



OUR COMMON AGENDA

Comms pack for external partners

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:00am (NYC Time) 10 SEPTEMBER 2021

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I. Launch

The Secretary-General will present the Common Agenda report to the General Assembly at UN Headquarters in New York on Friday, 10 September 2021 at 10.00am EST. The event will be livestreamed on UN WebTV: <https://media.un.org/en/webtv>

Following the presentation, the Secretary-General will engage with the press on the Common Agenda as part of his pre-General Assembly press conference.

II. Common Agenda report

The Common Agenda report will be launched online on 10 September 2021 at 10.00am EST in 6 languages at: <https://www.un.org/common-agenda-report>

The Common Agenda landing page is live and available in 6 languages at: <https://www.un.org/common-agenda>

III. Key messages

Key messages could be used by external partners when speaking to media. They can serve as a guide to editorial and content production teams who may tailor the language for their audiences.

On the 75th anniversary of the UN, Member States pledged to strengthen global governance for the sake of present and coming generations. They requested the Secretary-General to report back with recommendations to advance our common agenda and to respond to current and future challenges.

- **We are at an inflection point in history.** The COVID-19 pandemic has served as a wake-up call and with the climate crisis now looming, the world is experiencing its biggest shared test since the Second World War.



- **Humanity faces a stark and urgent choice: breakdown or breakthrough.** The choices we make — or fail to make — today could result in further breakdown and a future of perpetual crises, or a breakthrough to a better, more sustainable, peaceful future for our people and planet.
- **To achieve a breakthrough, we must recognize that humanity’s very future depends on solidarity, trust, and our ability to work together as a global family to achieve common goals.** No community or country, however powerful, can solve its challenges alone. We have to find a way to trust and care for one another again.
- **In this time of division, fracture and mistrust, the United Nations is needed more than ever.** Multilateral action has achieved an enormous amount over the past 75 years, from preventing a third world war to eradicating smallpox and mending the hole in the ozone layer. Our Common Agenda must be a starting point for ideas and initiatives that build on these achievements.
- **Our Common Agenda is an agenda of action, designed to strengthen and accelerate multilateral agreements – particularly the 2030 Agenda – and make a tangible difference to people’s lives.**

The Secretary-General makes recommendations across four broad areas.

1. **A renewal of the social contract, anchored in human rights, to rebuild trust and social cohesion.** Much of our global unease is rooted in persistent poverty, hunger, lack of access to health care, education and income security, growing inequalities and injustices as well as misinformation and lack of confidence in institutions. Key recommendations include:
 - Tackling the “infodemic” of misinformation plaguing our world by ending the ‘war on science’ and introducing a **global code of conduct** that promotes integrity in public information.
 - Addressing tax evasion and aggressive tax avoidance, money-laundering and illicit financial flows, through a new joint structure on **financial integrity**.
 - Reinvigorating our thinking around **human rights**, including our online lives.
 - Achieving universal social protection coverage, including universal health care, concretized at a **World Social Summit in 2025**.
 - Eradicating violence against **women and girls** and ensuring their full and equal participation, including in emergency response plans and backed by a global campaign to eliminate damaging social norms.
 - Correcting blind spots in **how we measure progress and prosperity** by introducing measures that complement the gross national product (GDP), and ensure profits do not come at the expense of people and planet.



2. **A focus on the future, through a deepening of solidarity with the world's young people and future generations.** Those that inherit the consequences of the decisions we take today are barely represented in decision-making which is heavily weighted towards the short term. Key proposals include:
 - Transformative measures on education, skills training and lifelong learning, including a **Transforming Education Summit** in 2022.
 - A **Futures Lab** to take full advantage of our unprecedented capacity to predict and model the impact of policy decisions over time.
 - The appointment of a **Special Envoy for Future Generations** to serve as a voice for the 10.9 billion people expected to be born this century, as well as an upgraded **UN Youth Office**.
 - The **repurposing of the Trusteeship Council** to make it a deliberative body on behalf of succeeding generations.
 - A **Declaration on Future Generations**
3. **Urgent action to protect and deliver global commons** - high seas, the atmosphere, Antarctica and outer space - **and global public goods** – such as peace, economic security, and global health. To achieve this, we need a **multilateralism that is more networked, inclusive and effective**. Key recommendations include:
 - Immediate steps for a **global vaccination plan for COVID-19** and better integration of the global financial system with other decision-making processes through a **Biennial Summit** between the G20, ECOSOC, the Secretary-General and heads of international financial institutions.
 - Better preparedness for future global shocks through an **Emergency Platform** that would be triggered automatically in response to large-scale crises.
 - A **Summit of the Future** to forge a new consensus on the most critical global concerns that the international system must protect and deliver– including peace, climate action beyond 2030, the digital commons and outer space.
 - A **High-level Advisory Board**, at the head of State/Government level, to inform the Summit of the Future and advance governance in the areas of greatest concern.
4. **An upgraded UN that is fit for a new era – one that can offer more relevant, system-wide, multilateral and multi-stakeholder solutions to the challenges of the 21st century.** The transformation will be driven by data, innovation, strategic foresight, predictive analysis and behavioural science. Key proposals include:
 - Strengthening the UN as a **source of reliable data and evidence**



United Nations



Common
Agenda

- Deepening **engagement** with local and regional governments, civil society, parliaments and the private sector.

Select infographics from the report

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KEY PROPOSALS ACROSS THE 12 COMMITMENTS

From the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations

All proposed actions are in line with and designed to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- 1. Leave no one behind**
 - Renewed social contract anchored in human rights
 - New era for universal social protection, including health care and basic income security, reaching the 4 billion unprotected
 - Reinforce adequate housing, education and lifelong learning and decent work
 - Digital inclusivity
 - World Social Summit in 2025
 - Identify complementary measures to GDP
- 2. Protect our planet**
 - Leaders meeting ahead of the global stocktaking in 2023
 - Commit to the 1.5-degree Celsius goal and net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner
 - Declarations of climate emergency and right to a healthy environment
 - Package of support to developing countries
 - Measures for adaptation and resilience
 - No new coal after 2021 and phasing out fossil fuel subsidies
 - Account for the environment in economic models, carbon pricing mechanisms and credible commitments by financial actors
 - Post-2020 biodiversity framework
 - Transforming food systems for sustainability, nutrition and fairness
 - Action by the General Assembly on territorial threats of climate change and to prevent, protect and resolve situations of environmental displacement
- 3. Promote peace and prevent conflicts**
 - New agenda for peace to:
 - Reduce strategic risks (nuclear weapons, cyberwarfare, autonomous weapons)
 - Strengthen international foresight
 - Reshape responses to all forms of violence
 - Invest in prevention and peacebuilding, including Peacebuilding Fund and Peacebuilding Commission
 - Support regional prevention
 - Peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space, including through a multi-stakeholder dialogue on outer space
- 4. Abide by international law and ensure justice**
 - Human rights as a problem-solving measure, including by comprehensive anti-discrimination laws and promoting participation
 - Application of human rights online and to frontier issues and new technologies
 - Universal access to the Internet as a human right
 - Human rights mechanisms on a more sustainable financial footing
 - Legal identity for all, end to statelessness and protection of internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants
 - New vision for the rule of law
 - Global road map for the development and effective implementation of international law
- 5. Place women and girls at the centre**
 - Repeal of gender-discriminatory laws
 - Promote gender parity, including through quotas and special measures
 - Facilitate women's economic inclusion, including investment in the care economy and support for women entrepreneurs
 - Include voices of younger women
 - Eradication of violence against women and girls, including through an emergency response plan
- 6. Build trust**
 - Global code of conduct that promotes integrity in public information
 - Improve people's experiences with public institutions and basic services
 - Inclusive national listening and "envisioning the future" exercises
 - Action to tackle corruption in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption
 - Reformed international tax system
 - Joint structure on financial integrity and tackling illicit financial flows

PROPOSED KEY MOMENTS



- 7. Improve digital cooperation**
 - Global Digital Compact to:
 - Connect all people to the Internet, including all schools
 - Avoid Internet fragmentation
 - Protect data
 - Apply human rights online
 - Introduce accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content
 - Promote regulation of artificial intelligence
 - Digital commons as a global public good
- 8. Upgrade the United Nations**
 - High-level Advisory Board led by former Heads of State and Government on improved governance of global public goods
 - System-wide policy that puts people at the centre, taking into account age, gender and diversity
 - More listening, participation and consultation (including digitally), building on the seventy-fifth anniversary declaration and Our Common Agenda
 - Gender parity within the United Nations system by 2028
 - Re-establish the Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board
 - "Quintet of change" for United Nations 2.0, including innovation, data, strategic foresight, results orientation and behavioural science
- 9. Ensure sustainable financing**
 - Biennial Summit between the Group of 20, the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General and the heads of international financial institutions for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient global economy including to:
 - Support a Sustainable Development Goal investment boost, including through a last-mile alliance to reach those furthest behind
 - Provide more flexible research and development incentives
 - Resolve weaknesses in the debt architecture
 - Fairer and more resilient multilateral trading system, including a reinvigorated WTO
 - New business models
 - Improve the United Nations budget process
- 10. Boost partnerships**
 - Annual meetings between the United Nations and all heads of regional organizations
 - Stronger engagement between the United Nations system, international financial institutions and regional development banks
 - More systematic engagement with parliaments, subnational authorities and the private sector
 - Civil society focal points in all United Nations entities
 - United Nations Office for Partnerships to consolidate access and inclusion, including accessibility online
- 11. Listen to and work with youth**
 - Youth
 - Remove barriers to political participation and measure progress through a "youth in politics" index
 - United Nations Youth Office
 - Transforming Education Summit in 2022
 - Recovery barometer to track career paths and labour market outcomes for youth
 - High-ambition coalition to promote green and digital-economy job creation
 - Future generations
 - Summit of the Future in 2023
 - Ensure long-term thinking, including through a United Nations Futures Lab
 - Represent succeeding generations, including through a reappointed Trusteeship Council, a Declaration on Future Generations, and a United Nations Special Envoy for Future Generations
- 12. Be prepared**
 - Emergency Platforms to be convened in response to complex global crises
 - Strategic Foresight and Global Risk Report by the United Nations every five years
 - On global public health
 - Global vaccination plan
 - Empowered WHO
 - Stronger global health security and preparedness
 - Accelerate product development and access to health technologies in low- and middle-income countries
 - Universal health coverage and addressing determinants of health



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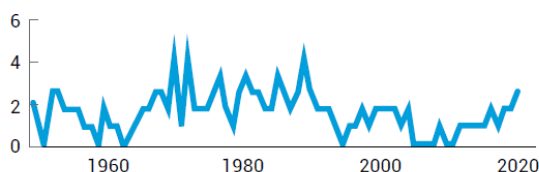
SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

PEACE



Despite ongoing international tensions, conflict and violence, the multilateral system with the United Nations at its centre has helped to **avert a third world war or a nuclear holocaust**.

Conflicts between States, 1946–2020



Source: Peace Research Institute Oslo, 2020.

HUMAN RIGHTS



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) has helped to ensure that **billions of people live safer, longer and more dignified lives**.

80%

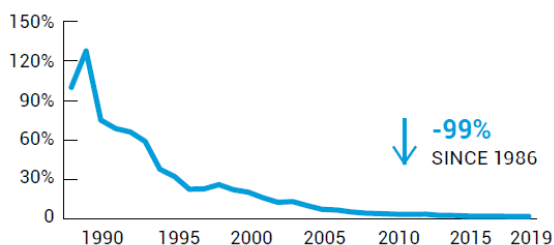
80% of Member States have ratified at least four core international human rights treaties, and all Member States have ratified at least one.

Source: OHCHR, 2021.

ENVIRONMENT



Ozone depleting emissions since the Montreal Protocol, Index 1986 = 100%



Source: UNEP, 2021.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION



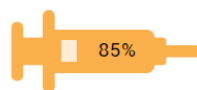
In 2020, the United Nations and partner organizations provided humanitarian assistance to more than **98 million people in 25 countries**.

Source: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2021.

HEALTH



After a 10-year global effort led by WHO involving over **500 million vaccinations**, smallpox was officially eradicated in 1980.



Today, 85% of the world's children are vaccinated and protected from debilitating diseases.

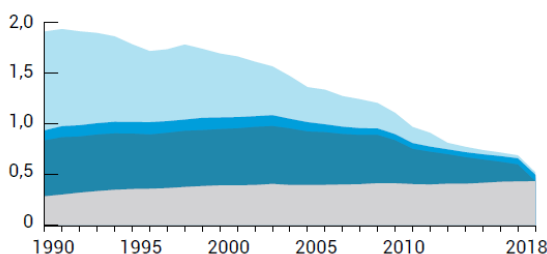
Source: WHO, 2020.

POVERTY ERADICATION



East Asia and Pacific South Asia
Rest of the World Sub-Saharan Africa

Total population (in billions) living in extreme poverty



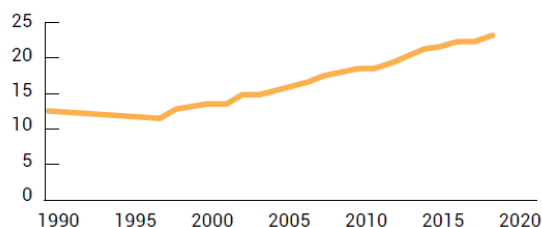
Source: World Bank, 2018.

GENDER EQUALITY



90% of United Nations Member States have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (percentage)



Source: Statistics Division, 2021.



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THE CHOICE BEFORE US: A SCENARIO OF BREAKDOWN AND PERPETUAL CRISIS



DEADLY PANDEMICS



- **COVID-19 is endemic, constantly mutating**
- Richer countries **hoard vaccines**, no plan for equitable distribution
- **Health systems** are overwhelmed
- **No preparedness** for future pandemics
- A number of countries are poorer in 2030 than before the pandemic hit

UNINHABITABLE PLANET



- Owing to unchanged emission levels from human activity, **global warming of 2°C will be exceeded** during the twenty-first century
- **Heatwaves, floods, droughts, tropical cyclones** and other extremes are unprecedented in magnitude, frequency and timing and occur in regions that have never been affected before
- The **Arctic is ice free** in the summer; most **permafrost is lost** and **extreme sea levels** occur every year
- One million species are on the **verge of extinction**, with **irreversible biodiversity loss**
- More than **1 billion people live with heat that is so extreme that it threatens their lives**

DESTABILIZING INEQUALITIES



- Continuous **erosion of human rights**
- **Growing poverty**, and massive loss of jobs and income
- Public goods like education and social protection systems are underfunded
- **Protests spread across borders**, often met with violent repression
- Technology fuels division
- **New types of warfare** invented faster than new ways of making peace

WARNING SIGNS



\$9.2 trillion – estimated cost to the global economy in 2021 alone if developing countries do not have equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines
Source: International Chamber of Commerce, 2021.



Increases in **concentrations of greenhouse gases** since around 1750 are **unequivocally caused by human activities** and have led to ~1.1°C of warming between 1850 and 1900
Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2021.



36 low-income countries are in **sovereign debt distress** or at a high risk of falling into debt distress (February 2021)
Source: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2020.



Up to **827,000 viruses** that **could infect humans** exist in mammals and birds
Source: International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2021.

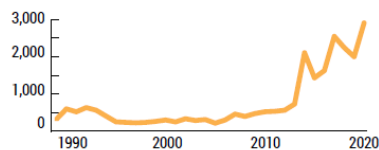


The **extinction rate** is now **10–100 times higher** than at any other time in the **past 10 million years**
Source: United Nations, 2019.



By 2050 there could be **more plastic than fish** in the sea
Source: UNEP, 2020.

Rapid increase in non-State conflicts since 2010



Source: Peace Research Institute Oslo, 2020.

THE CONSEQUENCES FOR MULTILATERALISM



Social contract is eroded and geopolitical tensions rise



International institutions are trapped in a **cycle of underinvestment and underperformance**



Preference for **unilateralism over solidarity**



No consensus on facts, science or knowledge



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THE CHOICE BEFORE US: A SCENARIO OF BREAKTHROUGH AND THE PROSPECT OF A GREENER, SAFER, BETTER FUTURE



SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY



- **Vaccines shared widely and equitably**
- Capacity to produce vaccines for future pandemics within 100 days and to distribute them globally within a year
- People in crisis and conflict settings have a **bridge to better lives**
- Revised international debt architecture
- Business incentives are reshaped to support global public goods
- **Progress** to address illicit financial flows, tax avoidance and climate finance
- Financial and economic systems **support more sustainable, resilient and inclusive patterns of growth**

HEALTHY PEOPLE AND PLANET



- Global temperature rise is limited to 1.5°C
- All countries and sectors **decarbonize by 2050**
- Support provided to countries heavily affected by climate emergencies
- Just transitions to a new labour ecosystem are ensured
- A functioning **ecosystem is preserved** for succeeding generations
- Communities are equipped to adapt and be resilient to climate change impacts

TRUST AND SOCIAL PROTECTION



- Strong commitment to the **universality and indivisibility of human rights**
- **Universal social protection floors, including universal health coverage**
- **Universal digital connectivity**
- **Quality education, skills enhancement** and lifelong learning
- Progress on addressing gender, racial, economic and other inequalities
- **Equal partnership between institutions and the people they serve** and among and within communities to strengthen social cohesion

SIGNS OF HOPE



146 million people lifted out of extreme poverty by 2030 through investments in governance, social protection, the green economy and digitalization (including 74 million women and girls)

Source: UNDP, 2020.



75% of methane emissions could be mitigated with existing technology today, up to 40% at no net cost

Source: UNEP, 2021.



Transitioning to **low-carbon, sustainable growth** approaches could deliver direct economic gains of \$26 trillion through to 2030 compared with business-as-usual approaches

Source: United Nations, 2021.

THE CONSEQUENCES FOR MULTILATERALISM



New era for multilateralism, as countries and other actors work to solve the problems that matter most



The international system **acts fast for everyone in an emergency**



All actors accountable for keeping commitments made

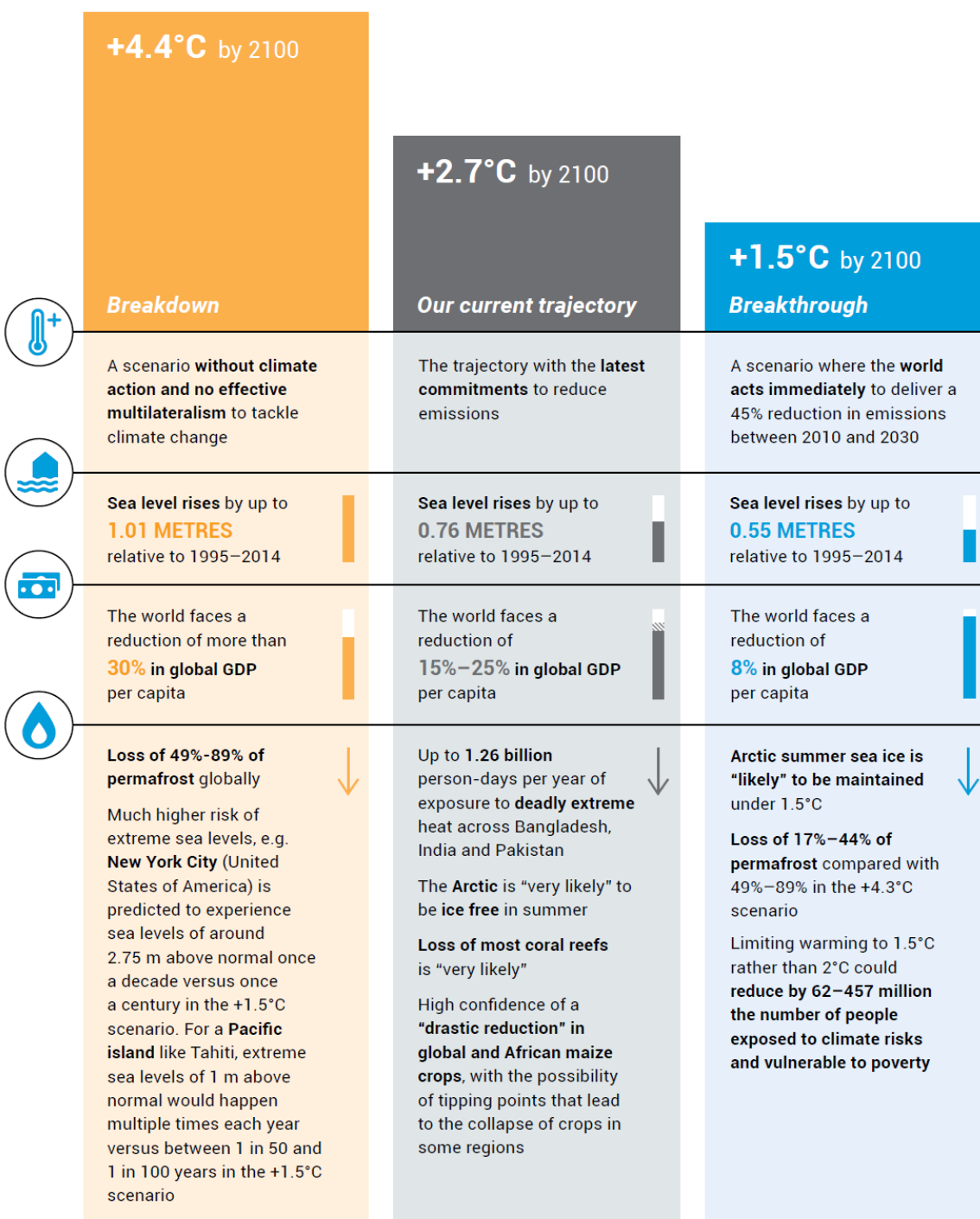


The **United Nations is a trusted platform** for collaboration between a growing number and diversity of actors



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CLIMATE BREAKDOWN OR BREAKTHROUGH

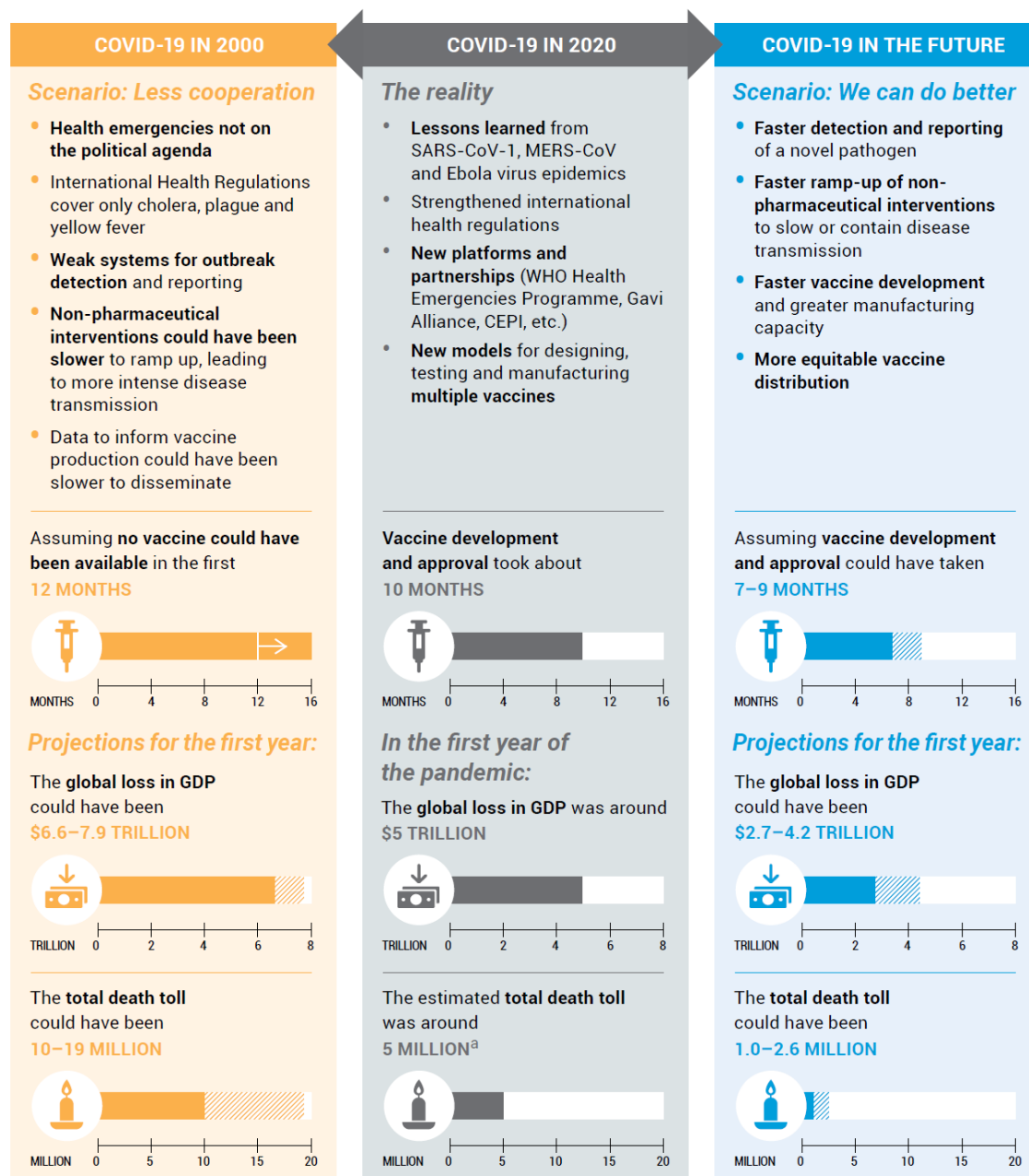


Sources: United Nations Foundation, Climate Analytics and E3G, 2021.



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THE CASE FOR COOPERATION: POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE TRAJECTORIES FOR COVID-19



Sources: United Nations Foundation and Metabiota, 2021.

Note: These estimates are based on simulations of the potential trajectory and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic under different levels of multilateral cooperation. The simulations used contemporary demographic and population mobility data and ran from the start of the pandemic through 28 February 2021, covering approximately the first year of the crisis.

Abbreviations: CEPI, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations; MERS, Middle East respiratory syndrome; SARS, severe acute respiratory syndrome.

^a This is an estimate of total deaths; reported COVID-19 cases and deaths over the same time period are lower due to underreporting.



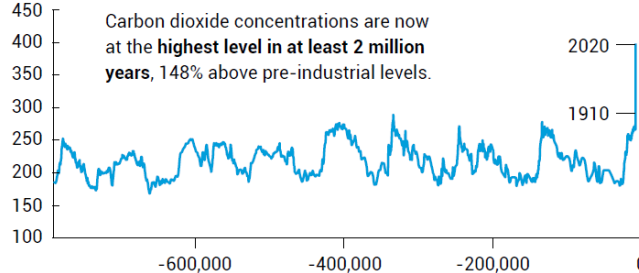
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PROJECTED DEGRADATION OF THE GLOBAL COMMONS

ATMOSPHERE

Trends in atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration over 800,000 years

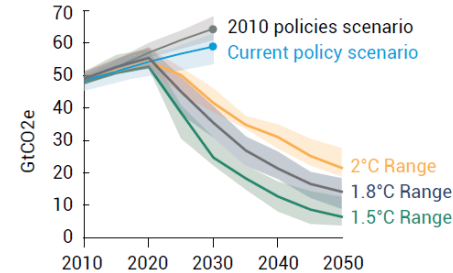
Mean carbon dioxide concentrations globally ppm



Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2020.

Projections for global GHG emissions under different scenarios

Note: Projections do not take into account commitments announced in early 2021.



Source: UNEP, 2020.

IV.

OUTER SPACE

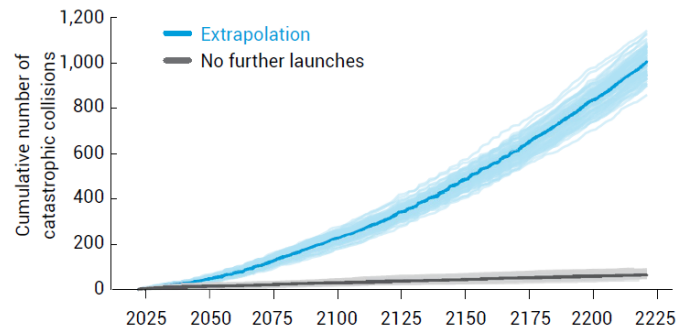
As the density of objects in orbit increases, so does the likelihood of collisions, where each collision will create further debris in a chain reaction potentially rendering space unusable for generations.



Lower orbit (2,000 km)

Outer space debris

Source: European Space Agency, 2021.

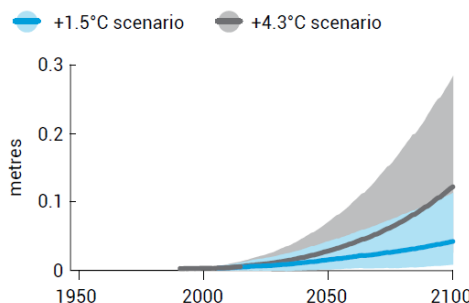


ANTARCTICA

Antarctic ice sheet mass loss

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2019.

as sea level equivalent, change relative to 1986–2005

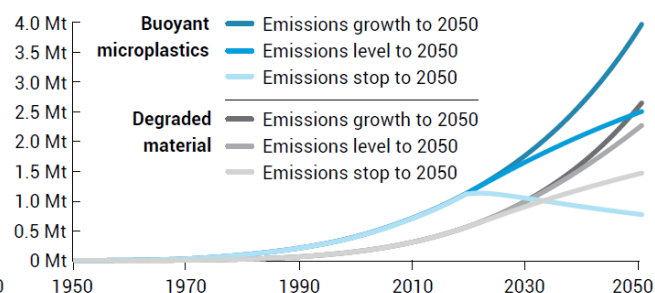


HIGH SEAS

Projected pollution of the sea

Source: Lebreton and others, 2019.

Even with an extremely ambitious scenario (no further emissions in the ocean by 2020), the level of microplastics in the ocean could double by mid-century as already accumulated plastic waste slowly degrades into smaller pieces.



Comms assets



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DGC Trello board for social media content in 9 languages (animated and static) for Twitter, Instagram and Facebook available at: <https://trello.com/b/abS2T2cI/our-common-agenda>

- Social media cards (quotes, key messages, GIFs, images)
- Video (quotes, key messages, GIFs, images)
- Handle / identifier
 - @UN
 - @antonioguterres

V. Contact

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