. Together with the African Union, we hosted a workshop for women chairpersons of electoral bodies in Africa. We also supported the second Leadership Academy for Women, held in Doha in November 2024, as well as a workshop on the role of social media in elections, organized with the League of Arab States.



A ceremony is held at United Nations Headquarters to honour fallen peacekeepers.

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

Rule of law and security institutions

Our support for the rule of law, justice and security institutions underpinned political and peace processes worldwide, which has resulted in over 3,000 convictions for crimes that fuelled conflict, and included the management of high-risk detainees. Over 7,700 United Nations police officers across 14 missions built national policing capacities to enhance community-oriented initiatives, civilian protection and national accountability mechanisms.

Our work on security sector reform assisted national authorities in six countries to develop 12 national security instruments, and the Organization synthesized data from 55 Member States in our inaugural report on women in the defence sector.

Our work on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo benefited around 12,000 individuals, including through community violence reduction and arms management programmes.

Through the coordination work of the Mine Action Service, in Afghanistan, more than 4.4 million m<sup>2</sup> of explosive ordnance-contaminated land were cleared between June and October 2024. We also removed over 5,000 explosive ordnance items in South Sudan to secure 500 health clinics, agricultural areas, water sources and schools.





“Children are at the heart of sustainable peace. Paving the way for lasting peace requires strong protection and prevention measures to shield children from the devastating impact of armed conflict.”

**Virginia Gamba,**  
Special Representative of  
the Secretary-General for  
Children and Armed Conflict and  
Acting Special Adviser to the  
Secretary-General on the  
Prevention of Genocide



“The availability of multisectoral assistance provides a lifeline to survivors of sexual violence in some of the world’s most harrowing conditions. Through political will, financial investment and strategic partnerships, we must replace horror with healing and hope.”

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

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

To confront the unprecedented global crisis of violence facing millions of children, the United Nations galvanized momentum at the highest levels through the first Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence against Children, held in November 2024. Attended by 120 Member States, the Conference generated unprecedented political engagement. It also saw the launch of the new Pathfinder Global Alliance on Ending Violence against Children, an initiative backed by 44 States, through which members committed to accelerating efforts to end violence against children by 2030 through strategic, time-bound and context-specific actions, supported by peer-to-peer collaboration.

Child rights in conflict were blatantly disregarded in 2024. Alongside partners on the ground, we verified over 41,000 grave violations against children in 25 countries and one region. Children were recruited and used, killed and maimed, subjected to sexual violence, abducted, and denied access to humanitarian assistance, and their schools and hospitals were attacked. The Organization and its partners advocated the release of children from parties to conflict and for the adoption of action plans to end and prevent grave violations against children. Owing to that advocacy, close to 16,500 children formerly associated with armed forces or groups received protection or reintegration support in 2024.

Sexual violence continued to be used as a tactic of war as conflicts proliferated and forced displacement increased. Women and girls were subjected to rape, sexual slavery and trafficking by parties to conflict, particularly in displacement settings and while engaged in essential livelihood activities, while boys and men were mainly targeted in detention contexts. Compliance by parties to conflict with existing obligations under international law, including international human rights law, remained low. The United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict network continued to deliver comprehensive recovery services to survivors, including in South Sudan, the Sudan and Ukraine. Support was provided to national authorities through the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict to enhance accountability.



A youth choir performs during a Security Council visit to Colombia.

(La Paz; February 2024) © United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia/Santiago Puentes

The Organization continued efforts to strengthen the prevention of genocide at the global level, by supporting Zambia in the launch of, and providing training for, the National Committee for the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity and all forms of Discrimination, following accession by Zambia to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in 2022. The Organization also prioritized combating hate speech and the denial of genocide through participation in the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and by launching new policy documents and an online training course for United Nations personnel across the entire system.



“As violence escalates worldwide, children continue to pay the highest price. Investing in child protection and wellbeing isn’t an option: it’s a must.”

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



# Propelling African growth

Development in Africa

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Supported by the United Nations HeForShe initiative, members of the Jalasi Women's Group in Malawi speak with community allies to address gender-based violence, promote women's leadership in peace and development, and link peacebuilding with economic empowerment.

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(Mangochi; December 2024) © UN-Women/Bennie Khanyizira

## What we do

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

## Our team

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





Participants attend the Global AI Summit on Africa in Rwanda.

(Kigali; April 2025) © Economic Commission for Africa

## Context

Africa stands at a defining moment, with great prospects for growth, ready to overcome the challenges of climate and energy crises, debt, conflict and limited aid flows. These future prospects are built on youth-driven innovation, ambitious national growth plans, stable financing and bold leadership. The 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want remain guiding lights on this path and supporting that vision is an urgent priority for the United Nations.

## Our goals

Our engagement in sustainable development plans for Africa is focused on providing support for economic transformation, peace and stability, closing the digital divide, enabling food security, access to equitable finance, education, digital skills, job creation, the transition to renewable energy and climate resilience. Working in partnership with the African Union, regional economic communities, the resident coordinator system and Member States, we are breaking down silos between social, economic, peacebuilding and environmental development to achieve the Goals.



“We need to empower Africa’s ability to control its economic and financial flows – this is the Africa we want and the Africa the world needs.”

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

## Our achievements

In recognition of the urgency of development priorities for Africa, the United Nations has intensified its advocacy for the reform of the international financial architecture. Our work is focused on strengthening domestic resource mobilization to help countries invest in their people and shape their own future by curbing illicit financial flows and enabling better access to development finance. In response to the call for Africa to have equitable access to finance, we supported governments in deploying innovative digital tools to improve tax administration and revenue predictability. For example, in Egypt, Libya and Mauritania, we helped to build institutional capacity to modernize fiscal systems. With debt servicing costs exceeding health spending in 40 per cent of countries in Africa, we also supported financial reforms in six countries to promote sound fiscal management and safeguard essential social investments.

We advanced integrated solutions that promoted digital innovation, green growth and inclusive social policies. We helped to close the digital divide and unlock new pathways for growth through our active support for Africa’s digital transformation agenda.

A total of 19 countries were able to integrate green growth into their African Continental Free Trade Area strategies. In Ghana, we helped to develop a national renewable energy plan. In Kenya and Madagascar, we supported efforts to strengthen policy frameworks so as to attract private sector investment in clean energy.

We supported demographic-sensitive budgeting in Burkina Faso and the Niger, provided advice to the Government of Kenya on a national care policy and contributed to the formulation of the fourth national development plan for Uganda. We also championed investment in education through the 2024 Africa Dialogue Series, in recognition of the fact that skilled and empowered youth are at the foundation of the continent’s future workforce.





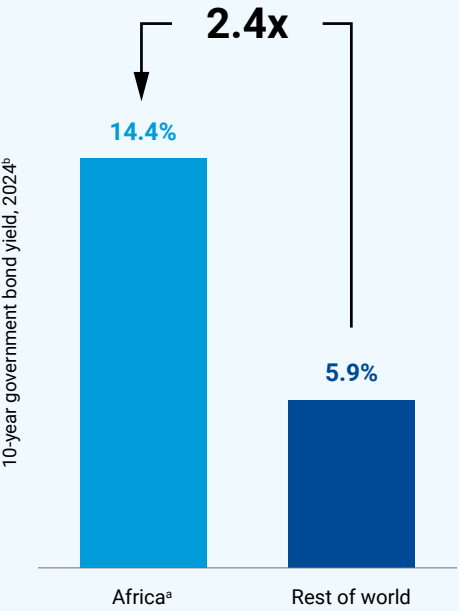
Students in Zanzibar participate in training to increase awareness of sexual harassment and discrimination.

(Malindi; August 2024) © UN-Women/James Ochweri

### Africa and the Pact for the Future

Africa played a key role in shaping and delivering the Pact for the Future, calling for urgent reforms to the international financial architecture in order to unlock investments aligned with African priorities. In view of the continent’s focus on youth and on leveraging the demographic dividend, we helped to amplify African youth voices at the Summit of the Future, harmonizing African youth policy positions and inputs to the Pact for the Future and its annexes. To accelerate digital progress, we provided a blueprint for stronger, more resilient digital public infrastructure and supported 19 countries in achieving ratings of “high” or “very high” on the 2024 e-Government Development Index. Together with our resident coordinators on the ground, we remain committed to supporting Africa in implementing the Pact and realizing its transformative potential.

### The Africa premium

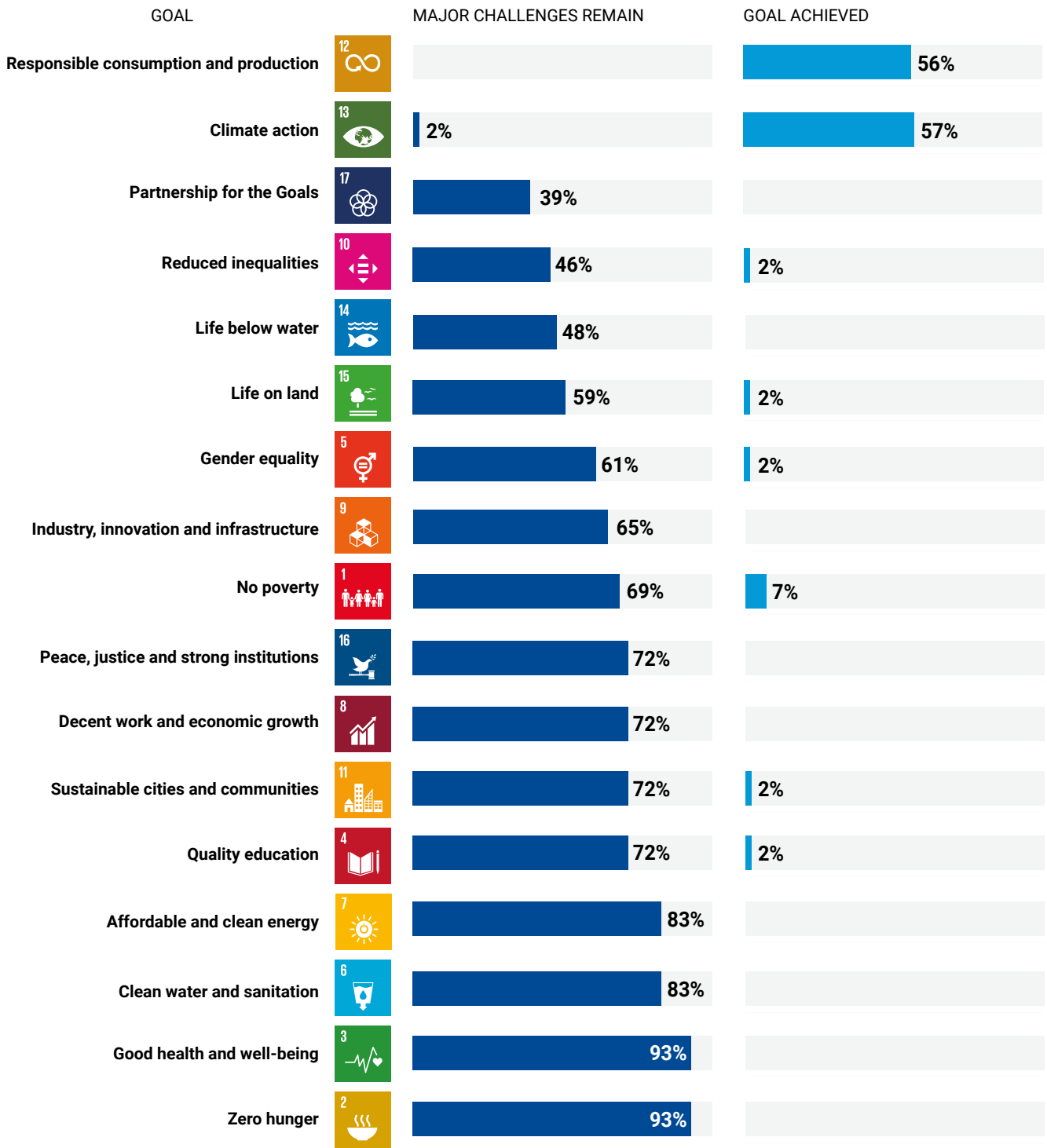


<sup>a</sup> Includes data from 10 African countries.  
<sup>b</sup> Data from [www.worldgovernmentbonds.com](http://www.worldgovernmentbonds.com).

The chart illustrates the “Africa premium”, whereby the cost of capital is significantly higher in Africa than in the rest of the world. Yields range widely among the African countries included – from 3.8% (Morocco) to 26.3% (Egypt). The “rest of world” average is based on the mean 10-year bond yield across 59 non-African countries.



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



Participants attend the Africa Business Forum in Ethiopia.

(Addis Ababa; February 2025)  
© Economic Commission for Africa

In fragile and conflict-affected contexts, we supported durable solutions for displaced populations in such countries as the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Libya, Mozambique, Nigeria and Somalia. In the Sahel, a strengthened and coordinated regional approach enhanced resiliency to challenges in the areas of food systems, climate, health, security and water. That approach included innovative, community-based initiatives, such as the Zero Hunger Village model.

We deepened collaboration with the African Union, including through support for the formulation of the second 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063. Through the high-level strategic dialogue on sustainable development and the five thematic “college-to-college” consultations, we strengthened institutional alignment on development matters. These efforts were reinforced by the decision to engage the African Women Leaders Network to support the mainstreaming of gender across the African Union-United Nations coordination process.

We have scaled up our partnership with key agencies of the African Union, including the African Union Development Agency, the African Continental Free Trade Area secretariat and the African Union Institute for Statistics. This enhanced collaboration continues to have a significant positive impact on the progress of the continent in the areas of trade and regional integration, infrastructure development, data and statistics.

Throughout all efforts, the United Nations remains committed to supporting a development vision that is led by Africa, for Africa.



# Upholding human rights

Promotion and protection of human rights

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Health promoters conduct a monitoring visit to the home of a 10-year-old girl who has been vaccinated in rural El Salvador.

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(San Salvador; September 2024) © UNICEF/Oscar Leiva

## What we do

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

## Our team

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- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



Teenage girls laugh together outside a learning centre in rural Afghanistan. The United Nations-supported centre helps children who have missed school, especially girls facing barriers to formal education.

(Surkhqul Payeen; October 2024)  
© UNICEF/Mark Naftalin



## Human rights in 95 locations globally

41

human rights advisers  
deployed to United Nations  
country teams

18

country offices

13

regional offices/centres

9

human rights components in  
United Nations political/peace  
missions

9

other types of field presences

## Our support to Member State cooperation

139

texts adopted by the  
Human Rights Council

32

Governments hosted 43 visits  
by special procedure mandate  
holders

21

additional human rights treaty  
ratifications in 2024



“The solutions to today’s endless wars, to the climate crisis, to our troubled relationship with technology lie in more respect for human rights, not less.”

**Volker Türk,**  
United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights

## Context

The United Nations continues to be guided by the vision that human rights are a driving force for solutions to the many global challenges we face. In 2024, we helped to protect vulnerable populations in many settings, supporting Member States in turning principles into tangible improvements in people’s lives.

## Our goals

We support international human rights mechanisms and the mainstreaming of human rights within peace and security and development; we also uphold the principles of equality and non-discrimination, participation and accountability. The Pact for the Future and the Secretary-General’s call to action for human rights reinforce the role of human rights across the Organization.





Thirteen-year-old Ahmad dreams of becoming a prosthetic technician to help others who have lost their limbs, after having his leg amputated due to a shelling attack in the Syrian Arab Republic.

(Ariha; November 2024)  
© OCHA/Ali Haj Suleiman

# Our achievements

Following the year-long initiative to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we assisted Member States in adhering to their human rights commitments. As a result, 22 countries improved their human rights legislation in order to align with international standards. With our support, 12 countries established or enhanced mechanisms for treaty implementation, reporting and follow-up. Member States strengthened their national human rights institutions, with two countries establishing new institutions and three becoming accredited at the highest level of independence and impartiality.

## Innovation and Analytics Hub

The launch of an Innovation and Analytics Hub by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights strengthened the application of digital technologies, data analytics and strategic foresight for enhanced monitoring, analysis and responses in our human rights work globally. The Hub’s geospatial analysis of attacks on energy infrastructure has been used to draw insights into the impact of conflict on civilians and essential services.

## Advancing human rights

**10,900+**  
monitoring missions undertaken

**1,500+**  
human rights-related advocacy campaigns

**36**  
voluntary national review processes supported

## Our human rights work

**49,000+**  
survivors of torture in 93 countries received direct support

**10,500+**  
survivors of contemporary forms of slavery in 36 countries received direct support

**518**  
human rights staff across United Nations peace missions



Human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals

3,800+

participants from 156 countries in the thirteenth Forum on Business and Human Rights

82

national statistical offices and 41 national human rights institutions trained on developing frameworks for measuring discrimination and attacks on human rights defenders

166

common country analyses supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights since 2020

Despite crises, violence and unrest, we remained unwavering in our commitment to human rights in peace and security. Using advanced digital tools and through over 10,900 monitoring missions, we documented more than 14,700 cases of human rights violations. That work laid the foundation for establishing truth, fostering accountability and supporting redress for those affected. We deployed seven emergency response teams across Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific to address urgent needs and provide vital support to United Nations country teams. In addition, we helped over 15,000 individuals in situations of extreme violence by facilitating access to legal assistance, relocation services and family reunifications.

Our research, analysis and advocacy played a key role in integrating human rights into development initiatives. We supported the twenty-fifth session of the Working Group on the Right to Development. In the area of biodiversity, we helped to establish an international body dedicated to Indigenous and community conservation efforts across the Americas, underscoring the importance of local knowledge in key environmental discussions.

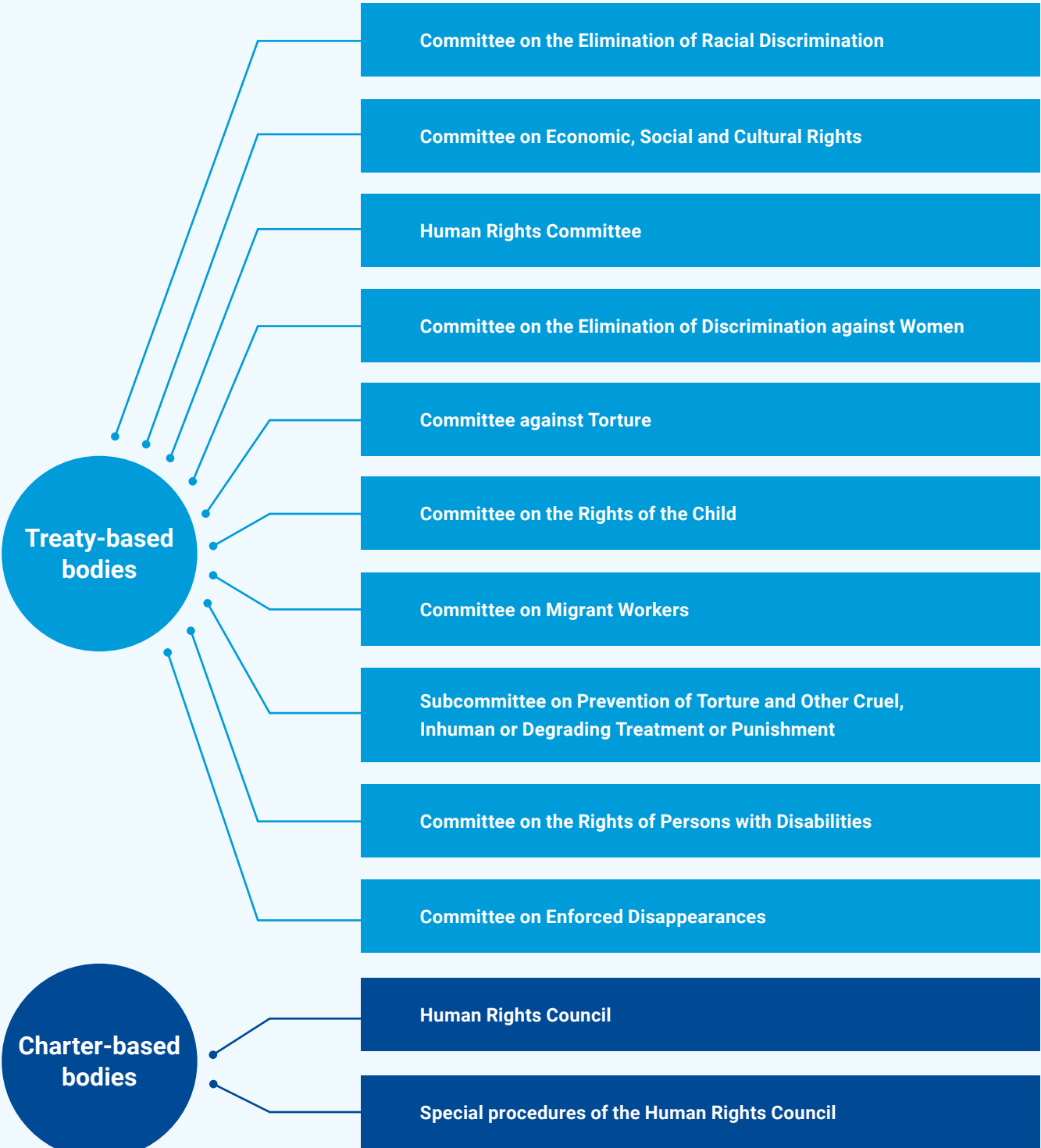
In 2024, we made strides in promoting equality and addressing discrimination. Our work helped over 12,600 victims of gender-based violence to gain access to urgent support. We responded to 130 communications on women’s rights and people of African descent. With support from partners, our Human Rights Fellowship Programme enabled over 100 fellows from Indigenous and minority communities and people of African descent, in 68 countries, to better advocate for human rights.

We strengthened the participation and engagement of civil society, including at the Human Rights Council, where we facilitated nearly 2,400 statements from non-governmental organizations. Worldwide, we documented almost 2,000 cases of reprisals against persons who cooperated with the United Nations. At our annual Social Forum, we welcomed 650 participants, including over 400 civil society representatives, to advance financing for development centred on human rights.

Our work helped to advance accountability for human rights. Globally, we supported 14 investigative mandates, such as fact-finding missions, commissions of inquiry and special procedures. In Bangladesh, the interim Government invited the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to investigate the violent events of 2024 and make remedial recommendations. Our work was also cited by the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court and regional courts in several important rulings.

Over the past year, we worked tirelessly to protect and restore human dignity. We secured the release of over 3,100 people held arbitrarily and helped to improve conditions in hundreds of detention centres. We also supported over 10,000 survivors of contemporary forms of slavery across 35 countries and provided critical assistance to more than 49,000 survivors of torture in 92 countries.

Expertise and support for the human rights bodies





# Securing humanitarian assistance

Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance

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Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs staff visit a site in the Sudan where thousands of displaced people have arrived after fleeing conflict in Jazirah State.

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(Nahr Atbara; November 2024) © OCHA/Yao Chen

## What we do

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

## Our team

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





A young child carries a chicken while walking in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as part of a larger wave of displacement caused by ongoing hostilities in Masisi territory.

(Goma; February 2024)  
© OCHA/Francis Mweze

## Context

The humanitarian system was stretched beyond limit in 2024. Intensifying conflicts affected the lives of millions and threatened human security. In the warmest year ever recorded, climate-related disasters devastated communities worldwide. Violations of international humanitarian and human rights law continued with impunity. Attacks on civilians, humanitarian workers, medical personnel, hospitals, schools and infrastructure increased and often prevented humanitarian organizations from reaching people in need. The year was the deadliest on record for aid workers, with 373 killed.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Aid Worker Security Database ([www.aidworkersecurity.org](http://www.aidworkersecurity.org)), accessed on 25 June 2025.



“The humanitarian community must win afresh the argument for international solidarity. We must act with unity, innovation and urgency to deliver aid to those in greatest need.”

**Tom Fletcher,**  
Under-Secretary-General for  
Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency  
Relief Coordinator

## Our goals

Alongside our partners, we coordinate neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian responses to the world’s worst crises. We alleviate human suffering and provide timely and life-saving assistance and protection. We promote adherence to humanitarian principles and respect for international humanitarian and human rights law. We focus on advancing anticipatory, evidence-based and cost-efficient early action and rapid responses to crises. We also convene Governments, partners and communities to reduce disaster risk and losses.





Girls resume learning in a tented school supported by United Nations humanitarian funding after the 2023 earthquakes in Afghanistan.

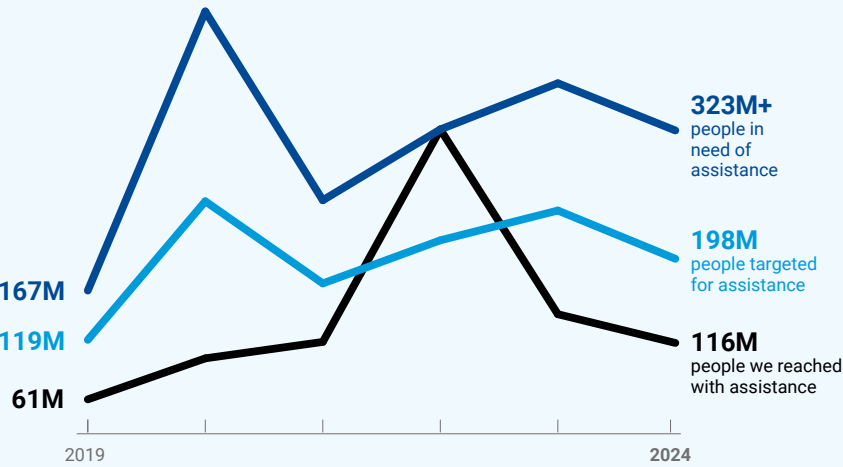
(Herat; October 2024)  
© OCHA/Abdullah Zahid

# Our achievements

Despite being underfunded, overstretched and under attack, we and our humanitarian partners worked tirelessly to deliver life-saving assistance and protection. Of the \$50 billion needed for humanitarian assistance, donors provided \$25 billion – a significant amount, but the shortfall made it necessary to scale back support in many countries.

Across the world, the United Nations and its partners were the lifeline for millions of people in protracted conflicts and crises that have imperilled development.

## Humanitarian needs remain high 323M+ people in need in 2024



Our support to coordination of humanitarian assistance

**\$25B**  
mobilized in humanitarian assistance

**198M**  
people targeted for assistance

**116M**  
people we reached with assistance

**77**  
countries affected and in need of humanitarian assistance

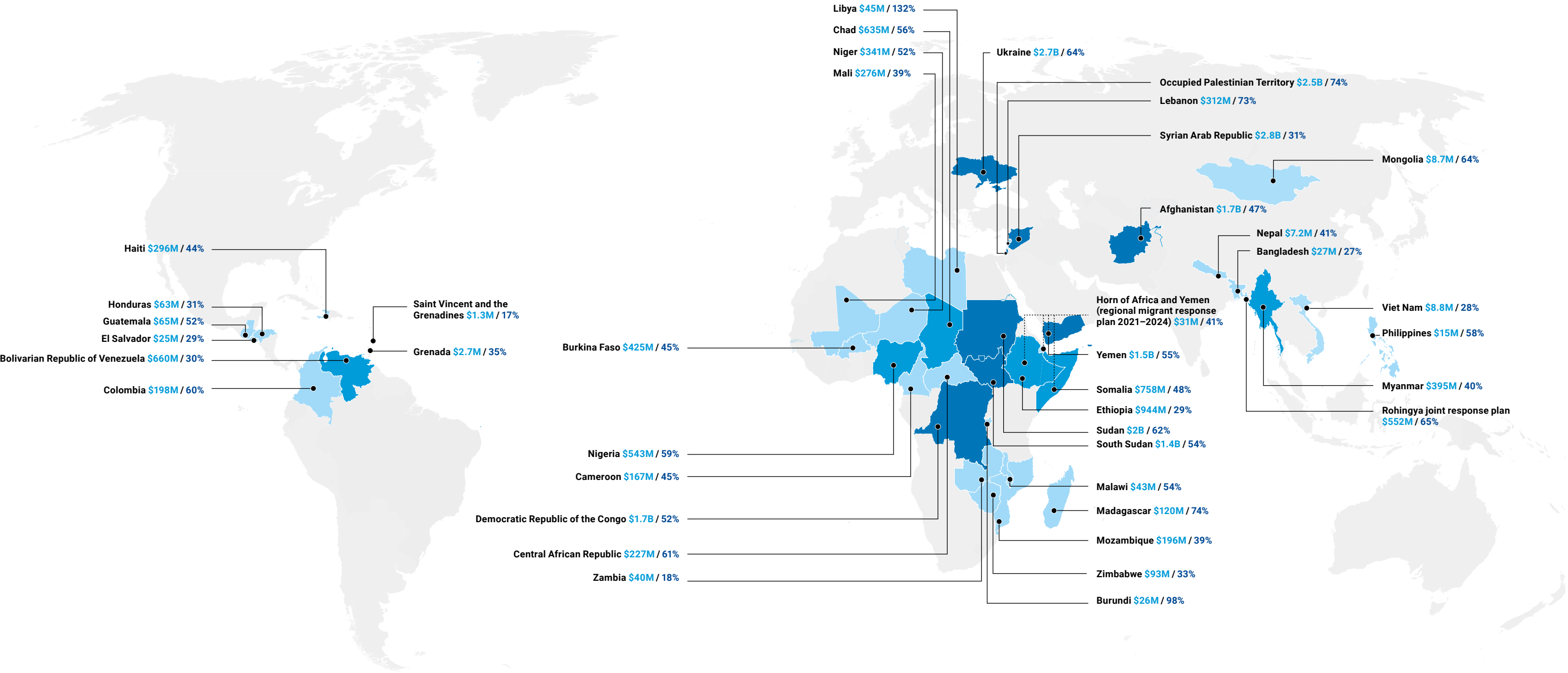
## Complex Risk Analytics Fund

By investing \$20 million annually in life-saving data, the Complex Risk Analytics Fund is enhancing emergency response worldwide. As a multilateral partnership, the Fund finances data and analytics that enable crisis responders to deliver more effective assistance before and during disasters. With a global ecosystem of more than 120 partners, data support by the Fund enhances over \$12 billion in international assistance and strengthens humanitarian aid. The result: assistance reaches vulnerable populations earlier, faster and with greater precision – maximizing impact when every moment and dollar count.

**COMPLEX  
RISK  
ANALYTICS  
Fund**



In 2024, the United Nations helped to mobilize \$25 billion of the \$50 billion funding target, enabling humanitarian assistance to reach 116 million people in 77 countries and territories



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



As conflict intensified in the Sudan, we helped to expand assistance to 14 million people. When the risk of famine became imminent, we supported more prevention and emergency programmes. In Ukraine, we coordinated life-saving assistance to 8.5 million people, including 58 per cent of funds allocated for the delivery of assistance by local and national partners. In Yemen, humanitarian assistance reached nearly 8 million people. In Afghanistan, our work supported 18.4 million vulnerable people, mostly women and girls.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, we helped to maintain cross-border operations from Türkiye so that critical assistance could reach 4.2 million people in 2024.

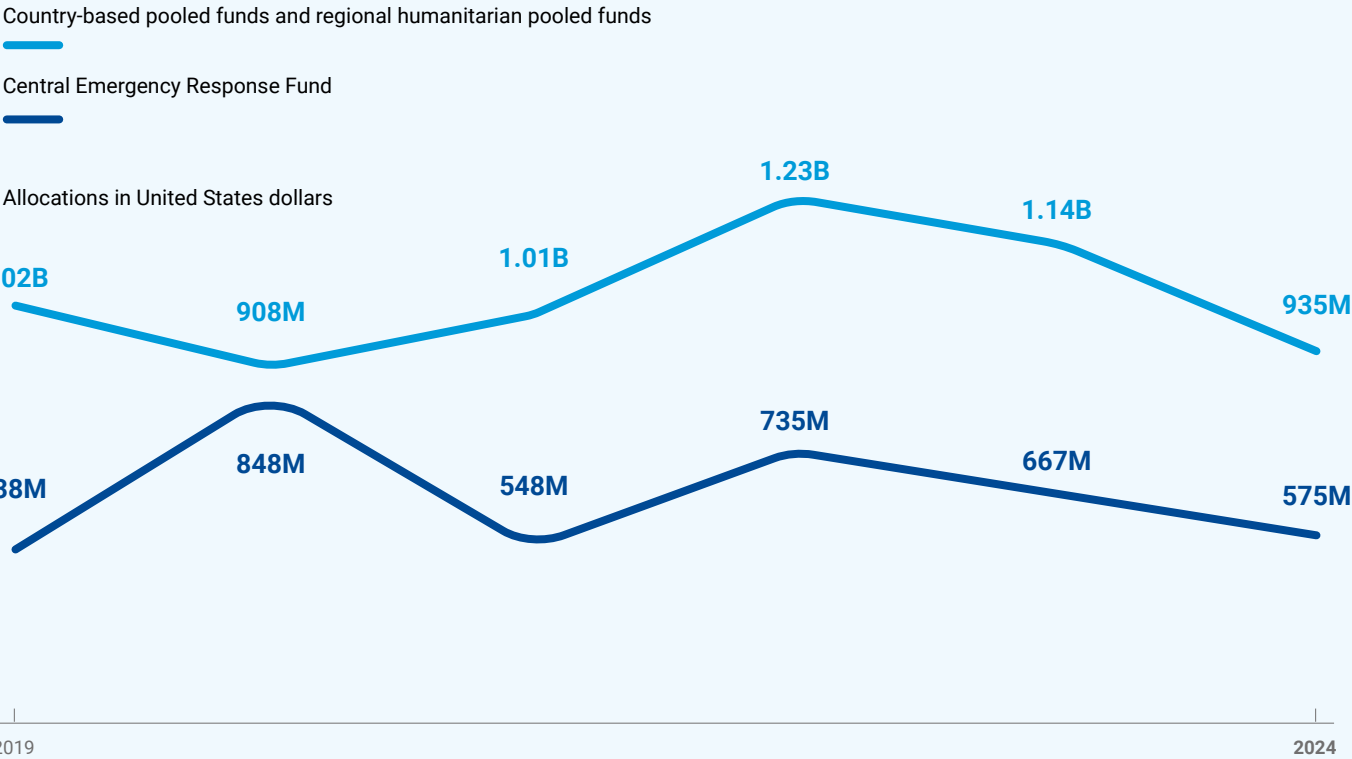
In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, we negotiated access to life-saving assistance and protection in a challenging and dangerous environment. In Haiti, we coordinated more than 160 humanitarian organizations to deliver assistance to 1.9 million people.

Children in the Gaza Strip await distribution of hot meals.

(Khan Younis; December 2024)  
© World Food Programme



United Nations humanitarian pooled funds critical to response



We continued to innovate for enhanced speed, cost-efficiency and impactful responses. Our Central Emergency Response Fund, country-based pooled funds and regional pooled funds disbursed over \$1.5 billion to the worst and most underfunded crises. That funding covered, among other efforts, response to droughts, floods, food insecurity and disease outbreaks amplified by El Niño, which affected tens of millions of people.

We scaled up anticipatory action so that life-saving interventions could be taken before the occurrence of natural and other hazards. In 2024, 4 out of 20 anticipatory action frameworks were triggered, unlocking pre-agreed life-saving activities ahead of floods. In Nepal, we released \$3.4 million to humanitarian responders just six minutes after verified flood warnings were disseminated.

Building anticipatory futures

The Pact for the Future strengthens commitments to prevent, anticipate and mitigate emergencies. As of 2024, 20 of our anticipatory action frameworks for droughts, floods, storms and disease outbreaks were active in 17 countries, supported by 123 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund. In 2024, anticipatory action ahead of floods enabled early assistance to over 800,000 people in Bangladesh, Chad, Nepal and the Niger. In addition, we allocated \$64 million to initiatives with anticipatory or early action elements.





United Nations humanitarian cash assistance helped to restore broken windows to protect 85-year-old Olena and other residents from the cold in Ukraine, after homes were damaged in a May 2024 attack.

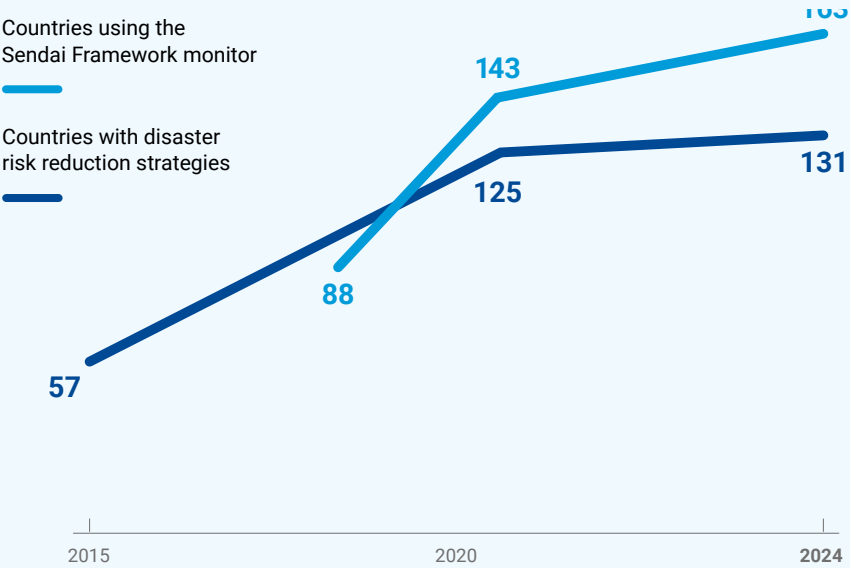
(Kharkiv; November 2024)  
© OCHA/Yurii Veres

We continued our risk advocacy efforts, contributing to the adoption of the first ministerial declaration of the Group of 20 on disaster risk reduction. Together with partners, we focus on six high-impact priorities, such as improved infrastructure and financing, so that resilience becomes a cornerstone of sustainable development.

Protection during disasters

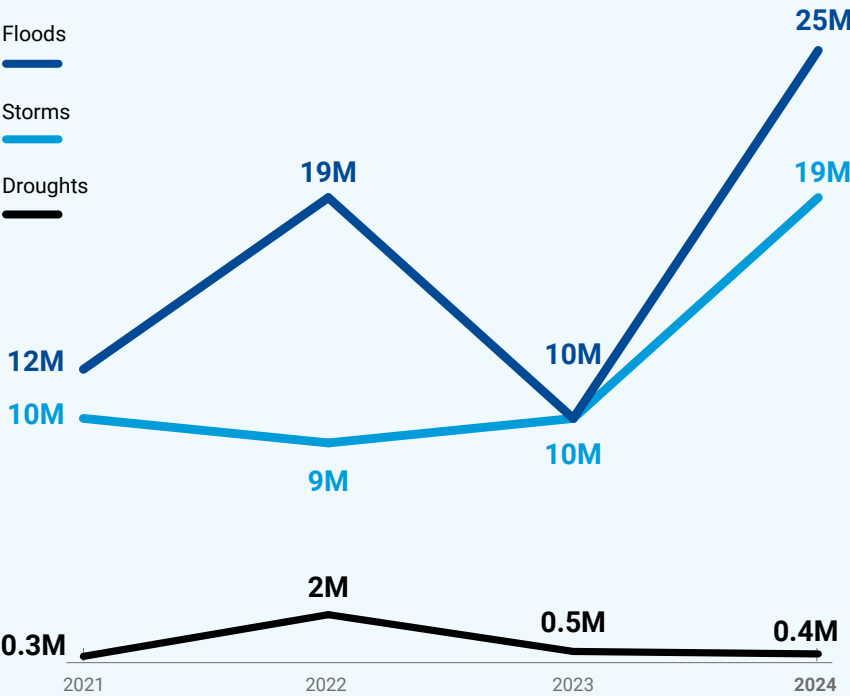
In 2024, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 79/128, to elaborate and conclude a legally binding instrument on the protection of persons in the event of disasters. The prospect of embedding within international law the duty to prevent and reduce disaster risk and to strengthen cooperation between disaster-affected States and international humanitarian assistance creates new opportunities to better protect everyone, everywhere in their moment of need.

Disaster risk reduction globally



Weather-related internal displacements 2021–2024

2024 was a record-breaking year for disaster displacement, with nearly 46 million people internally displaced (or forced to move) by disasters, the highest since monitoring of disaster displacement began in 2008.



Source: International Displacement Monitoring Centre, May 2025.



“Our response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami demonstrates what can be achieved when we work together, multilaterally, as one world.”

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

Our support to disaster risk reduction

583M  
people live in cities enrolled in the “Making Cities Resilient” 2030 initiative

65  
countries supported to develop or enhance their early warning systems



# Advancing justice and international law

Promotion of justice and international law

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## What we do

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- Legal services for the United Nations as a whole
- Legal services for United Nations organs and funds and programmes
- Extraordinary international accountability mechanisms
- Custody, registration and publication of treaties
- Development and codification of international law
- Law of the sea and ocean affairs
- International trade

## Our team

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- Office of Legal Affairs
- International Court of Justice
- International accountability mechanisms

A view of the mural “Mankind’s Struggle for Lasting Peace” by José Vela Zanetti, displayed in the Conference Building at United Nations Headquarters.





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

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

## Context

The purposes and principles of the United Nations are enshrined in the first two Articles of its Charter, which include the maintenance of international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes in conformity with the principles of justice and international law. Those principles are the foundation upon which the international community cooperates.

## Our goals

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



“International law has never been more necessary or central than today. Standing up for norms and principles is at the core of what the UN is and does in these challenging times.”

**Elinor Hammar-skjöld,**  
Under-Secretary-General for  
Legal Affairs and United Nations  
Legal Counsel



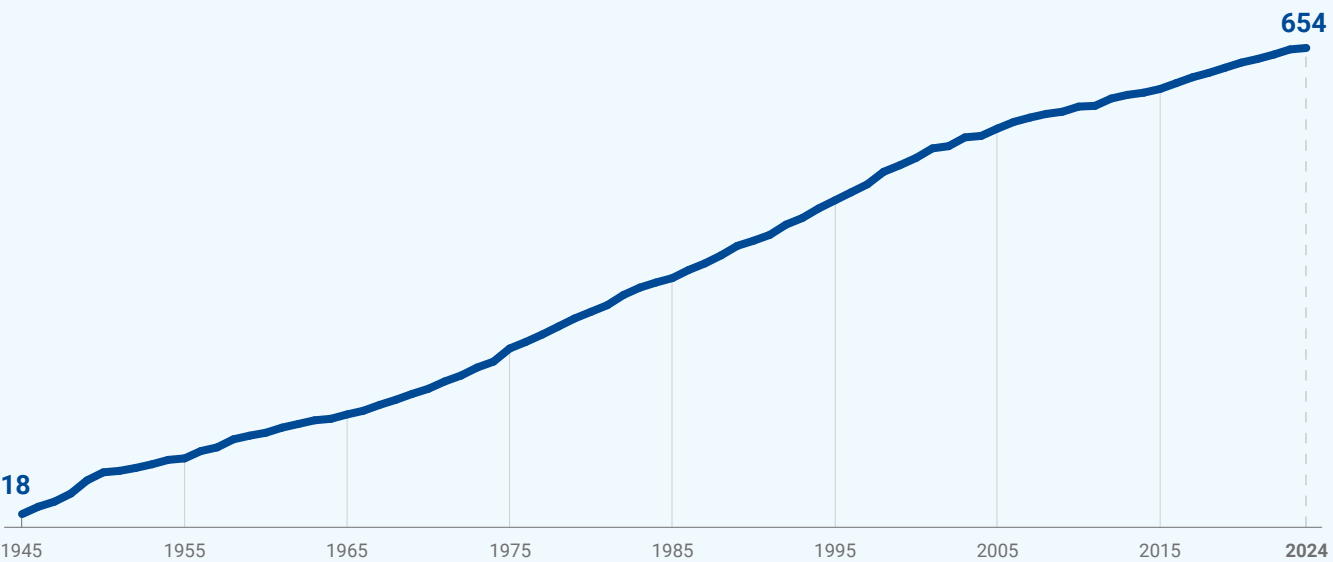
# Our achievements

The International Court of Justice considered a number of cases in 2024. It delivered judgments on the preliminary objections in the proceedings concerning *Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)* and the cases *Armenia v. Azerbaijan* and *Azerbaijan v. Armenia*. In the proceedings concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)*, it indicated additional provisional measures. It also decided on the admissibility of the declarations of intervention in the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar: 7 States intervening)*.

The Court delivered an advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, requested by the General Assembly.

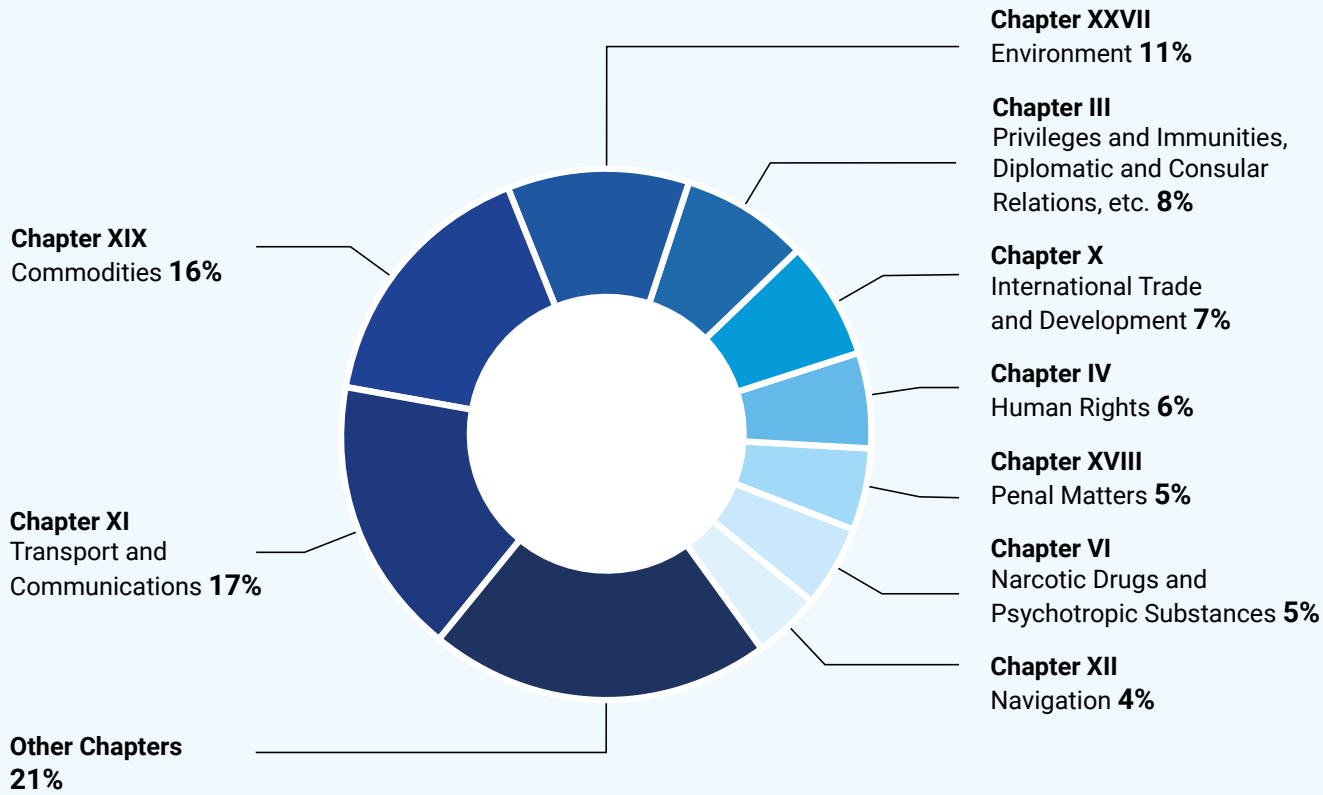
The Court also held public hearings at the request of the General Assembly for an advisory opinion on the obligations of States in respect of climate change, in which 96 States and 11 international organizations participated.

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



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

Multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, proportion by Chapter (as of March 2025)



In December 2024, the General Assembly requested an advisory opinion from the Court on the obligations of Israel in relation to the presence and activities of the United Nations, other international organizations and third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Secretariat transmitted to the Court a dossier of documents to assist with the question posed by the General Assembly.

In September 2024, the mandate of the Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da’esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant concluded.



# Championing disarmament

Advancement of disarmament and non-proliferation



Members of the Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons during an immersive study visit in Japan.

(Nagasaki; August 2024) © Office for Disarmament Affairs

## What we do

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

## Our team

- Office for Disarmament Affairs





Participants attend a training course in Ghana on effective weapons and ammunition management in a changing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration context.

(Accra; November 2024) © Office for Disarmament Affairs

Our disarmament work

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

**133** arms control-related projects funded, benefiting 148 Member States

**52%** of Member States reported on their implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms

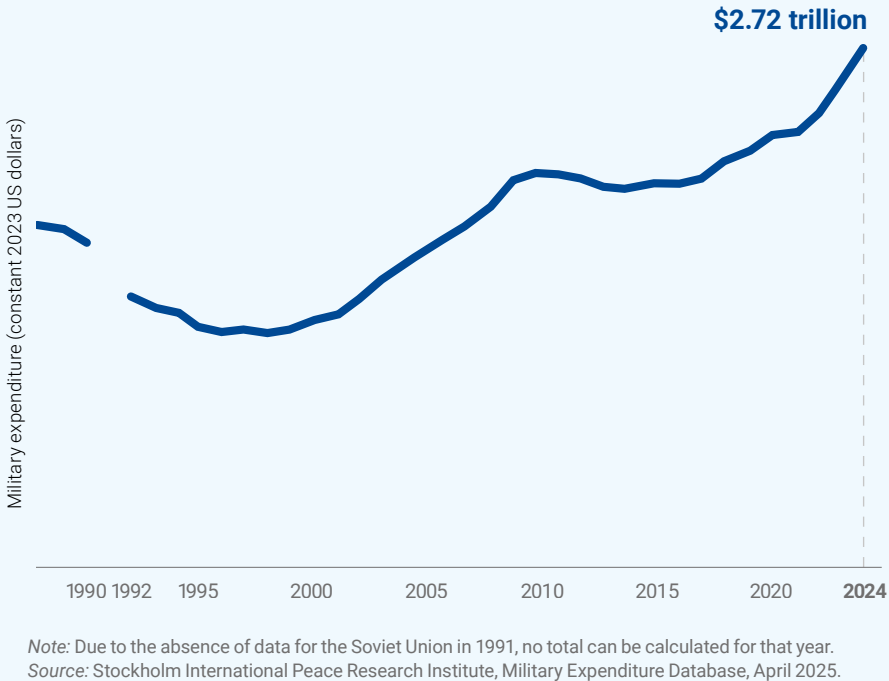
Context

Civilians continue to suffer from armed conflict amid escalating global tensions. The threat of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction persists, while military spending rises and conventional arms, especially illicit small arms and light weapons, increasingly proliferate. Rapid technological advances add to these security challenges.

Global military expenditure increased to a record \$2.72 trillion

World military expenditure 1988–2024

2024 marked the steepest annual increase in military spending since at least the end of the cold war. The top five military spenders – the United States, China, the Russian Federation, Germany and India – accounted for 60 per cent of the global total.



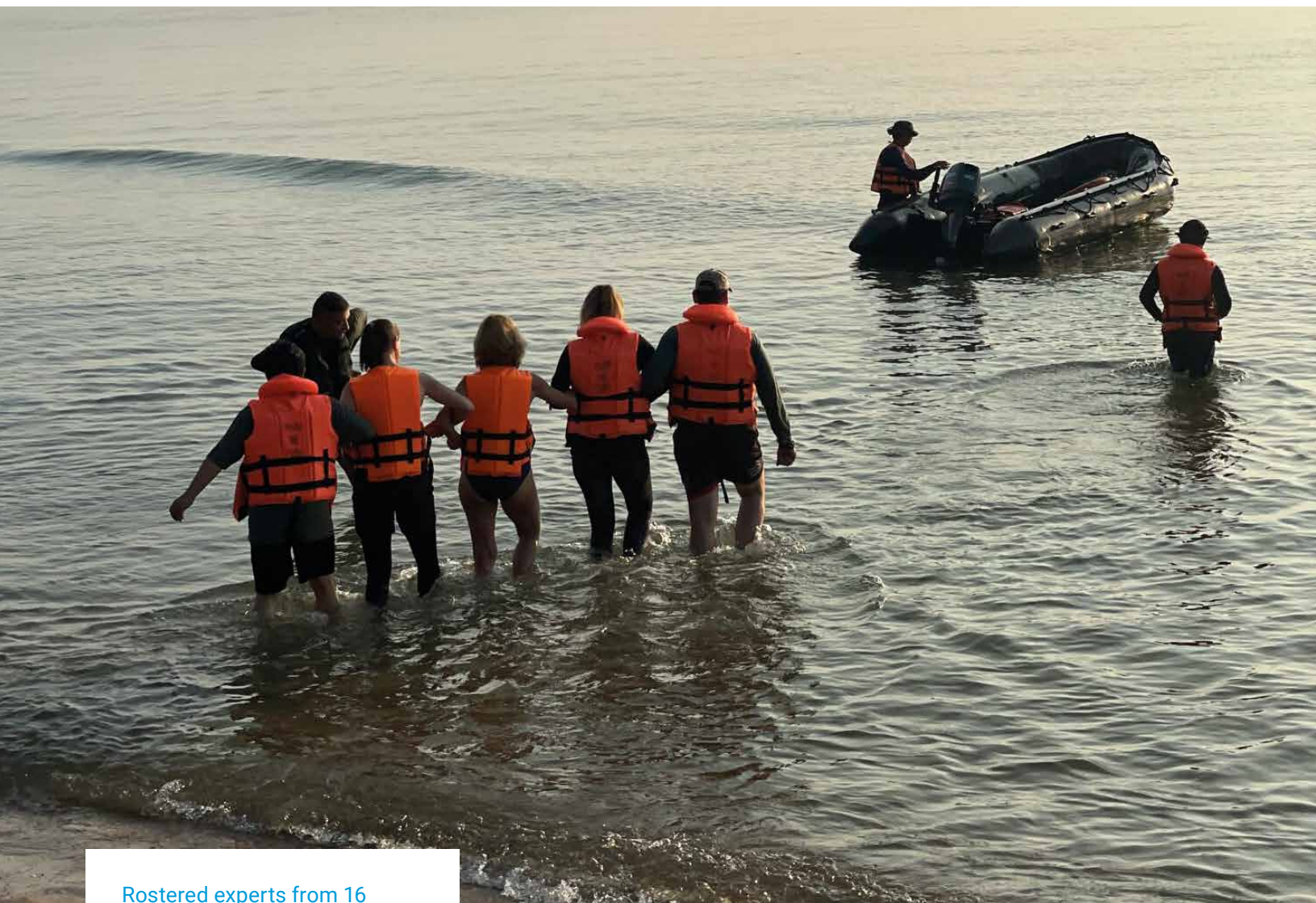
“We must all work to support a cessation of violence, silence the guns and break the vicious cycle that has shattered lives and inflicted profound human suffering.”

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

Our goals

Our work enables international negotiations and practical disarmament efforts on the ground towards: eliminating nuclear weapons; upholding the prohibition of other weapons of mass destruction; regulating conventional weapons; responding to the challenges of emerging weapons technologies; and promoting regional disarmament and public engagement.





Rostered experts from 16 countries participate in training held in Thailand on safe and secure approaches in field environments, organized for the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons.

(Cha Am; November 2024)  
© Office for Disarmament Affairs/  
Courtney Cresap

# Our achievements

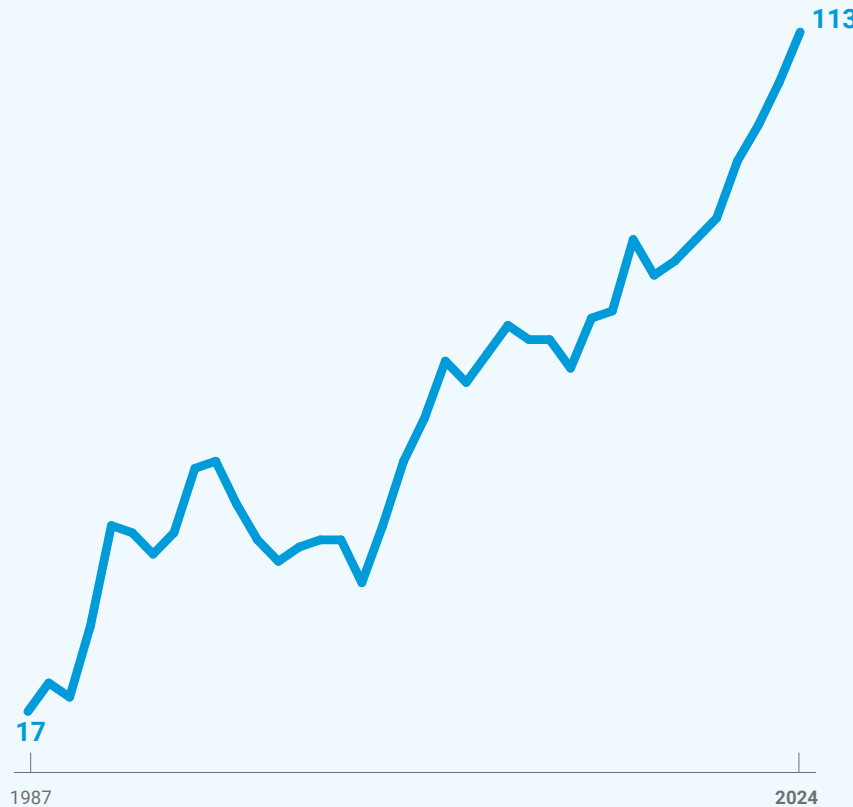
The United Nations advanced work on key disarmament treaties, bringing States together to discuss progress on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We also convened Member States from the Middle East at the fifth session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

We helped States to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as the International Tracing Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. We also convened technical

experts on arms manufacturing, technology and design. Across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, we helped to combat illicit weapons trafficking, prevent armed violence and gender-based violence, and enhance small arms control and ammunition management, including through the Roadmap for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030 and the Central American road map to prevent and address the illicit proliferation and trafficking of firearms and ammunition. We continued to support the implementation and universalization of humanitarian disarmament treaties aimed at eradicating landmines and cluster munitions and regulating other inhumane weapons.

## Rising number of confidence-building measure reports

In 2024, a record number of 113 reports were submitted by States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, up from 105 in 2023.





## The need for nuclear disarmament

12,241

nuclear weapons remain an existential threat to humanity today

## Gender and disarmament

49%

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

26

First Committee resolutions include calls for women's participation in disarmament or include other gender aspects, up from 23 resolutions in 2023

We supported the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and facilitated discussions towards the establishment of mechanisms on international cooperation and assistance and on science and technology. Through the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons, we equipped geographically diverse experts with skills in biological and forensic sciences, as well as on interviewing techniques to carry out investigations.

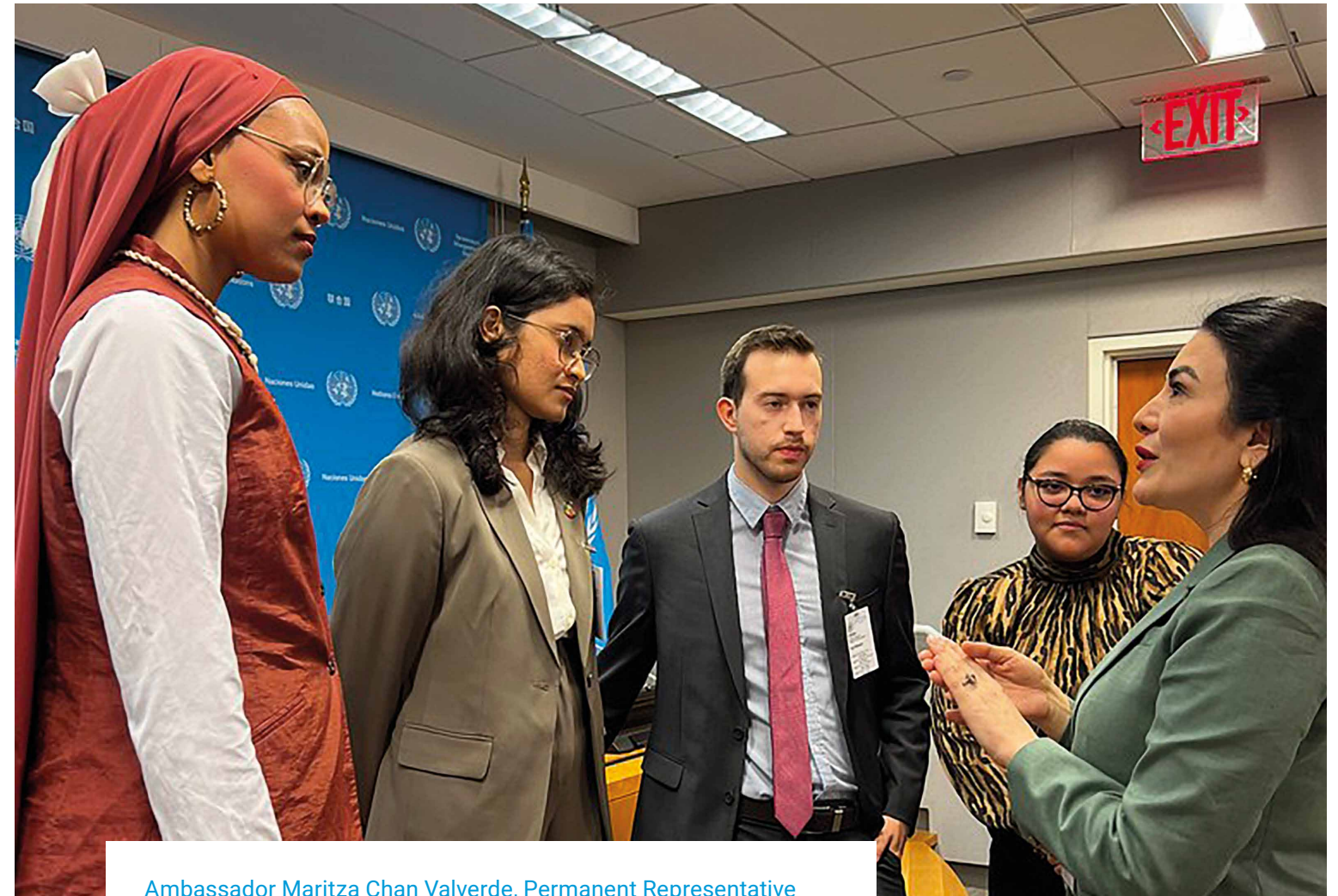
To build a safer, more secure and peaceful cyberspace, we created a global points of contact directory for national authorities, which was joined by 112 Member States, to facilitate cooperation, including during information and communications technology security incidents. We also facilitated the adoption of a final report by the group of governmental experts on further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

We supported efforts under the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects to develop an instrument on lethal autonomous weapons systems and supported new initiatives examining the role of artificial intelligence in military applications.

Through our Youth for Disarmament initiative, we empowered young leaders to address intergovernmental meetings on nuclear disarmament and illicit small arms and light weapons. In August, our Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons enabled young people from 37 countries to visit Japan, connecting with local students, officials and Hibakusha – survivors of the atomic bombings. Their visit resulted in a youth declaration, entitled "DeclarACTION: Declaration for a World Without Nuclear Weapons".

## Disarmament and implementation of the Pact

In the Pact for the Future, Member States requested the Secretary-General to provide an analysis on the impact of the global increase in military expenditure on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. United Nations system entities are preparing a new report and recommendations in a joint effort to shape global action for years to come.



Ambassador Maritza Chan Valverde, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations and President of the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, meets with four of the Youth Champions for Disarmament on the margins of the Conference.

(New York; June 2024) © Office for Disarmament Affairs

## Youth in disarmament

910

applicants from 128 countries for the second edition of the Youth Champions for Disarmament training programme

348

applicants to the GenerAcción Paz programme, a new youth initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean to empower young people for a region free of armed violence



# Combating drugs, crime and terrorism

Drug control, crime prevention and combating terrorism

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A local farmer inspects coffee seedlings at a nursery in the Lao People's Democratic Republic as part of a United Nations programme promoting viable, legal livelihoods and alternative development to drug cultivation.

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(Samphanh District; May 2024) © UN Photo/Xaysavath Keoduangvichith

## What we do

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

## Our team

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





Young people present recommendations on improving mental health programming for the prevention of violent extremism during the national policy dialogue in Kenya under the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme.

(Nairobi; August 2024) © Office of Counter-Terrorism

Our support to crime prevention, drug control and anti-corruption

**500,000** families benefited globally from technical assistance aimed at reducing illicit crop cultivation through viable, legal alternatives

**372.3 tons** in seizures of cocaine, synthetic drugs, weapons and explosives

**414** forensic laboratories across **106 countries** supported with quality assurance

Context

Transnational organized crime and terrorism continue to pose significant challenges to international peace and security, affecting the security and resilience of communities, eroding social cohesion and threatening fundamental human rights. While the growth in Internet connectivity drives progress, cybercrime has also become a pressing global concern.

Our goals

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

Our achievements

The United Nations supported over 150 Member States and territories through research, normative guidance and operational assistance to strengthen justice systems, border security and responses aligned with international and human rights standards. Through our work, we helped to promote people-centred and human rights-based responses to global and interconnected challenges.

In the area of drugs and crime, we facilitated the safe disposal of over 1,000 tons of drugs and chemicals, including fentanyl. As part of efforts to address drug use disorders, we trained 17,000 healthcare workers, policymakers and civil society representatives to support the delivery of opioid agonist therapy. We also provided technical assistance to 5,000 stakeholders across 156 countries under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.



“Organized crime, corruption, drugs and terrorism continue to evolve, converging with crises and undermining security and sustainable development. We must work across borders and sectors to address urgent threats and stay ahead of emerging challenges.”

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

The United Nations hosts a workshop in Iraq on justice for crimes committed by Da’esh against cultural heritage.

(Erbil; May 2024) © UN Photo/UNITAD





## Scaling up action to counter terrorism and organized crime

The Pact for the Future renewed momentum for advancing whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to counter terrorism and transnational organized crime. The Organization is enhancing coordination across its entities to support Member States in developing integrated, human rights-compliant counter-terrorism strategies. In parallel, the Pact reinforces global efforts to combat transnational organized crime and its links to terrorism by promoting international cooperation, strengthening enforcement and detection, and tackling illicit financial flows. These efforts reflect the Organization's commitment to comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable approaches to evolving global security challenges.



"Terrorism remains a significant and evolving threat to global peace and security, one that no State can confront in isolation. Sustained multilateral cooperation remains essential to countering terrorism effectively."

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

Our efforts strengthened investigations and prosecutions of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, in addition to enhancing early identification of victims of trafficking and their referral for assistance. Our training helped practitioners to identify 633 trafficking victims, initiate 449 investigations and report 14 convictions in 2024.

We supported over 40 Member States in combating wildlife and forest crime, waste trafficking and crime in the minerals and fisheries sectors by strengthening legal and institutional frameworks, national investigative capacities, judicial processes and international cooperation. We also helped to develop 19 anti-corruption laws and 12 national policies across 17 countries, covering public integrity, judicial ethics, public procurement, conflicts of interest, the prevention of corruption in sport, oversight and coordination.

Our counter-terrorism work was focused on building resilient societies and enhancing multilateral action. We supported 77 Member States in strengthening justice systems anchored in international and human rights norms.

The 11-week specialized training on counter-terrorism investigations delivered by the Global Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme was accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education.

At the International Conference on Victims of Terrorism, held in Spain, we reaffirmed solidarity with victims of terrorism globally, recognizing their roles as peacebuilders and educators. With our support, Nigeria and the Philippines developed national assistance plans for victims of terrorism.



Participants at the United Nations International Conference on Victims of Terrorism, held in Spain, express solidarity with all victims of terrorism around the world while observing the *auresku*, a traditional Basque dance performed as a gesture of respect and tribute.

(Vitoria-Gasteiz; October 2024) © Ayuntamiento de Vitoria-Gasteiz

## United Nations Convention against Cybercrime

Following a five-year negotiation process, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime; Strengthening International Cooperation for Combating Certain Crimes Committed by Means of Information and Communications Technology Systems and for the Sharing of Evidence in Electronic Form of Serious Crimes in 2024, the first adoption of an international anti-crime treaty in 20 years. It is a crucial step forward in efforts to address such crimes as online child sexual abuse, online scams and money-laundering, which have severe human rights implications and drain trillions of dollars from the global economy each year.

## Our data and research impact and reach

**6.2M**  
downloads from and views  
of research website on drugs  
and crime

**570,000+**  
data points available on the  
drugs and crime data portal

**123,000+**  
new records of drug seizure  
events in drugs and crime  
monitoring platform





## United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme

**28.5M**

passengers screened  
by goTravel

**178,000**

flights screened to coordinate  
capacity-building through data  
collection and analysis

**2,300**

alerts generated by the  
goTravel software solution

Officials from Peru receive United Nations training in identifying  
cases of human trafficking.

(Belén; April 2024) ©UNODC/Carlos Oliva Navarro

## Our counter-terrorism work

**4,400+**

people trained through 133  
capacity-building initiatives

**87**

high-level engagements  
with Member States and  
other partners

**13**

high-level and 10 regional  
conferences organized on  
technical issues relating to  
counter-terrorism and the  
prevention of violent extremism

In 2024, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) joined the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, thereby bolstering its efforts to counter terrorist financing and protect public spaces. The Compact's eight working groups enhanced multi-stakeholder engagement, with the participation of 23 civil society organizations, nine regional organizations and five Member States.

At the High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting, held in Abuja, Member States underscored the urgency of African-led and African-owned solutions to the rising threat of terrorism, calling for stronger regional cooperation and institution-building. Meanwhile, the High-Level Conference on "Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms – The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process" culminated in the adoption of the Kuwait Declaration on Border Security and Management, in which participants emphasized the importance of agile border security and management to prevent terrorist movement across borders.

Our Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, held in Doha, concluded with key recommendations to enhance the role of parliamentarians in advancing gender-sensitive and gender-responsive counter-terrorism legislation, policies and strategies.

## Regional cooperation for enhanced solutions

The United Nations and the Government of Uzbekistan convened the first meeting of the Central Asia Regional Expert Council on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees from Conflict Zones. The event provided a platform for sharing experiences and lessons learned by Central Asian countries in returning their citizens from conflict zones and in institutionalizing and enhancing the effectiveness of regional cooperation on these issues.



# Enhancing our operations

Effective functioning of the Organization

## What we do

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

## Our team

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

Reporters and journalists in the media booth on the first day of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly.

(New York; September 2024) © UN Photo/Laura Jarriel





The Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, (right) is interviewed by United Nations News on accelerating action towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

(New York; July 2024) © UN Photo/Manuel Elías

## Our effective functioning efforts

**105M+**

users visited un.org

**33M**

unique downloads from  
United Nations Digital Library

**4,200+**

meetings and events  
streamed publicly on  
UN WebTV

## Our work and our people

Over 35,000 United Nations Secretariat staff members serve across 459 duty stations worldwide. The Secretariat strives to uphold the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct, efficient management of resources and effective delivery on mandates.

## Our achievements

The Organization's focus on efficiency drives our budget formulation and execution. This approach has been important during a prolonged period of financial constraints; the Organization needs to maintain the delivery of mandates while operating in a context of decreased liquidity. Improvements in our operations have made the Organization more effective and cost-efficient. To ensure a fit-for-purpose United Nations equipped for the twenty-first century, the Secretary-General launched the UN80 Initiative – a system-wide effort to identify operational efficiencies, review the implementation of mandates and identify opportunities for structural reforms.

The Organization achieved progress in equitable geographical distribution, increased geographical representation and gender parity among its staff members. We continued to address racism and promote dignity for all by engaging with Secretariat personnel, leadership and Anti-Racism Advocates.

We laid the groundwork for the responsible use of artificial intelligence and next-generation capabilities by upgrading our enterprise resource planning system, Umoja. The deployment of Umoja Analytics has enhanced efficiency, transparency and data accessibility, and has enabled data-driven decision-making processes. We also expanded the NewWork network, a grass-roots staff effort to foster a more forward-thinking, collaborative and agile culture, which has grown to over 3,700 members across more than 100 duty stations.

The strategic application of new technologies enabled multilingualism to be upheld in conference services. Simultaneous interpretation was provided at over 6,000 meetings and 1.3 billion words of documentation were processed in the six official languages.

### Staff selection 2.0

To build a future-ready workforce and support the Pact for the Future, we are overhauling the staff selection system. Shifting from experience-based to skills-based hiring, new methodologies are being developed alongside assessments and tools to enhance accessibility, fairness and efficiency, thereby contributing to a diverse workforce that is aligned with the Secretariat's evolving mandates.



"We must go beyond reaffirming our commitment to efficiency – actively demonstrating the progress we are achieving across our operations."

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



"We will continue to work to enhance efficiencies, promote effectiveness, and maximize positive client experiences, improving, redesigning, and streamlining operational support processes. We will also integrate positive legacy into all relevant areas of planning and operations."

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





“Victims and survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse cannot wait for their voices to be heard, needs to be met, and justice to be delivered. We must put victims’ rights first.”

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

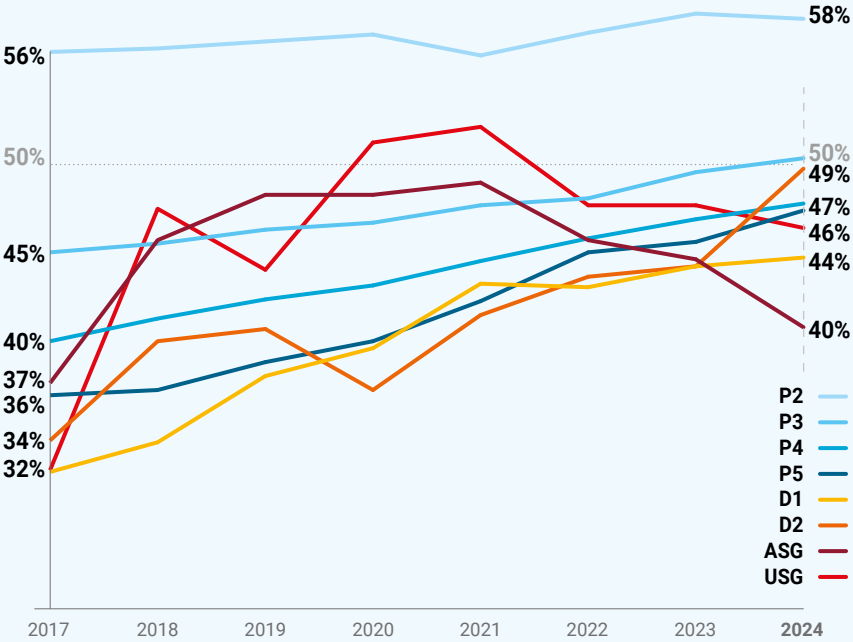


“The bottom line is that every human being is born free and equal and has the right to live a life of dignity, free from the fear of being sexually abused, exploited or harassed.”

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

Commitment to gender parity yields results

Percentage of female staff on fixed-term, continuing and permanent appointments in the Professional and higher categories (P2–USG) in the Secretariat, 2017–2024



With the launch of the system-wide strategy on gender parity, the Secretary-General is committed to advancing parity in the Secretariat across all levels, beginning with international staff in the Professional and higher categories on fixed-term and continuing/permanent appointments.

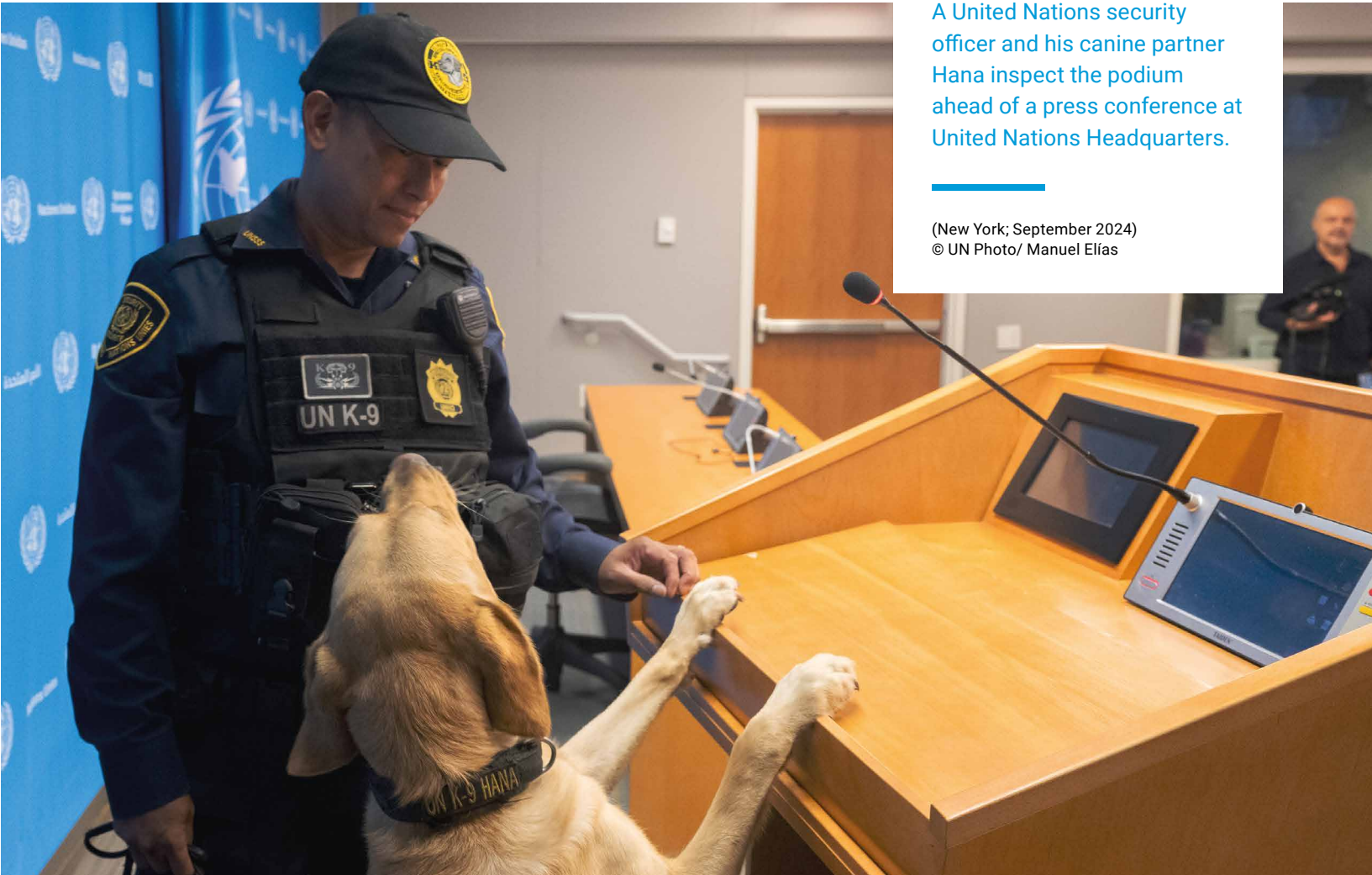
We remain committed to enhancing measures against sexual exploitation and abuse by promoting strong and visible leadership through an inclusive and unified approach. Work has also commenced on developing a standardized approach for use across the United Nations system for the provision of assistance to victims and survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse, including children born as a result of sexual exploitation and abuse. Securing adequate and sustainable funding for prevention and response programmes, as well as for victim support services, remains an ongoing challenge.

The year 2024 was one of the deadliest for United Nations personnel on record. Members of our security management system enabled the provision of humanitarian aid to millions of people, supported the delivery of peace and security mandates and secured United Nations conferences with record-high participation.



“The safety and security of United Nations personnel is not just a moral obligation; it is essential to the success of the mandates entrusted to us.”

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



A United Nations security officer and his canine partner Hana inspect the podium ahead of a press conference at United Nations Headquarters.

(New York; September 2024)  
© UN Photo/ Manuel Elias





“We work at providing assurance that the Organization is not only accountable, but also efficient, effective, and economical in achieving results.”

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



“As United Nations staff, our conduct, whether inside or outside the Organization, must at all times reflect the principles and values that apply to us as international civil servants.”

**Juraj Strasser,**  
Director, Ethics Office

To mitigate reputational risks to the Organization, we continued to support personnel in ensuring the integrity, independence and impartiality of their work as international civil servants. This included the provision of confidential advice to around 1,800 requests from staff globally, the administration of our annual financial disclosure programme, responding to some 220 queries related to protection against retaliation, as well as setting ethics standards by developing an ethics dialogue delivered to over 30,000 personnel.

The Organization oversaw such innovative projects as the Triangular Partnership Programme project on telemedicine, which enhances timely access to quality medical care for United Nations peacekeepers. A new environmental strategy for peace operations was also launched, aimed at further lowering the environmental footprint of our field operations. A dedicated trust fund was established to support the Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti.



Poet Maryam Bular Hasan shares a poem at the Summit of the Future session focused on challenging barriers to equality.

(New York; September 2024)  
© UN Photo/Laura Jarriel

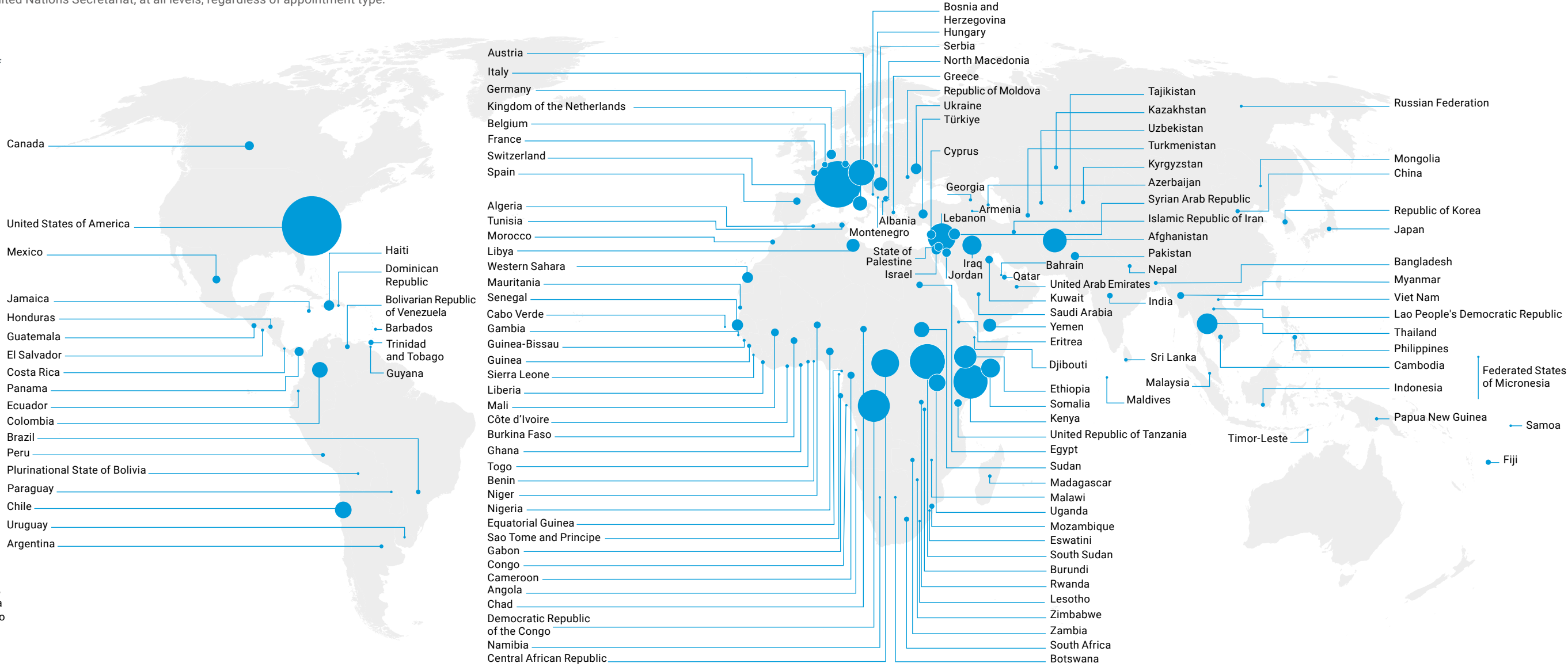


Over 35,000 staff worked for the United Nations Secretariat worldwide in 2024

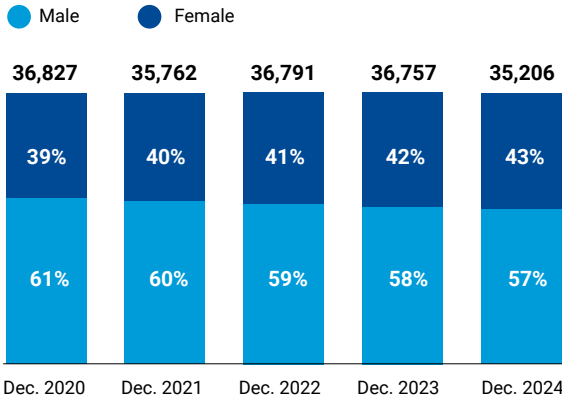
This includes all staff of the United Nations Secretariat, at all levels, regardless of appointment type.

● Represents number of staff

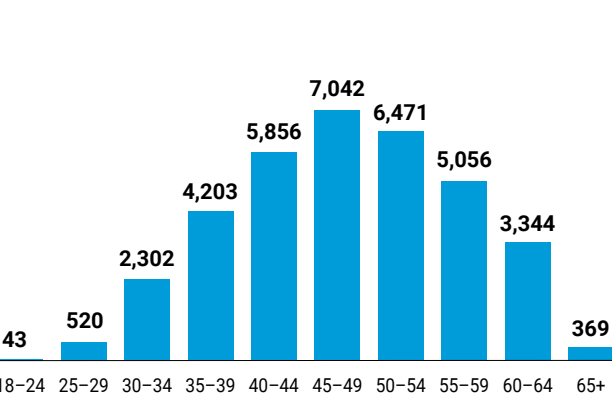
Countries hosting fewer than nine employees are not included on the map.



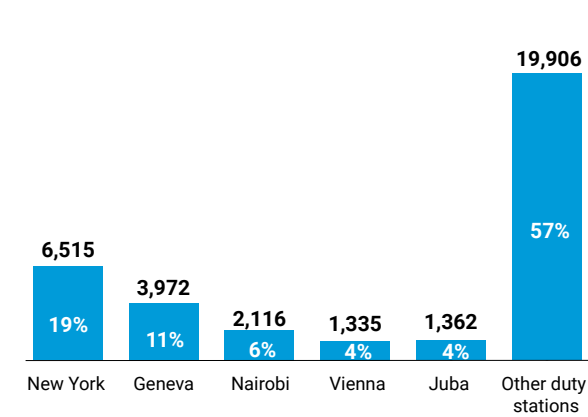
Staff by gender



Staff by age



Staff by location







“Our multilingual conference services make it possible for the nations of the world to come together to advance the objectives set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.”

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

### Multilingualism and diplomacy at work

**1.3B**  
**words** across documents in  
the six official languages

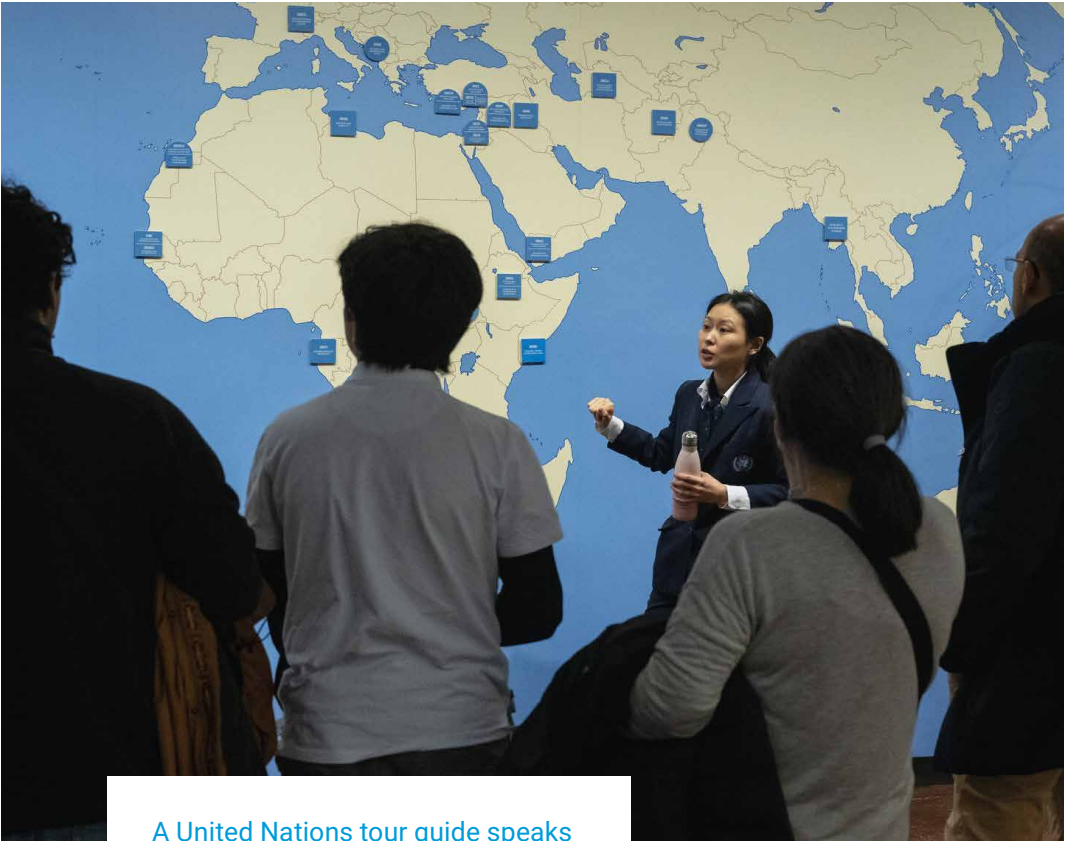
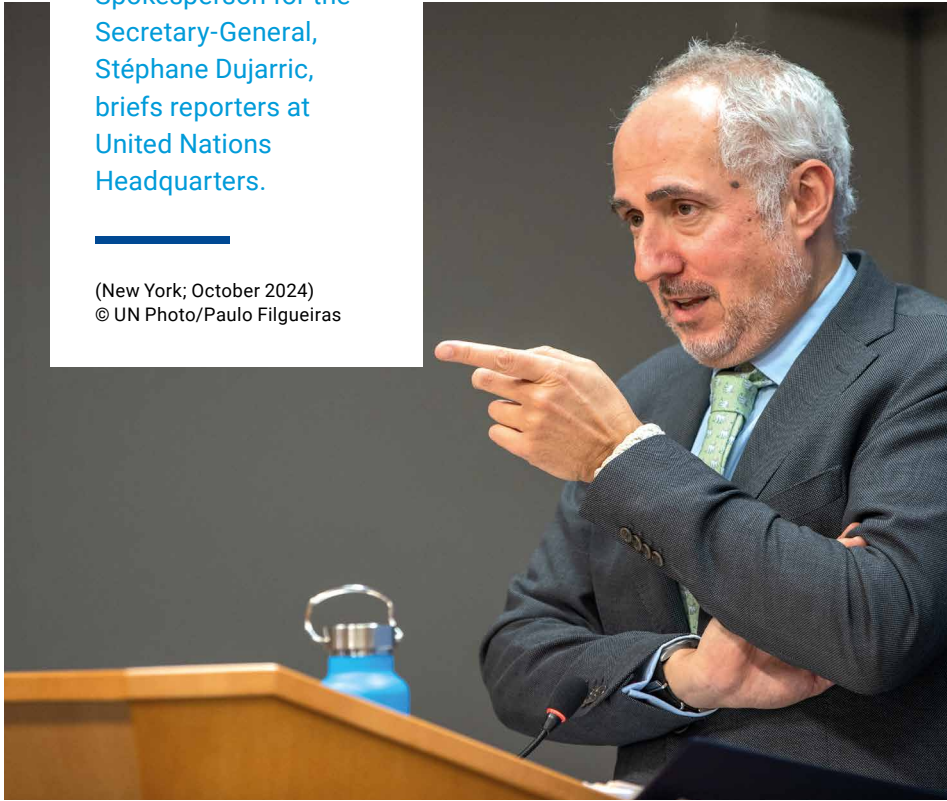
**18,000**  
**hours** of simultaneous  
interpretation in the six official  
languages

Our communications teams amplified the life-saving work of the United Nations in crises and conflict, mobilized climate action and made the case for multilateral cooperation as the Organization prepares to commemorate its eightieth anniversary. The Organization engaged with media, partners and the public through multilingual content and digital outreach, while leading efforts to address challenges to the integrity of the information ecosystem.

Recognizing the need to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, the Organization took decisive action to address gaps in areas such as accessibility and the employment of persons with disabilities.

Spokesperson for the  
Secretary-General,  
Stéphane Dujarric,  
briefs reporters at  
United Nations  
Headquarters.

(New York; October 2024)  
© UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras



A United Nations tour guide speaks  
to a group of visitors outside the  
Security Council Chamber at United  
Nations Headquarters.

(New York; January 2025) © UN Photo/Manuel Elías



“In these challenging times,  
highlighting the transformative  
and life-saving work of  
the United Nations, and  
promoting the values that the  
Organization stands for, has  
never been more compelling.”

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

### Communicating with global audiences

**75M**  
**social media followers** through  
@unitednations accounts  
across platforms in nine  
languages

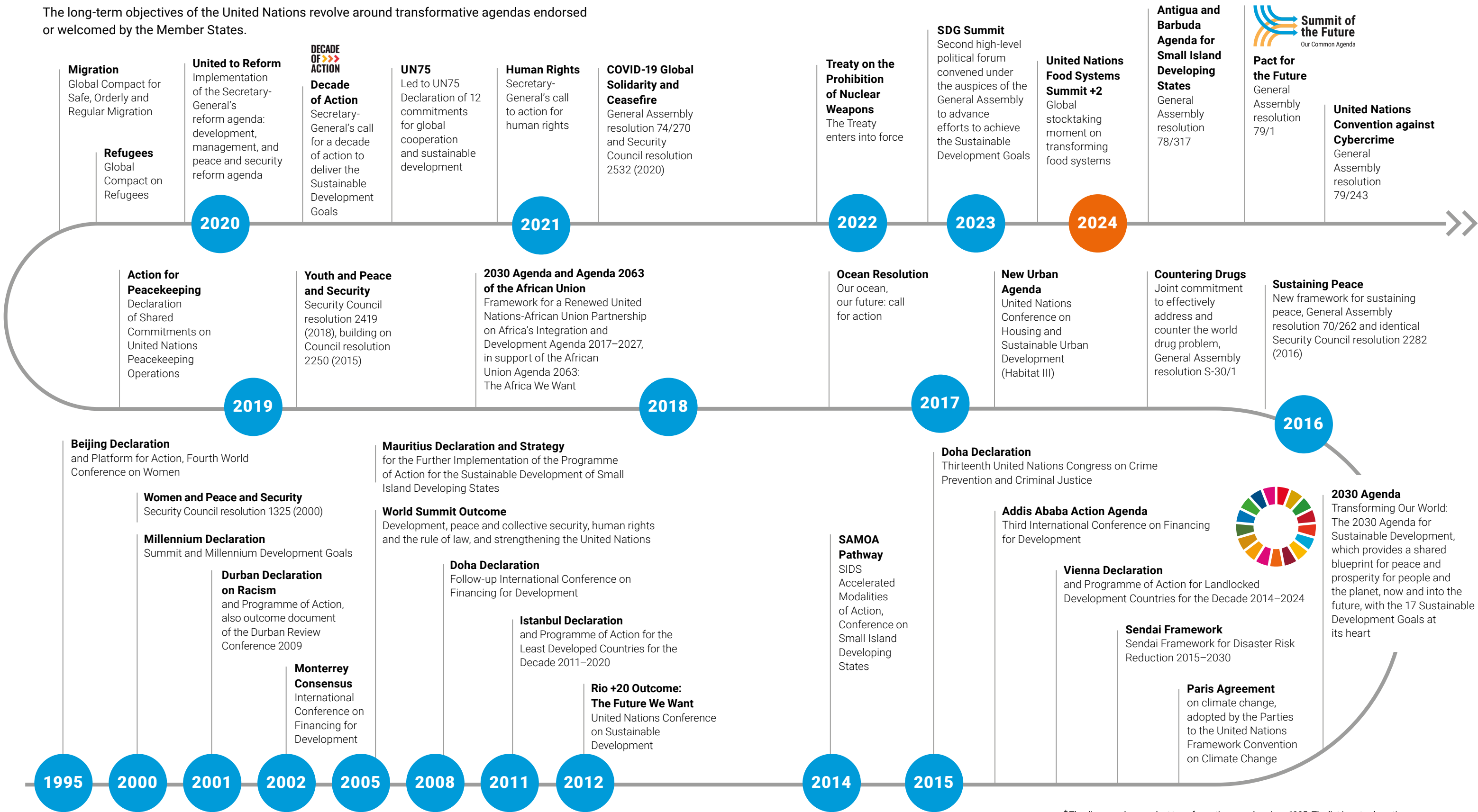
**45M+**  
**video views of content** on  
the United Nations YouTube  
channel in English

**300,000+**  
**visitors** taking guided tours of  
the United Nations in New York,  
Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi



Select transformative agendas\*

The long-term objectives of the United Nations revolve around transformative agendas endorsed or welcomed by the Member States.

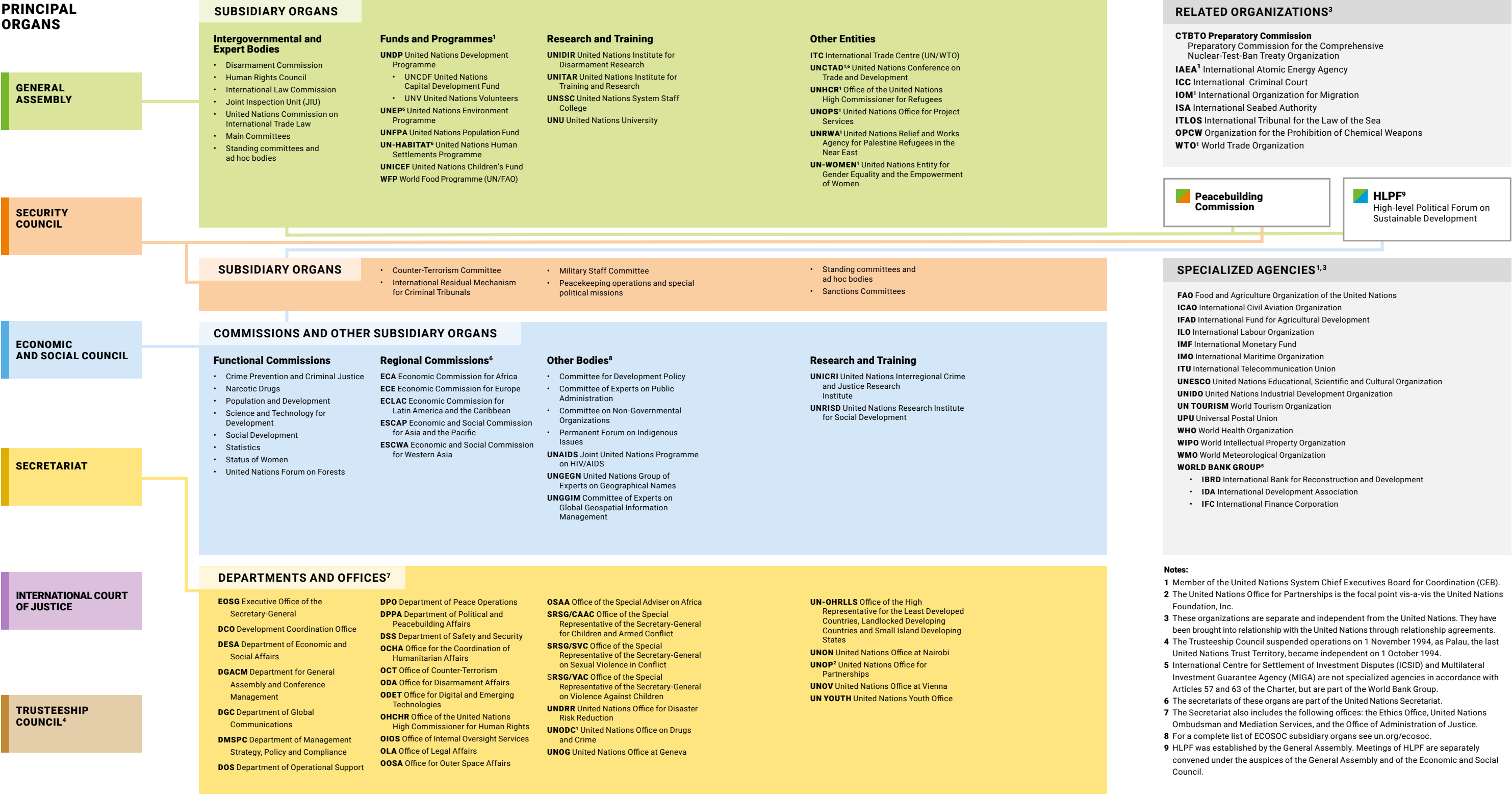


\* The diagram shows select transformative agendas since 1995. The list is not exhaustive. The United Nations programme of work is also guided by several other legislative mandates.





# The United Nations System





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