



REPORT

UNITED NATIONS 75TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

18 - 24 OCTOBER 2020



WHAT NEXT FOR THE UN?
BUILDING A MORE SECURE WORLD

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INTRODUCTION

Recent decades have not been kind to the United Nations: sidelined in Syria, compromised in Iraq (where it lost one of its finest servants, Sergio Vieira de Mello), prevented from taking action on Flight MH17, or in Libya, watching while its noble Responsibility to Protect initiative fell apart as governments actively prevented its implementation. The Economist magazine called its UN 75th Anniversary Briefing, The New World Disorder with an image of moths nibbling at a frayed tapestry. UN Member states took a decision NOT to celebrate the 75th Anniversary, saying in the UN75 Declaration: “We are not here to celebrate...” Some of us, “We the Peoples...” of these United Nations, disagree. We feel we have much to celebrate as for us, the UN is the reason we’ve not had a world war in our lifetimes, the reason that some of us are alive at all, have had food and education, have seen colonial masters depart, seen human rights flourish and gender discrimination diminish. Many member States barely tolerate the UN: they are grateful for its convening power and thought leadership but feel that, actually, they could do quite well without it. “We the Peoples...” know that, if we’ve learned nothing else from the COVID Pandemic, it is that we have to live and work together as friends or die together as fools. For us, the UN is the living symbol of us working together: in its UN75 Global Conversation and surveys, 87% of us said that Global Collaboration is vital. To us – supporting UN initiatives is a no-brainer and that thus only those individuals and governments that have no brain could resist collaboration as we face the existential challenges of the 21st Century.

To celebrate the Past, Present and Future of the UN – and to develop action ideas for building a more secure world – LASER and Peace Child International (PCI) put together this week-long UN75th Anniversary Festival: 6 x Workshops, a Closing Conference and Concert described in the pages that follow. We are grateful to UNA-UK for joining us on UN Day (24th Oct.) to present their Annual [Sir Brian Urquhart Award](#) for ‘Distinguished UN Service’ to journalist, Zeinab Badawi, and to organise a VIP Panel Discussion on “The Future We Want – the UN we need.”

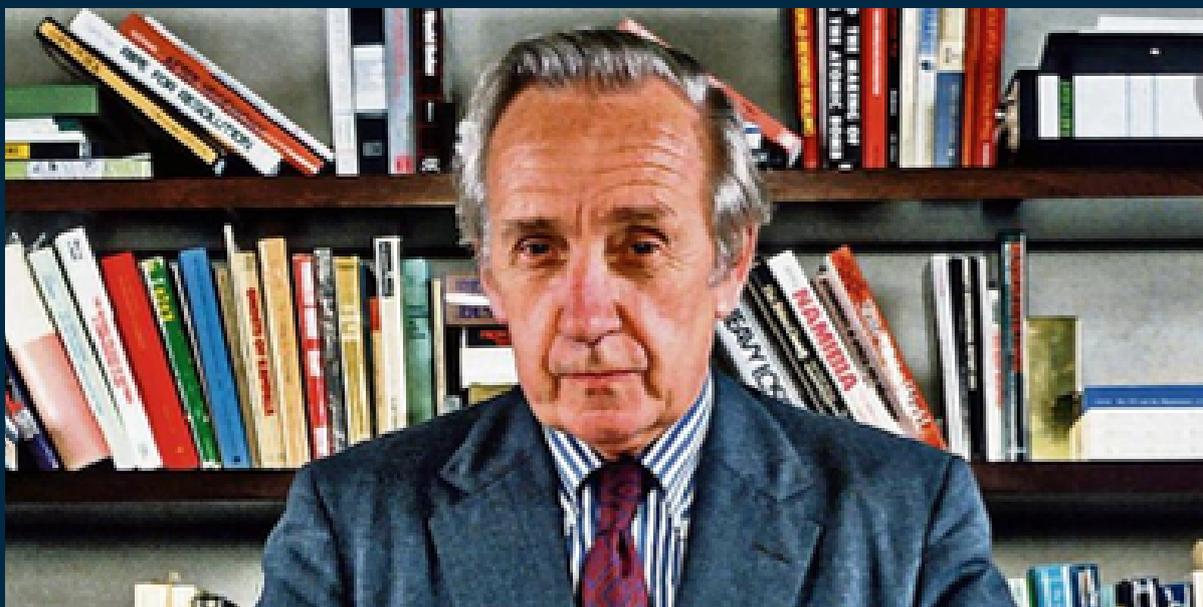
We start this Report with a Tribute to Sir Brian who died during the writing of it. Brian was Britain’s first, and arguably its most distinguished UN servant: in his long life, he championed the principles and values that make the UN such a vital institution for our World. Sadly unlike Sir Brian, many in the UK and around the world know little, and care less, about the UN. When asked to attend one of our UN75 events, one remarked: “I thought we’d left that...” (confusing the UN for the EU!) Even bright, high-achieving teen-agers sitting A-level politics have no clue what the UN does or why it might be relevant to them. It was for this reason that PCI prepared a book, [A World in our Hands](#), for the UN’s 50th Anniversary and did this Festival & [website](#) for UN75. But as we were planning it, one young intern asked: “Shouldn’t the UN do its own PR?” Well – perhaps, but UNAs and organisations like PCI exist to help the UN promote itself and the values it stands for. In its current predicament, the UN needs all the help it can get from “We the Peoples...” if it is to survive and prosper – and if its goals are to be met.

We were surprised to find that the UN has no public-facing annual celebration of its Birthday on UN Day. With think tanks like the [Stimson Center](#), projects like [Together First](#), and the UN’s own [Global Conversation](#) calling for more citizen involvement, we feel we should start one: an annual celebration of all that the UN does for us. This is one of several follow-up initiatives spawned by our Festival. If it is to have any value, it must spawn more: because, to survive the multiple challenges barrelling down the turnpike of the 21st Century towards us (climate change, more and deadlier pandemics, more and deadlier weapons etc.), [Together First](#) cannot just be a slogan: it has to become a global imperative.

THANK YOU! – to the army of VIPs, volunteers, academics and selfless UNA staff and members who gave freely of their time to make this UN75 festival happen. Thanks also to our sponsors who financed it. We hope to update you annually on our progress in implementing our Action Points and the [Together First](#) imperative as we move towards the UN’s Centenary in 2045. For this Festival – this Booklet – cannot be the end of the journey: it has to be the beginning.

*David R Woollcombe
Co-Host, UN75 UK Festival, Founder and President, Peace Child International
January 2021*

TRIBUTE TO



SIR BRIAN URQUHART KCMG MBE

Brian Urquhart's name came up in our UN75 Festival, not just as the brilliant diplomat he undoubtedly was, but as the lucid biographer of Dag Hammarskjöld and the name behind the UNA-UK award that, every year, honours "individuals whose work reflects Sir Brian's own dedication to the UN's values."

Born in Bridport, Dorset, Urquhart first gained notoriety as the young major who pointed out the folly of the Arnhem Bridge Too Far Operation Market Garden in the 2nd World War. Aged only 25, he had become Chief Intelligence Officer in General "Boy" Browning's 1st Airborne Corps, tasked with taking the Bridge at Arnhem. He discovered from Dutch Resistance groups that the Germans had two Panzer divisions defending the bridge but, even when he confirmed this intelligence with reconnaissance flights, he was unable to deter the top brass from their vain-glorious mission. Browning dismissed Urquhart's warnings as those of a *"nervous child suffering from a nightmare"* and ordered him to go on immediate leave or face court martial. Arnhem, of course, was a catastrophe, causing tens of thousands of pointless deaths. *"It was the most traumatic experience of my life,"* commented Urquhart. After the disaster, Urquhart left 1st Airborne *"because it's unpopular enough to be the one person who opposes something that everybody else wants to do. But if you turn out to be right, you get seriously unpopular."* That – and being the first man into Bergen-Belson – shaped his thinking and became the bedrock of his commitment to the UN.

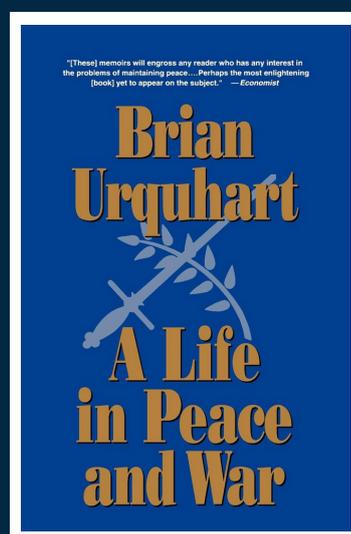
On leaving the army, Urquhart became an assistant to Gladwyn Jebb, the UN's first Acting Secretary General in October 1945 as the UN's second formal employee. He moved to New York as Trygve Lie's assistant to help organise the UN Secretariat and remained in the US for the rest of his life. He worked at the UN until his retirement in 1986, rising to the role of UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs in 1974. He was knighted in 1986.

Under Hammarskjöld, he had a key role with Ralph Bunche launching the UN's first peacekeeping operations. War had taught him that *"violence only breeds more violence"* and that Peacekeeping must be fundamentally a political rather than a military operation. Though they often worked 17-hour days, it was *"by far the most rewarding experience"* of his life. Together, they hammered out the 1949 Arab-Israeli armistice agreement, working out the role that peacekeeping could play. The UN's first blue beret peacekeepers were deployed after Suez to get British, French and Israeli forces out of Egypt. Urquhart saw them as *"lightly armed soldiers to aid the conciliation process"* but later accepted that they needed to adopt a more activist role. He appointed Brigadier Michael Harbottle to lead the UNFICYP force in Cyprus – where Michael became a fervent convert to UN peace-keeping. That appointment set in motion a train of events that led Michael to launch Peace Child International a decade later with his wife, Eirwen.

Both men said that War teaches us many lessons of value to the UN, chiefly the banishment of defeatist thinking: *"The UN is a vast and extremely difficult enterprise,"* Urquhart wrote. *"It is, in my view, out of the question to contemplate failure. The organisation simply has to be made to work. The probable alternative is not to be contemplated."* Even after he retired, Urquhart never lost his idealism or his conviction that the UN would remain an irreplaceable tool of international relations.

As a father of 5, grand-father to 14, and great-grand-father to 10 children, he was pleased to serve on several panels for Peace Child's young activists. Never talking down to them, he reminded them that the UN was only ever as good as its member governments, asserting that the UN's central duty to avert the Scourge of War could be only fulfilled by a Rapid Deployment Force of UN Peace-Keepers – something for which the P-5 Security Council members *"had never shown much enthusiasm..."* One time, he told us of his memories of Michael Harbottle, praising his treatise on "Proper Soldiering" and agreeing with Michael that National Security increasingly should be seen in terms of environmental security and conflict prevention: *"If your generation cannot get that right, the world you will be living in by the time you're my age will be a great deal less comfortable than the one we are living in now...."*

Sir Brian leaves us with a rich and detailed autobiography, *A Life in Peace and War* (1987). He was a top assistant to five UN Secretary-Generals and the tribute by the current one, Antonio Guterres, could have been said by any of them: *"Sir Brian's imprint on the United Nations was as profound as that of anyone in the Organization's history. He set the standard for the international civil service: dedicated and impartial."*



UNA MARKS UN'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY WITH FIRST EVER VIRTUAL UN DAY

UNA-UK commemorated the UN's 75th anniversary by presenting the Sir Brian Urquhart Award for Distinguished Service to the UN to renowned journalist, Zeinab Badawi.



Zeinab Badawi accepting the Sir Brian Urquhart Award, 24th October 2020

Named in honour of Sir Brian Urquhart, whose service to the UN spanned four decades, UNA-UK's award celebrates individuals whose work reflects Sir Brian's own dedication and endeavour. In honouring Ms Badawi, we were able to highlight her years of work supporting global justice, women's education, and the crucial role of the Global South in shaping international institutions. Her long standing advocacy for a more open, inclusive and effective UN is relevant now more than ever amid calls for the doors to be opened wider at the UN. UNA-UK was delighted to be joined virtually by Zeinab Badawi, who accepted the award and underlined the importance of the United Nations, stressing that a world without the UN would be a world without hope. Reflecting on her interactions with the UN, Ms Badawi said:

"In so many ways, personally, as a journalist, and as an advocate and a sharer of the vision of the United Nations, I have seen the importance of their work at a grassroots level. As somebody who has always had a foot in two camps, the global south because I was born in the Sudan, and the global north because I have lived in the UK since I was two years of age, I can honestly say that wearing these two hats, we need hope, wherever we are in the world."

Natalie Samarsinghe, Chief of Strategy for the Commemoration of the United Nations' 75th Anniversary, and Executive Director of UNA-UK, presented the award. Ms Samarsinghe said:

“Sir Brian was the second person recruited to the UN, and he shaped the organisation, he embodied its ideals. UNA presents this award each year to people we feel carry his legacy. In this anniversary year, a year marked by issues around gender equality, racial justice, the need to dispel misinformation, the need to reach out and touch people emotionally as well as intellectually, Zeinab was a unanimous choice. She is quite simply one of the most talented and distinguished broadcasters. She is a compelling storyteller and brilliant interviewer, and a longstanding champion - and not an uncritical one - of the United Nations and of UNA-UK, of bringing more diverse voices into international relations, and into broadcasting.”

The UN's 75th anniversary also offered a key opportunity to look to the future.

UNA-UK was delighted to be joined virtually by H.E. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Lord Mark Malloch-Brown, climate activist Nisreen Elsaim, CIVICUS Alliance's Mandeep Tiwana and Ahmad Fawzi for a panel discussion on the future we want and the UN we need in 2020 and beyond.

They explored the vital role of the UN in the last 75 years and the continuing relevance of the Organisation amid the Covid-19 pandemic. They also discussed the importance of good governance, leadership and the need for the UN to connect better with people on the ground. H.E. Maria Fernanda Espinosa said:

“The UN has to learn to use less acronyms and more synonyms. To connect better with people on the ground. The Organisation has to deliver for - and with - ‘We The Peoples.’ Young people should be given a platform, a voice, and the opportunity to shape the future they want for themselves. We need to overcome a communications challenge, but also an inclusion and participation challenge and deficit.”



Natalie Samarsinghe



H E Maria Fernanda Espinosa

Looking to the future, Lord Mark Malloch-Brown said:

"I think the UN will make it to 150 and beyond. Going forward it needs to renew its relevance and have an agenda which touches the lives and aspirations of people everywhere."

Nisreen Elsaïm noted progress made by the UN, raising the importance of engaging people on the ground:

"I think the UN is getting more inclusive, especially with the start of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, that I am Chairing right now. The UN is opening more doors and opening its arms to young people. Young people have proved that in all aspects - peace, security, climate change - we are always on the front line. I think some of the UN agencies should do better to include climate change in their negotiations and agendas. If we want to move far we must move together."

The discussion also highlighted the growing movement calling for a champion for civil society at the UN. Mandeep Tiwana of Civicus calls for a move away from a state-centric focus:

"The UN Charter begins with the words 'We the Peoples' but a lot of people feel the UN is very far away from them. Even though the UN's decisions are impacting their lives, they don't feel they have enough say on these decisions. We need a Civil Society Champion at the UN, someone who can ensure more inclusive conversations at the UN. This is something that is fairly easy to do."

Ahmad Fawzi said:

"The UN75 consultation process has underlined that people on the ground have a lot to say - and have the right to say it - they have to be included in the decision-making process."



Lord Mark Malloch Brown



Mandeep Tiwana

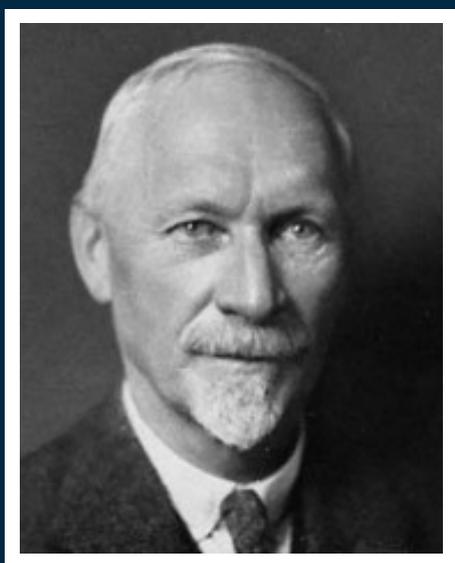
UN DAY CONCERT

SAT 24 OCTOBER 2020

Inspired by the **PAST**
Acknowledging the **PRESENT**
Creating the **FUTURE**

UN PAST: HEROES AND HEROINES WHO SHAPED THE UN

BIRTH OF THE UN SAN FRANCISCO



Jan Smuts

On the 19th May, 75 years ago, diplomats drafting the UN Charter crossed the Golden Gate Bridge to attend a memorial service in Cathedral Grove, Muir Woods to honour one of the chief architects of the UN, Franklin D Roosevelt who had died a month before. Jan Smuts, who wrote the famous opening words of the UN Charter:

“We the peoples, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations...”

Was asked to make the address. He said:

“Here among these great trees, this great man will find fitting and congenial company: the company of Giants. These giant redwoods were here when our ancestors were crafting the Magna Carta. They will be here long after we are all dead. They are as timeless and as strong as the ideals of Franklin D. Roosevelt and, let us hope, the United Nations organisation we are working to create.”



Cathedral Grove – 19.5.45

PEACE DAY



Voice of Arga

*Celebrations, jublations
Laughter, shouting , lots of fun
Singing, dancing, take your partner
Happiness for everyone
Peace enough for all mankind
Healthy body, happy mind
Faith and love the world as one
Peace Day Peace Day has begun
Come into my joy!
Come into my pain!
Come – you be a friend of mine!
I'll be the same!*

Music and Lyrics by David Gordon; Performed by: Voice of Arga x Dreamlight World Media; Producer: Dreamlight World Media, Larissa Nugroho Director: Yafet Nugroho; Arranger: Gabriel Satyoadi; Videographers: Gabriel Satyoadi, Samuel Kandias; Video Editor: Gabriel Satyoadi; Recording, mixing & mastering: Yafet Nugroho

Vocals: Aldi Lasso, Ester Komalig, Lia Lokollo, Yafet Nugroho, Larissa Nugroho, Electronic Music: Gabriel Satyoadi; Traditional Music: Hermas Nurjaya, Gabriel Satyoadi, Raka Anupratama, Dicky Zeremia, Albertus Yopi, Sagi Saputro, Faisal Kliwon, Hasan Ismail, Ester Komalig

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES

A tribute delivered by actress, Jane Alexander:

I'm delighted to be paying tribute to this evening's first great hero of the UN's 75 year history: Eleanor Roosevelt – a lady whom I had the privilege of playing in two TV dramas some years ago. She was a towering figure of the 20th Century; the 1st US Ambassador to the UN; chair of the Commission that created the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; lifelong campaigner for the rights and freedoms of the dispossessed. When she died, Adlai Stevenson said: *"What other single human being has touched and transformed the lives of so many? She would rather light a candle than curse the darkness, and her glow has warmed the world."* Let me read some lines from the great speech she gave in Paris on The Struggle for Human Rights:

"I have come this evening to talk with you on one of the greatest issues of our time -- the preservation of human freedom. I have chosen to discuss it here in France because here, on this soil, the roots of human freedom have been richly nourished: it was here the Declaration of the Rights of Man was proclaimed, and the great slogans of the French Revolution – *"Liberty, equality, fraternity!"* - fired the imagination of women and men around the world and down the corridors of history. Like those slogans, the basic premise of the UN Charter is that the peace and security of all human beings is dependent on mutual respect for the rights and freedoms of all. It declares: *"We the people of the United Nations determined...to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and...to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."*



Eleanor Roosevelt
with the Universal Declaration



Jane Alexander,
Actress and Environmentalist

I HAVE A VISION



Gwen McDowell and her daughter, Cierra Jennings

Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

*There's a way you see, where no one gets hurt
There's a way with love if you try!
There is hope and faith to keep you alive
In your darkest day, just pray!*

*Reach out with love, gather all your courage
Reach out with love, seek a brighter day!
Love as our sword, peace as our weapon
Reach out with love!
Let us win this way!*

*Martin Luther King had a vision!
He had a dream
He had the answer - or so it seemed!
He knew the truth to fight is not right
We can have our rainbow - we can have the sunlight!
We must unite!*

Music and Lyrics by David Gordon;
Arrangers: Richard Sharpey, Steve Riffkin;
Performers: Gwen McDowell, Cierra Jennings
Recording: Claude Jennings Jr.;
Video Editor: Magdalena Paczocha;
Mixing & Mastering: Tom Powell, Richard Sharpey

DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN

A tribute delivered by actor, Dominic Mafham:

Dag Hammarskjöld was a modest, shy man who never expected to become UN Secretary-General. He was amazed when he was appointed on March 31st 1953, telling the journalist who broke the news to him: *"Your watch must be fast. It's not yet April Fool's day...!"* He arrived in New York with what he described as "a strong feeling of personal insufficiency." But he came to the UN at a propitious time: Stalin had just died; President Eisenhower had just arrived in the White House and, with him, the prospect of an armistice in the Korean War. The scene was set for someone to revive the confidence of governments in the potential of the United Nations. The UN's greatest good fortune – and the world's – was that this someone turned out to be Dag Hammarskjöld. Though a legendary diplomat, he was a deeply philosophical, private man. His book of poetry, *Markings*, published after his untimely death in 1961, reveals this. Here's an example:

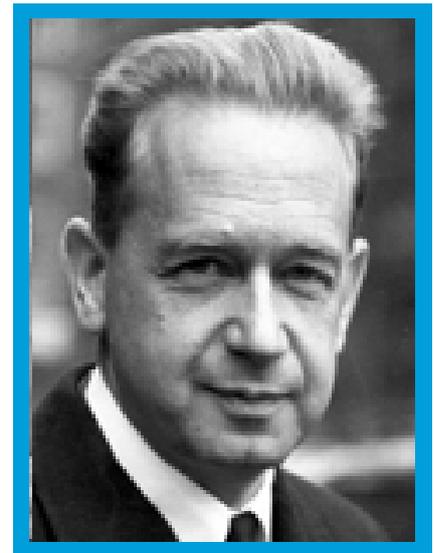
The heart aches.

***Meltwater trickles down the rocks;
The fingers are numb, the knees tremble.
It is now - now, that you must not give in.***

***Weep! Weep if you can,
Weep - but do not complain.
You did not choose the way
The way chose you – and you must be
thankful.***



Dominic Mafham reads the tribute



Dag Hammarskjöld

His biographer, Brian Urquhart, summed him up thus: *"He was that most unusual of creatures: a truly good man. His integrity was absolute, his intellect, acute and subtle. He inspired loyalties and affections of remarkable intensity and duration."* President Kennedy called him: *"quite simply, the greatest statesman of our century."*

LISTEN TO ME



Dionne Ward-Anderson

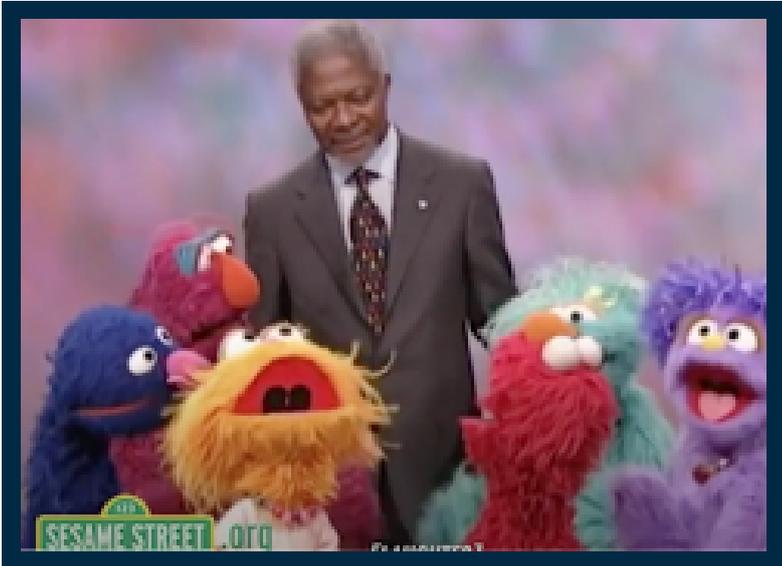
*Please listen to me!
Heed the words that I say
We live in one world so our home is the same
The same sun is our fire;
The same clouds give us rain
So whatever you desire
Our future's the same*

*So open your eyes – take the truth as it stands
We have but one earth – so we must share the land
The same moon is our lantern – the same sky is our roof
So whatever your reasons – come follow the truth*

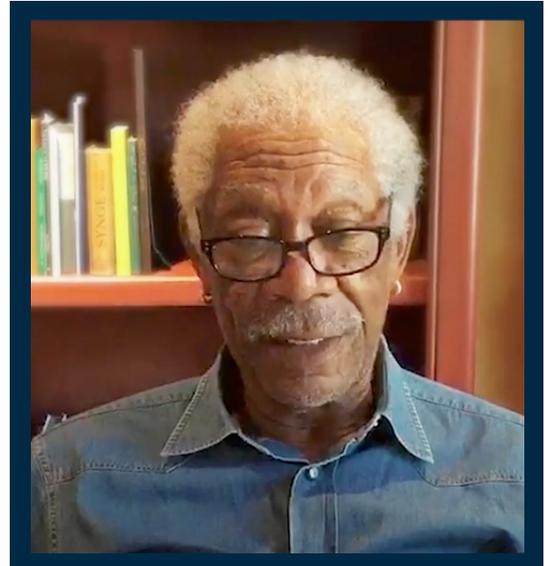
Music and Lyrics by David Gordon;
Performer: Dionne Ward-Anderson;
Accompanist & Arranger: Richard Sharpey;
Video Editor: Magdalena Paczocha;
Mixing & Mastering: Tom Powell, Richard Sharpey

KOFI ANNAN

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN



Kofi Annan on Sesame St.



Morgan Freeman

Morgan Freeman reads Kofi Annan's Christening Address to Phoebe Malloch Brown on becoming her Godfather, Dec. 2001

What a wonderful time to be a little girl! Nothing need hold her back. From nursery to school to college and adulthood, she will not have to face the old barriers of gender, race or religion. Opportunity, knowledge, and friendship will be hers for the asking. But first Phoebe – and all of us – must overcome today's world of great uncertainty, in which none of us can feel truly safe – from violence, from epidemic disease, from climate change or a host of other dangers that have no respect for national borders. Within her lifetime, Phoebe could see the world change so that:

- no child would any longer have to go to bed hungry;
- no child would have to risk her health by drinking dirty water;
- all children would benefit from electricity, basic sanitation, primary health care, and education;
- and, above all, every child would have a reasonable chance of living life to its full potential.

A tribute delivered by Goddaughter, Phoebe Malloch Brown:

I am Phoebe Malloch Brown - the baby being christened that day. It's definitely hard for me to sum up Kofi: throughout my life, he was one of the people I looked up to the most. Despite his time-consuming career, he was always writing me sweet letters and he never forgot a birthday. However, the most memorable thing that Kofi taught me was the importance of being kind, of helping others and always being thankful for what we have. Kofi believed in families – and believed that the world was one big family. He was hamstrung by the inherent flaw of his position: he was a “secular pope” – a figure of moral authority bereft of the big battalions needed to enforce the policies he knew the world should be following. He pursued them anyway and was rewarded for doing so with a Nobel Peace Prize in 2001. Receiving it, this is what he said:

“Today, in Afghanistan, a girl will be born. Her mother will hold her and feed her, but she will begin life under conditions that many of us in this hall would consider inhuman. There is a one-in-four risk that she will not live to see her fifth birthday. Whether she does is just one test of our common humanity – of our belief in our individual responsibility for our fellow men and women. But it is the only test that matters. No one today is unaware of this divide between the world’s rich and poor. So remember this girl and then our larger aims – to fight poverty, prevent conflict, or cure disease – will not seem distant, or impossible. Indeed, those needs will seem very near, and very achievable. Answering their needs will be the mission of the United Nations in the century to come.”

- Kofi Annan’s Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech, Oslo, Norway, September 2001

Having Kofi Annan as a godfather makes me understand that fulfilling those aims is not just the mission of the UN in its next 75 years – but the mission of all of us. Of “We the peoples...” referred to in the UN Charter. I hope you will all remember Kofi as the kind and lovely man that I remember. But, much more, I hope that you will remember his instructions to us as a human family and that, 75 years hence, we will live in a world that has followed those instructions. Thank you, Kofi, for your inspiration. And thank you all for listening.



Phoebe Malloch Brown in 2001



Phoebe today

CHILD FOR A DAY



Hope Lavelle, Leila, Ethan, Jay Scott and Lina Sleibi

*I was a child who ran full of laughter
I was a child who lived for today
My eyes full of sunshine
My heart full of smiles
I was a child for a day.*

*We're getting older as time goes by
A little older every day
We were the children of yesterday.*

Music and Lyrics by David Gordon;
Performers: Hope Lavelle, Leila, Lina Sleibi, Ethan Jay Scott ;
Accompanist & Arranger: Richard Sharpey;
Video Editors: Tom Powell, Magdalena Paczocha;
Mixing & Mastering: Tom Powell, Richard Sharpey

JAMES GRANT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF



James P Grant

James Grant was appointed Executive Director of UNICEF, the UN Children's Agency, by President Jimmy Carter. He served from 1980 until a few days before his death in January 1995. Nicholas Kristof, 2-time Pulitzer-prize winning journalist, famously wrote of Grant that he had *"probably saved more lives than were destroyed by Hitler, Mao and Stalin combined."* He certainly made UNICEF the most beloved of all the UN agencies.

His Deputy for most of those years, Sir Richard Jolly, paid this tribute to him:



Sir Richard Jolly

When Jim arrived at UNICEF, it was focussed on many things – but Jim decided to sharpen its focus to concentrate on reducing Child Mortality: 15 million children a year were dying of easily preventable diseases – so Jim devised a 4-step plan to reduce that number:

1. Encourage Breast-feeding – to improve nutrition;
2. Enable immunisation of all children;
3. Oral Re-hydration Therapy – a simple salt solution that prevents diarrhoea in young children;
4. Proper monitoring via health clinics in every village.

And he had another idea: *"Let's have Targets – 80% of all children immunised by 1990!"* And from 1982 to 1990, he worked night and day, raising funds – pushing and cajoling. Leading. And we got there. 80% of children were immunised – and UNICEF had reduced the number of infants dying by THREE MILLION!! So he agreed: *"Let's celebrate... and he organised the World Summit for Children. But he also set new targets for the 1990s!"* And his idea of targets was picked up by Kofi Annan in the Millennium Development Goals and now with the Sustainable Development Goals.

If Jim was alive now, he would be pressing world leaders to take an international perspective on problems like Covid – through a stronger United Nations. And he would encourage selfless leadership – of the kind he personified more than any other leader I have known. Practical Visionary Leaders. We can all be such leaders, in our lives, in our families, in our communities, in our nations. And the world needs them right now. Desperately!"



United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

LOVE WILL TEACH YOU THIS



Mariana Pedreira

*Love – love will bring you this;
Love – love will make you rich
A new beginning to your life;
A paradise before your eyes
Love, love will teach you this
Hold on to every smile and kiss
Who knows how long that it will last
Before your paths will part
Love – love will bring you this;
Love – love will make you rich
A new beginning to your life
A feeling that you've lived*

By David Gordon;
Performed by Mariana Pedreira;
Accompanist & Arranger: Richard Sharpey;
Video Editor: Magdalena Paczocha;
Mixing & Mastering: Tom Powell, Richard Sharpey

SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO

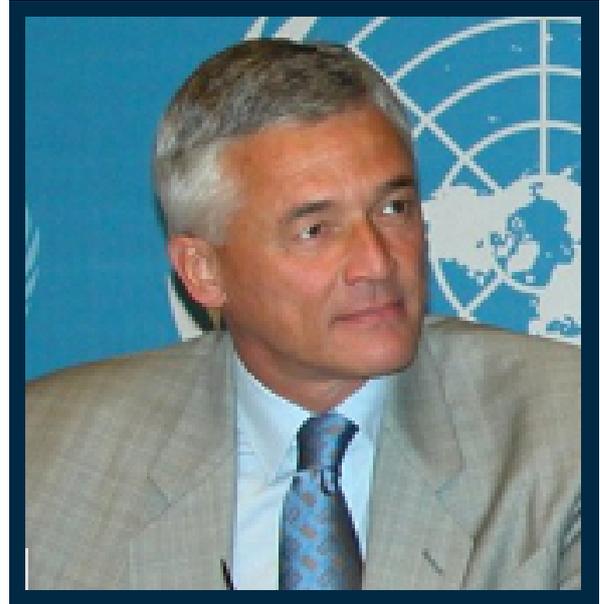
UN DIPLOMAT

A tribute delivered by Chief of Operations for Sérgio Vieira de Mello, Fabrizio Hochschild:

The first memory is of his cheerfulness, his infectious optimism which left all who met him feeling better after any encounter with him. Part of that was his charisma, his charm - but was also his "Can do" attitude which left you with the feeling that, whatever the problem, it will be managed. One thing Sérgio always did was always to make sure that there were one or two people in the room on whom he could rely for constant, candid and very outspoken disagreement. He liked to be challenged, he liked to hear the counter-arguments, and sometimes he would change. Often he wouldn't. But he would never surround himself with *Yes people*.



Fabrizio Hochschild Drummond



Sérgio Vieira de Mello

Sérgio really did pay respect to the Human Dignity in everyone. Even the worst Human Rights offender, he would treat with incredible civility. I saw that on many occasions, treating War Criminals as if they were friends, paying respect to the human dignity in all. And this enabled him to win concessions that people with a more confrontational or more judgemental approach never would have managed.



Samantha Power

A tribute delivered by Sérgio's authorised biographer, Samantha Power:

Sérgio was a decathlete of nation-building, of problem-solving, of troubleshooting in the world's worst places. In the world's most broken places. Lebanon, Bosnia, Cambodia, Congo, East Timor, Iraq. What would be the four main lessons I take from his life and career?

- **First:** that evil is something to learn from. Don't be afraid to talk to evil people but don't check your principles at the door: don't forget what it is that they've done, but don't be controlled or obsessed by it.
- **Second:** His reverence for human life and dignity. Really, really unusual in the government sphere;
- **Third:** "Fear is a bad advisor." Sérgio used to say this a lot: "Fear is a bad advisor."
- **Fourth:** Accept Complexity. Embrace it! Be humbled by it. Sérgio had an acute awareness of the complexity of the world around him, how Sisyphean was this task of mending it. But he was never paralyzed by it."

"A comprehensive strategy for security must be guided by the rule of law, under which conflict is resolved and wrongs are righted by applying impartial, democratically established rules. The rule of law means that those in power are accountable. Everyone is equal before the law and there is no impunity for violation of the law. The rule of law is a constant; it applies at all times to all States to all persons. It sets minimum standards for governance."

Sergio Vieira de Mello

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva in his maiden speech to his staff

PEACE TRAIN



Daly Triki

*Now I've been happy lately
Thinking about the good things to come
And I believe it could be
Something good has begun
Oh Peace Train sounding louder
Glide on the Peace Train
Yes, Peace Train holy roller
Everyone jump on the Peace Train
Come on now, Peace Train*

by Yusuf / Cat Stevens;
Performed & Arranged by Daly Triki;
Mixing & Mastering: Tom Powell

UNSUNG HEROES

A tribute delivered by actress, Liz Crowther:

It is my privilege to pay the last, and perhaps the most important, tribute of this Anniversary Festival to the tens of thousands of un-sung heroes and heroines who have worked for the UN these last 75 years in far-flung places, often in considerable discomfort and great personal risk. People like Rekha – a driver for the UN’s World Food Programme. Rekha was married at 13 but her husband died while she was pregnant with their second son. Rekha immediately started looking for work, selling off her jewellery to pay to be trained as a UN driver.



Rekha Akter – WFP Driver and Trainer

“For the past 18 years,” she says, “I have trained other female drivers for several UN agencies. It has given me immense satisfaction but – there are costs: my work keeps me far away from my children – and I have not been as much a part of their growing up as I would like. However, the struggles I’ve encountered makes me feel connected to the struggles of the refugees and the hungry people that we work for.”

Flora Macula, one of 17,000 staff members of the UN High Commission for Refugees, would agree. Born a refugee during the Balkan wars, she likens refugees to trees forcefully uprooted and replanted on barren soil. She sees her job as enriching the soil and focusing on the tree's recovery. "After two decades in this sector," she says, "I still have the fire in me to work tirelessly in emergency situations. Though I am now working for refugees, I will always remember what it felt like to be a refugee. All humans carries their history with them. I know I do."



Flora Macula



Liz Crowther
paying tribute to the 44,000 women
and men who work for the UN around the world

I could go on. I could talk about the 3,928 individuals who have lost their lives in the service of the UN. As we look forward, remember these heroes and heroines who have gone before: they were young people once. If you are a young person now, you could be one of the UN heroes and heroines of the next 75 years. Think about it!



Suman Kishmat



Gloria Kiriri

UN PRESENT

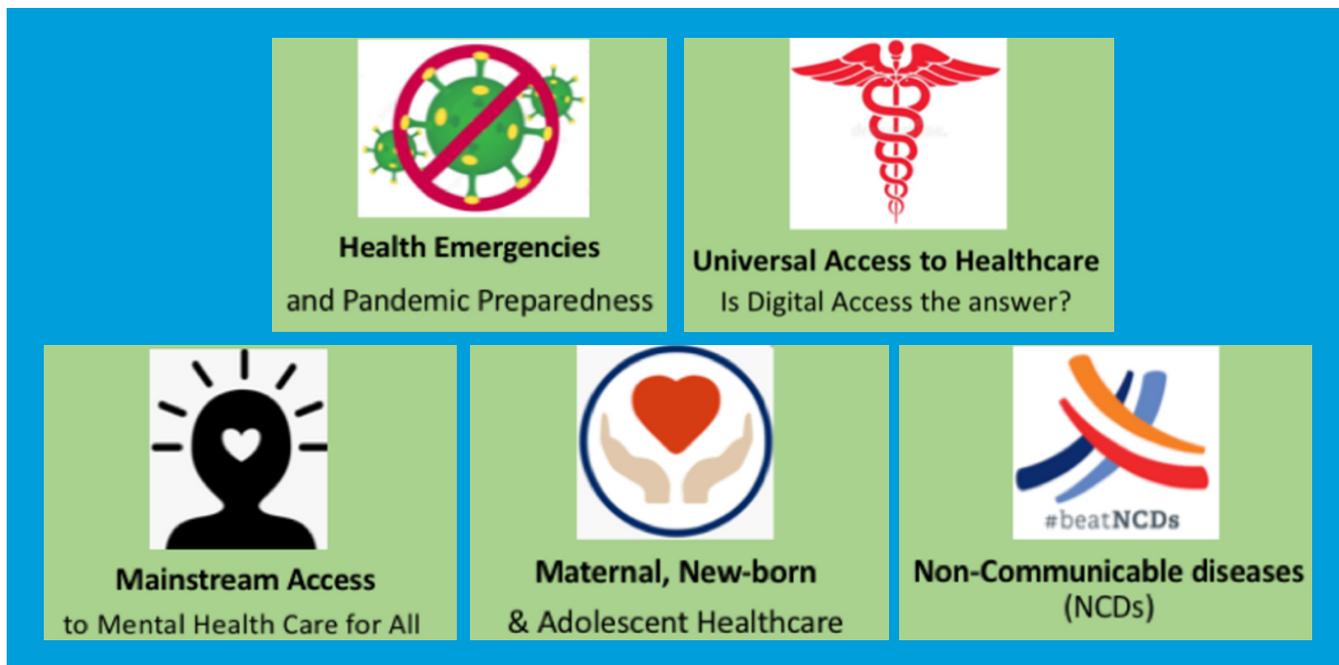
*WORKSHOPS:
BUILDING A MORE
SECURE WORLD*

SUNDAY 18TH TO
SATURDAY 24TH
OCTOBER 2020

HEALTH SECURITY WORKSHOP

'EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO FOOD, CLOTHING, HOUSING AND MEDICAL CARE IN THE EVENT OF SICKNESS. MOTHERHOOD AND CHILDHOOD ARE ENTITLED TO SPECIAL CARE AND ASSISTANCE.'

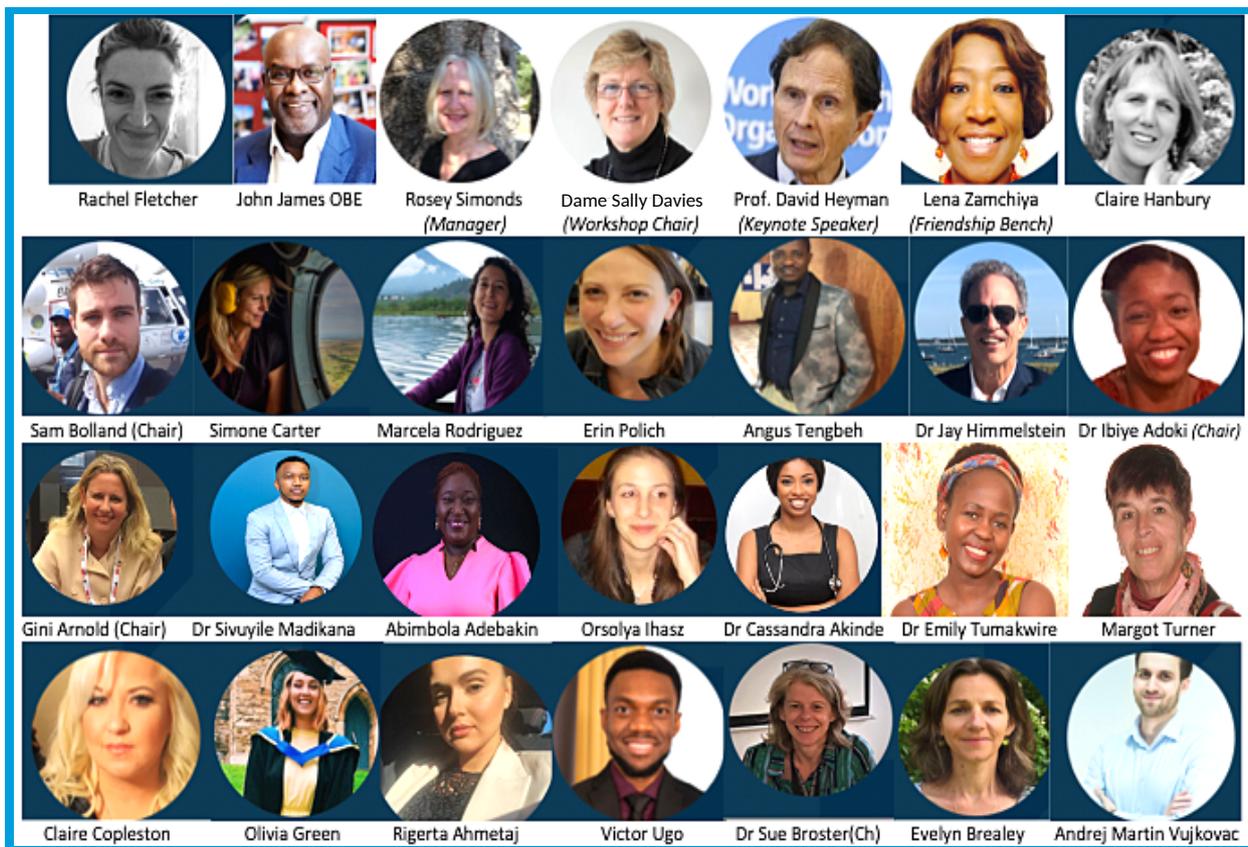
ARTICLE 25, UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



HEALTH MATTERS

In light of 8 months experience of the pandemic, our international panel of experts, chaired by Dame Sally Davies, explored lessons learned, shared best practices and discussed what could be done to strengthen struggling health-care systems. The 5 Breakout Groups explored what actions could be taken at an individual, community, national or international level.

PARTICIPANTS:



[View Full Workshop HERE](#)

Calls to action



Individuals

- Share your solutions for community problems
- Know that health is your human right
- Voice your priorities to decision-makers



Nations

- Think long term
- Use digital tech to support, not replace health services
- Invest in equitable health system



Communities

- Share best practice and learn what works for others
- Medical education must recognise diversity
- Normalise mental health



UN

- Combat the root causes of ill health globally
- Learn from ideas all over the world
- Make projects community led

[Take Action Link](#)

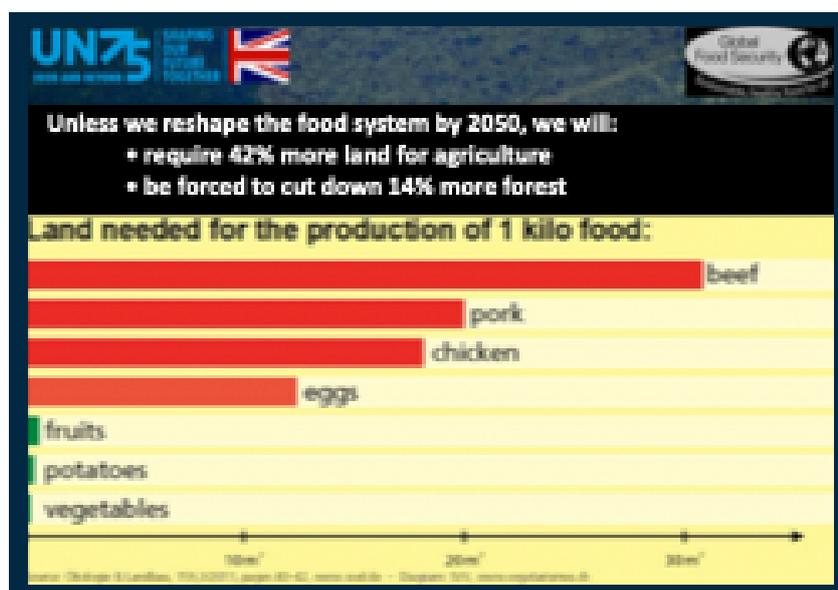
[Link to Background Paper](#)

FOOD SECURITY WORKSHOP



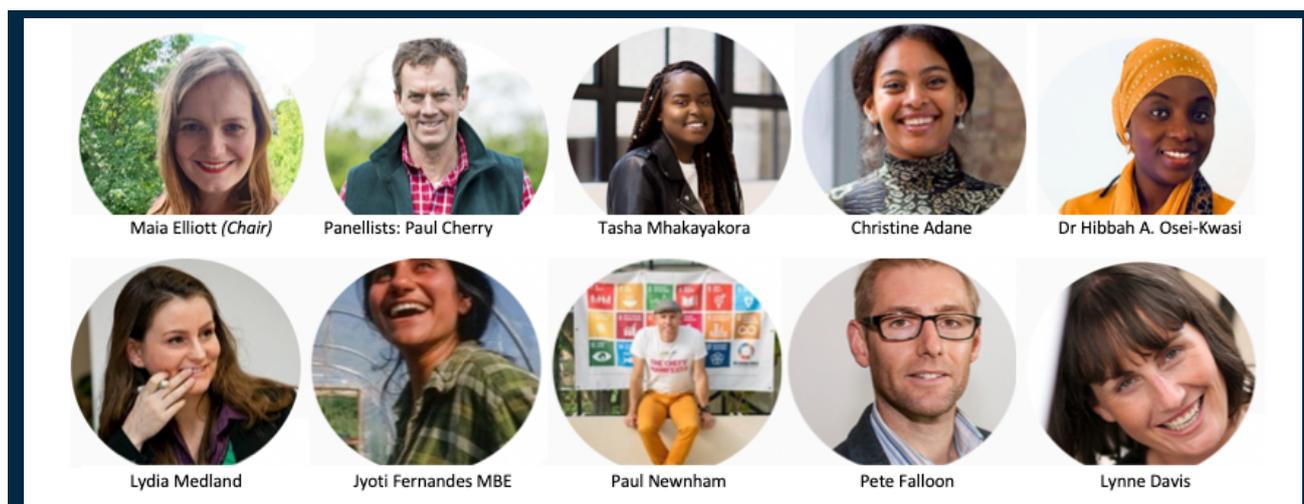
A FOOD AWAKENING

What would our food system look like if we transformed it to tackle global challenges like the climate crisis, rising inequality and biodiversity loss? And what could our future hold if we don't? We cannot put the world to rights on empty stomachs - so we need to start with food. A Food Awakening, organised by Maia Elliott of the Food Security Institute, provided an evening of food-inspired stories and discussions, to find out what these global challenges mean for the food on our plates.



UN75 Food Security Presentation
See the whole presentation [HERE](#)
Read the Background Paper [HERE](#)

PARTICIPANTS:



[View Full Workshop HERE](#)

Proposals for Action:

- **Individual:** Join a local group to fight injustice; in the food system; eat seasonally; cook with plant-based whole foods;
- **Community:** Organise food-sharing events; identify culturally appropriate changes to address health, sustainability, and accessibility issues in the food system; establish community-led food growing, food-sharing and waste-composting schemes.
- **National:** Establish food education as a core national curriculum subject; adopt a food policy framework that supports a just transition for food system actors to sustainable food production, healthy diets, food waste-reduction, agricultural diversification;
- **International:** Incentivise food system transparency by a global reward scheme; promote global citizenship through food;

UN75 Food Security Expert Working Group (who met to plan the content of the workshop): Christina Adane (Bite Back 2030 youth board); Ed Atkins (University of Bristol); Barbara Bray MBE (Director, Oxford Farming Conference); Dan Crossley (Food Ethics Council); Pete Falloon (Met Office); Jyoti Fernandes MBE (Landworkers Alliance); Helen Harwatt (Chatham House); Aled Jones (Global Sustainability Institute); Kate Mayne (farm advisor); Hannah McGrath (PhD student & entrepreneur); Tasha Mhakayakora (Bite Back 2030 youth board); Jordan Russell (student & activist); Matt Sowerby (poet & activist); Laura Wellesley (Chatham House); Ali Yellop (Grow2Know); George Young (Fobbing Farm)

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY WORKSHOP



Grab the Wheel

SAVE LIFE!

This workshop was an intergenerational dialogue between youth and older activists who have spent their lives trying to draw humanity back from the brink of environmental catastrophe. We have to reduce consumption, and drive a Green New Deal to Zero Carbon Sustainability, but HOW? – Youth and Elders agreed Actions but, as we enter this, the most consequential decade of human history, are these actions enough to Save Life?

PARTICIPANTS:



Jonathon Porritt

Flora Griffiths

Karen Eng

Ella Faye Donley

Mark Lynas

Estelle Marsh

Lauren Banham

Bart Ullstein

Abigail Wordsworth

David Woolcombe - Chair

Rosa Lynas

Lauren: My question is: *“Why is it, do you think, that previous generations haven’t taken as much action as they should have done to move us along to achieving a sustainable future?”*

Jonathon: We haven’t done enough because we haven’t shifted people’s values. We’ve tried to make environmental arguments work at a time when an awful lot of people were either ignorant or indifferent to the state of the planet. We tried to do it during a period of capitalism which was almost uniquely vicious in terms of extracting wealth from people, communities and, of course, the planet. And we tried to do it in such a way so as not to engage people in the deeper issues about the meaning of life and values and the relationship between ourselves and the natural world. So it is that values dimension which I think is now going to come to the fore because you can’t just argue this from a technocratic point-of-view: we have to dig deep into what it is that makes life special for all human beings and achieve a just transition to a sustainable lifestyle for the whole of humankind.

Proposals for Action:

- **Individual:** Encourage personal carbon budgets; foster inter-generational eco-collaboration; boycott fast food and fast fashion;
- **Community:** Create Local Green New Deals; local tax incentives for Carbon Neutrality; campaign for more green spaces with edible landscaping; encourage Transition Communities to transition to local Green Economies; incentivise green local creativity;
- **National:** Deliver K thru’ 12 examined & experiential Eco-Education; incentivise re-wilding; ban fossil-fuel cars by 2030;
- **International:** Create a “We the Peoples....” digital UN based on Citizens’ Assemblies; Make ecocide an international crime; phase out all pollution subsidies as quickly as possible and to use subsidies to support the movement towards a green economy.

[*View the Full Workshop HERE*](#)

ECONOMIC SECURITY WORKSHOP



Sustainable, inclusive employment growth was the overarching topic of this workshop. Not only is it vital to broadly delivering economic security, but as an issue it encompasses many related themes that affect economic security, including:

SECURE JOBS IN A SECURE ECONOMY

- Risks from environmental degradation and climate change
- The need for access to capital;
- The problem of excessive indebtedness
- The impact of culture on economic inclusion, and the barriers gender, race, and social class can create
- Emergent economic changes and the future of work

Economic security enables individuals' and communities' resilience and quality of life. As we look to the UN mission of the next 75 years, it is vital to discuss how to deliver economic security across the globe. A key pillar of economic security is employment: to expand economic security, we must expand inclusive employment opportunities in a sustainable manner.

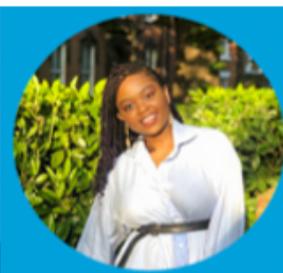
[Read the Background Paper HERE](#)



Rahul Sinha – Manager



Lord Stewart Wood – Chair



Shammah Gwedegwe – Rapporteur

PANELLISTS

Panel One: Encouraging Inclusion



Marv Kawar

Aletheia Donald

Matthew Saltmarsh

Panel Two: Creating Growth



Adriana Poglia

Dame Barbara Stocking

Timothy Jones

Jeremy Lefroy

Panel Three: Resilient Employment



Lata Narayanaswamy

Nisha Krishnan

Alan Lockey

[View the Full Workshop HERE](#)

Proposals for Action:

- **Community:** Create regional/community financial markets for small capital ventures to exchange equity for capital;
- **Individual:** start new businesses & create local jobs; invest in local businesses; engage with new migrant / refugee residents;
- **National:** Coach those made redundant via job security councils. Teach skills & understanding needed to start & run small businesses. Improve accountability for national debt. Adhere to 1967 UN Convention to protect Refugees' economic security.
- **International:** UN should expand Responsibility to Protect to Pandemics; reform UN WHO to pre-empt potential pandemics;

PEACE & SECURITY WORKSHOP



LET'S BUILD PEACE!

*Read the Background Paper [HERE](#)
See the Powerpoint Presentation [HERE](#)*

CONTRIBUTORS



David Wardrop – Manager

Selim Mezhoud – Chair

Isabella Qin – Youth Panellist

Alan Doss



Zahed Amanullah

Ian Martin

David Adams

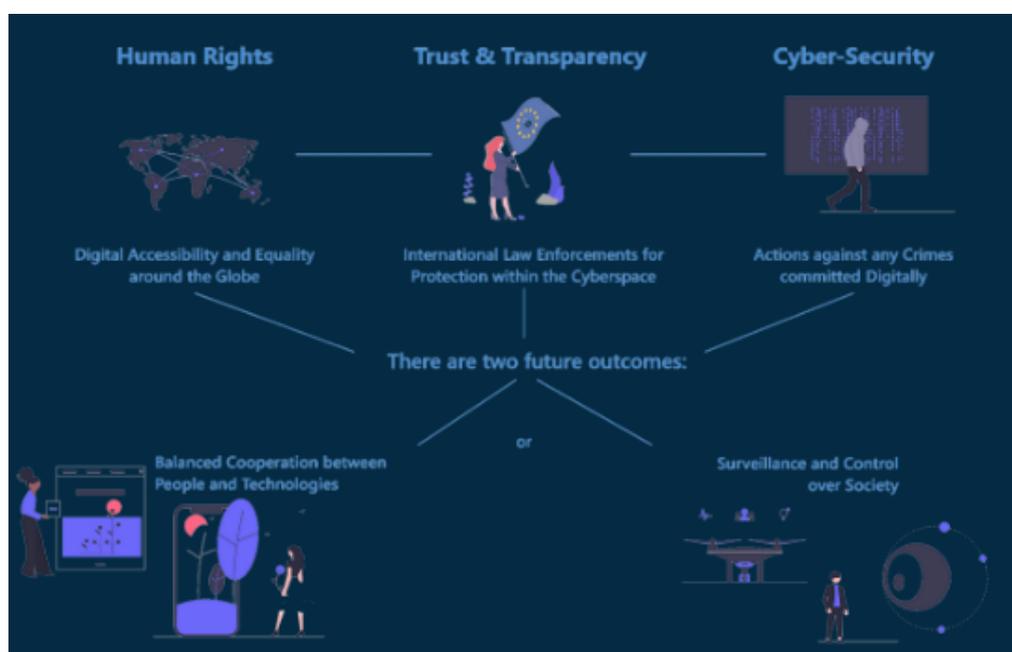
For long-lasting security on the other issues explored in this UN75 Festival – health, food, the economy, the environment and digital security – it is first vital to have Peace. So how do you Build Peace? In this workshop, we used the UN’s Culture of Peace Initiative to divide peace into 8 x critical, yet manageable, elements thus:

1. **Education for Peace**: develop **capacity** to improve skills & procedures to mitigate risk of conflict; develop curricula that teach peacebuilding, tolerance, human rights etc. – each of the 7 other elements of the Culture of Peace; strengthen the **role of youth**;
2. **Sustainable Development**: use **Uniting for Peace** option to clear Security Council P-5 obstacle to enable the passage of measures like the S-G’s COVID Global Ceasefire; UN Smart Sustainable Cities project secures an important pre-condition for Culture of Peace;
3. **Equality for Women**: In 2000, UN pressed for women to be peacekeepers. Today, they make up only 6%; by 2028, the UN plans to raise this to 15%. **Women peacekeepers** help women in conflict zones, and inspire women to lead change – as in Sudan;
4. **Human Rights**: Promote **positive peace**: society free from structural problems that lead citizens to violence; expand Accountability mechanisms (like Responsibility to Protect) by all UN member states to defend Human Rights;
5. **Disarmament and Security**: Support the **#ICANSAVE My City**: use social media to campaign against killer robots and support the **Pugwash ethical science festival** for youth; get **University UNAs** to lead workshops for local young people on these issues;
6. **Democratic Participation**: **Involve Youth**: they’re more optimistic about future than elders. Create a **UN Youth Council**; Listen to minorities: Black Lives Matter etc.; promote **Open Government Partnership** to showcase successful ‘bright lights’;
7. **Tolerance and Solidarity**: **Tolerance** = curiosity not indifference. **Solidarity** = 1945 spirit; end pandemics by showing solidarity;
8. **Free Flow of Information**: **Share best practice**: hold media-military dialogues post-conflict to build trust & understanding; regulate media to include minority politics & cultures; licence all media actors, including small and independent to cover all sides .

[View the Full Workshop HERE](#)

DIGITAL SECURITY WORKSHOP

The exponential increase in the use and dependency on digital technologies over the past 75 years and their integration into almost all aspects of our daily lives raises a crucial question today: to what extent are we, the users, truly protagonists in the resultant decision-making process shaping our future? In this workshop, we explored three main themes: Human Rights in the Digital Age; Trust and Transparency; and Cyber-Security.



THE DIGITAL FUTURE WE WANT

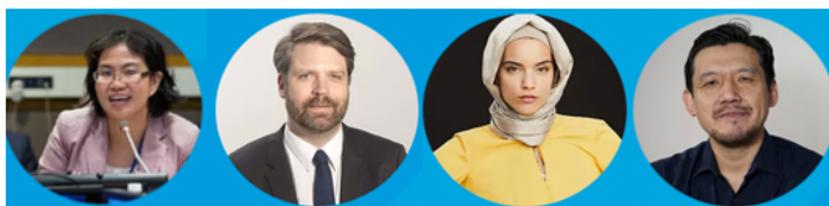
“What does Digital Security Mean to Me?”

Watch the 2.5 minute Introduction video [HERE](#)

Read the Background Paper [HERE](#)

View the Full Workshop [HERE](#)

PANELLISTS



Dr Yu Ping Chan

Dr Robert Krimmer

Yasmine Ouirhane

Lobsang Gyatso Sither

Break-out Group Chairs:



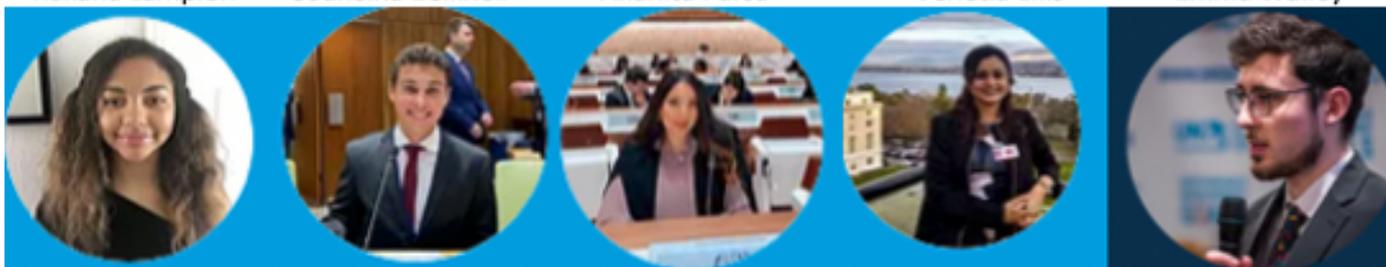
Roxana Lamplon

Soukéina Belkheir

Anahita Parsa

Venetia Ellis

Emma Walley



Estelle Marsh

Sebastian Dodt

Nouran Ragrag

Aditi Mishra

Toma Moran(Chair)

Proposals for Action:

- **Individual:** Teach yourself 'digital hygiene' & 'digital literacy'; lobby for a multi-stakeholder framework for digital regulation;
- **Community:** Educate communities on dangers of AI & data use; Address online abuse via local reporting mechanisms;
- **National:** Build safe, secure digital architecture & bridge digital divide; Implement regulations to prevent Big Tech becoming more powerful than States. Agree a universal framework on digital regulations; commit to binding enforcement mechanisms
- **International:** Dedicate more resources to digital issues - privacy, human rights, freedom of expression etc.; Build a multi stakeholder approach to digital issues; Update UDHR to include digital human rights: UDHR 2.0.

REPORT-BACKS FROM THE SIX WORKSHOPS

UN Day Conference Part ONE Report

Saturday 24th October – 14.00 to 17.00

Introductory Video: [A Gateway through the Pandemic](#) (Global Goals)



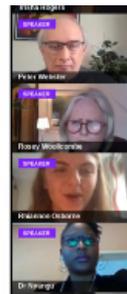
Co-chaired by Patricia Rogers & Peter Webster, London & South-East Region UNA (LASER)

In this first UN Day event, devised and chaired by LASER-UNA, each workshop reported back briefly on the content, and action ideas emerging from their discussions, and took questions from the online audience. The conference led to the launch of Urgent Actions for a More Secure World, available on the conference website and presented to the UN Secretary-General at the end of the UN75 celebrations, on 10th January 2021. The introduction states: “We must have joined-up thinking: food policy has to consider health, environment and business; it must support soil protection, healthy diets and food waste-reduction. Progress on health and food requires economic security and a peaceful environment. Economic security is needed, too, for incentives to support the transition to a green economy. If not now, when? The lead-up to COP 26 in Glasgow in November 2021 provides a major opportunity for actions at all levels – individual, community, national and international.”

Investment is about more than money



Design
Equity
Society
Education
Political will



Rhiannon Osborne, Dr Nyangu, Ella Davies,
Rosey Simonds + Powerpoint

Health Security Workshop:

- **Introductory Video:** [Covid Recovery Manifesto](#)
- **Report-Back Action Points:** [See Here @ 00:10.40](#)
- **Question & Answer:** [See Here @ 00:23.53](#)



Maia Elliott & Tasha Mhakayakora

Food Security Workshop

- **Introductory Video:** Food Security (FAO)
- **Report-Back Action Points:** See Here @ 00:34.14
- **Question & Answer:** See Here @ 00:42.50

Environment & Security Workshop

- **Introductory Video:** Climate Change (UNTV Stories)
- **Report-Back Action Points:** See Here @ 00:58.35
- **Question & Answer:** See Here @ 01:13.45



Estelle Marsh



Shammah Gwedegwe & Rahul Sinha

Economic Security Workshop

- **Introductory Video:** Green Jobs (UNTV Stories)
- **Report-Back Action Points:** See Here @ 01:22.02
- **Question & Answer:** See Here @ 01:37.00

Peace & Security Workshop

- **Introductory Video:** Action for Peacekeeping (UNTV)
- **Report-Back Action Points:** See Here @ 01:43.20
- **Question & Answer:** See Here @ 01:55.42



David Wardrop & Isabella Qin



Toma Moran, Roxana Lamplon
& Soukéina Belkheir

Digital Security Workshop

- **Introductory Video** ICT for Development (UNCTAD)
- **Report-Back Action Points** See Here @ 02:05.38
- **Question & Answer** See Here @ 02:16.00

UN FUTURE: THE FUTURE WE WANT AND THE UN WE NEED

LET'S MAKE PEACE



Olandra

*I know this world could die for ever
And people are the reason why
Children and parents, lovers and poets
They just can't hear our planet cry*

*We want this world to survive for ever
And all the people join their hands together
In a bond of love, kindness and friendship
We'll make peace here with the earth*

Composed by 16-years old Paweł Sydor from Tarnów, Poland
on the East-Coast USA Peace Child International tour show

Performed by: Olandra & Jaszczuk;
Translator: Piotr Jaszczuk

Arranger & Producer: Aleksandra Woźniak & Piotr Jaszczuk;
Video Editor: Magdalena Paczocha, Tom Powell

SOLDIERS - LOYAL COURAGEOUS PUBLIC SERVANTS



Tim Harrison

Soldier 1: You think I'm mad to be a soldier, don't you?!

UN Soldier: I think you're a bit mad, yes! – to think that any of the most pressing problems of today can be solved by the military. Your weapons are about as much use in solving those problems as a jack-hammer would be to a watch-maker.

Soldier 1: Ah! – you're talking about (mockingly) the Environment!! Climate Change and all that nonsense. Planting forests, picking daisies....! That's not where power comes from: power comes out of the barrel of a gun!!

UN Soldier: The gun has no power over nature. The biggest battle we have to fight right now is to ensure we conserve a viable planet to pass on to our children and grand-children.

Soldier 1: So why haven't you done it? You greeny-meenie patsies have been moaning on about the environment these past 50 years. Why aren't you any closer to cracking the problem?



Cormac Joyce

REVOLT!



Cast of STRIKE, Stas Namin Theatre Company, Moscow

*I hear the silent screams of Children
I see the blank-eyed men with guns
My poet's heart cries out in anger
Silence would mean my talent's done!
I take the pen and write my anger
My words scream at them from the page*

*I'm every child that died in Auschwitz
I'm every widow of Katyn
I hear their screams in pain and darkness
My poems mean they never died!*

Music: Stas Namin;
Poem: Yevgeny Yevtushenko;
Translator: David Woollcombe

Performers: The cast of STRIKE - the new version of Peace Child,
written & produced by the Stas Namin Theatre Company, Moscow

INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE

A citizen-led Digital UN for the 21st Century



David Woollcombe
– Moderator, Founder &
President, [Peace Child Intl.](#)

Perhaps the UN's greatest achievements are in the field of thought leadership: human rights, peace-keeping, sustainable development are all UN ideas. But many of its best ideas: Food for all, Health and Education for All, R2P (Responsibility to Protect) – are far from being achieved. So – how can we help the UN achieve these essential tasks? How can we grab the wheel? Peace Child Intl. has its own modest history of thought leadership via Intergenerational dialogue. So, for our first UN75 event, we engaged UN elder statesman, Sir Richard Jolly in a dialogue with students. He told them: “You have to remember, there are three UNs: 1st - the governments. 2nd - the Secretariat: UN staff; 3rd – Civil Society: you guys.”

“But there is now a 4th UN!” said a student. “The Digital UN of which we can all be a part.” It is this idea of a Digital UN that we’re discussing this evening. Here to introduce it is the student who made that intervention, Lauren Banham:



Lauren Banham
- Youth

“Most of my generation are unaware of the UN’s work and have no idea that we can influence it. As the song says: “We want this world to survive for ever” – but governments repeatedly fail to address the huge global challenges that endanger life on this planet. My generation are incredibly worried about this. Further, governments’ failure to deliver fair and selfless leadership threatens the very fabric of humanity through systemic racism, gender inequality, resource and income inequality. Together First’s Stepping Stones Report and the UN75 Global Conversation all push for increased citizen engagement especially those whose voices have not been heard. Using mobile and online technology, we can create a digital UN that empowers all people in a system that transcends the frontiers of nationality, class, ability, religion, language and age. A Digital UN will deliver global solutions to global problems, building consensus and harnessing the passions and solutions of all “we the people” not simply a select few.”



Toma Moran
– Youth (SOAS)

The UN’s Charter requires it to “save humanity from the scourge of war...” In re-defining its role, the UN should seek to save humanity from the scourge of Digital Anarchy. Not since the days of the East India Company have private companies enjoyed such blissful lack of regulation to plunder – in this case – user data for financial gain. They use AI to map our behaviours, influence our elections, conduct mass surveillance so governments can oppress us. And yet – the Internet offers immense benefits to humanity: it has kept families and businesses connected through the COVID crisis. It has dissolved linguistic barriers. It has created the biggest repository of freely accessible knowledge the world has ever known. Further, it can be a force for convergence and collaboration and transform the way we unite nations and peoples.



Sebastian Dodt
– Youth (SOAS)

Data collection is growing exponentially: the UN estimates that 90% of all digital data has been created in the last 2 years. Today, with artificial intelligence, tech companies can process big data in real time. But this is just the beginning of AI. In the future, we will come to rely on it rather than our own thinking. Towards the end of this century, AI will surpass human intelligence and, if unchecked, could challenge our further existence. The UN must do more than “provide guidance” or “serve as a platform to promote best practice”. We need an **AI security treaty**, like the EU’s GDPR treaty, but with more teeth. We also need a **Digital Security Council** that has the power to tackle issues that appear suddenly and without warning. Vladimir Putin has said: “The one who becomes the leader in AI will become the ruler of the world.”



Anahita Parsa
– Youth (SOAS)

The online space has served as a brilliant tool for empowering and coordinating Women’s Marches, Black Lives Matter and the Arab Spring. But it can also be dangerous – particularly for women, children and people of colour through sexual harassment, grooming, racist narratives and attacks. It raises the risk of cyberwars, hacks, ‘killer robots’ and makes nuclear war more likely. As this pandemic has shown, not everybody has equal access: should digital access be a human right? Whether you answer yes or no, we must strengthen digital security for everyone. We must incentivise states to build legal frameworks to protect and educate their citizens on what their digital rights entail. Multilateralism is key: a treaty which guarantees collective digital security: a UDHR 2.0 if you will! – re-conceptualising basic human rights, to address the digital age we live in.



Ella Faye Donley
– Youth Actor

I’m here because you, the Elder generation, has pushed life to where we, the younger generation, could all become part of the next Great Extinction.

That’s why we protest. Glue ourselves to bridges, stop the traffic, hold school strikes etc. But rage and protest is not enough: we have to change laws and lifestyles. That’s why we need the UN to commission Citizens’ Assemblies to bring together people representing every sector of society: young & old, rich & poor and, most important, the marginalised. Members serve like they’re doing Jury Duty for the planet and, after listening to experts, reach a consensus decision that they present back to the governments who then follow up with a referendum. Citizens’ Assemblies will restore humanities faith in the political process by giving “we the peoples” direct input into decision-making.



Dr Noeleen Heyzer
– UN leader

“We need to realise that there’s a huge digital divide out there: people with little or no access to affordable broadband, especially women and youth – people on the move, refugees, unemployed – the people whom I work with most of my time. We need to close this gap as part of our COVID-19 recovery plan. So I hope you will ask for that! Further, you provide us with a glimpse of a hellish future of cyber-wars if we don’t take action now. You have highlighted that, even without cyber wars, cybercrimes are on the rise and that they will impact human agency and decision-making. We could do so much more but we don’t have the resources. Why? How come the resources are so concentrated in people and places where they should NOT be concentrated?”



Tom Rivett-Carnac
- [Global Optimism](#)

The UN is EXTREMELY popular right now: international collaboration – talking rather than pointing guns at each other, agreeing to do big collective things together. That’s the way we want to go. We must: negotiating the Paris Agreement, we used to say: *“These are the foothills of collaboration. It’s difficult, but it is as nothing compared to the water and food negotiations coming up for us in the 2040s and 2050s.”* So we have to strengthen the muscle of collaboration, not just between governments: in Paris we found that success comes by flinging open the doors to other entities who want to be part of the movement. Clearly digital is fundamental to that collaboration. So my question for you is: *“Can your digital UN, rather than being a government-regulated process, incorporate other elements of society and include everybody?”*



Richard Ponzio
- [Stimson Center](#)

The UN75 Declaration contains a commitment to digital cooperation. Each of your fabulous presentations helped to elaborate and give definition to that commitment. But look back at the SDG negotiations of 2015 and the digital consultations that Natalie helped organise for the UN75 global conversation with over a million participants: there are lots of lessons to be learned from them. Our own UN 2.0 report has two specific proposals that linked to this discussion:

1. A UN Global Partnership – with civil society involved in policy-making.
2. A stand-by roster of cyber-security experts + a regional network to fight cybercrime. The industrial west has developed these but it’s not global yet. To overcome the digital divide, we all need to have these safety measures in order to participate actively and constructively through digital connectivity.



Natalie Samarasinghe
- [UNA UK](#)

Thanks for these really thought-provoking ideas. Some things to consider:

1. As Noeleen said, the Digital divide issue is huge. 3.7 billion people in this world do not have internet access, mostly the women and the marginalized.
2. Given the politics of the UN, I’d be scared to open up discussions on a new Universal Declaration of Human Rights or a Digital Security Council. As Tom said, governments are not in the driving seat on many of these issues. Tech for example. Most of the challenges we face need a whole society response.
3. The follow-up to the UN75 Global Conversation led by the Secretary-General is a huge opportunity. I will commit to feeding these ideas into that process, but my question to you is this: IF a magic wand was waved and everything you propose happens – the Citizens’ Assemblies, the Digital Security Council, Digital UN – everything! What then? What would it all achieve?



Shri Pillay
- [Business Executive, S Africa](#)

“What next?” is a very poignant question, and my answer is: inclusion. The digital divide is very real and it speaks to the haves and the have-nots. We need to find inclusion in technology. The profits of several tech companies dwarf the budgets of several UN Member States and there has to be a constructive and equitable way to distribute, not just technology and knowledge, but also the profits of that technology and knowledge. So – if we’re looking to a UN 2.0 to implement digital solutions to reform the United Nations and include the Global South, you have to ask: “Whose Agenda do these technologies serve?” Through bringing everyone’s voices together in a UN 2.0, can we harness technologies for the South? Or will, once again, the South be simply left by the wayside?



Toma Moran
– Youth (SOAS)

We had our Digital Security Workshop with experts from all over the world – and that “What next?” question is exactly what we were discussing. And our first, and perhaps the most important answer is: we have to start educating young people about ‘Digital Hygiene.’ It’s as vital teaching your kids to look both ways when they cross the street, or not to accept candy from a stranger... We have to teach them: “When you are online, do this... When you are online, make sure that your data is secure.... Make sure that you know who you are talking to. Make sure that you know who is listening – and who is using your data?” Because as Shri said: “Whose agenda does the technology serve?” Make no mistake, right now, the Agenda is serving private companies, and our data is being exploited for their financial gain and for them to manipulate.



Dr Edward Kessler
– [Woolf Institute](#)

I’d like to respond to each presentation. First Lauren: a Digital UN? COVID-19 has meant that in my area, religion, we’ve all had to go online. It’s been good. Toma: your point about surveillance and governance, I agree, require a re-calibration, a re-balancing. The way to do that is through education – making AI, or Internet Technology, compulsory subjects at school. Likewise, Sebastian: we need a real discussion on AI: what makes good, ethical AI? Anahita: I agree with Natalie: we don’t want to undermine the existing Universal Declaration of Human Rights but we do need to add to it. It should be a universal right to have access to the internet. Ella: you call for rage. You have every right to be outraged by the failures of my generation and I’d be very happy to take part in the Citizens’ Assemblies that you call for. Now my question: my generation is scared of change. So what advice would you give us to help manage change?



Lauren Banham
– Youth

I want to thank you all so so much for your contributions tonight. It’s been incredible to hear from you. It is almost impossible to summarise any conclusions because of the multi-faceted nature of the issues we discussed. They are so complex. But the ability of people to come up with creative solutions consistently blows me away. I think that, for us as young people, its divisive nature absolutely defines the inability of our current systems to create solutions to these problems. It is for that reason that we need a Digital UN; we need Citizens’ Assemblies; we need creative solutions that go beyond governments and leaders. We need these solutions in order to eliminate the divides that have, to date, held up solutions. We need a system that looks to everyone not just the select few.

For the Full Transcript click [HERE](#)



**TAKE
ACTION!**

URGENT ACTIONS FOR A MORE SECURE WORLD



INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

In January 2020, the London and South East Region of the United Nations Association (UNA LASER) started planning to hold a UN Day event to join in the UN Secretary-General's global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want. To ensure wide participation in this 75th anniversary year, we invited Peace Child International and UNA-UK to join us in organising this event.

We were already feeling threatened by the devastating effects of global warming. Then, as we became socially isolated in response to a pandemic, our increasing feelings of insecurity led us to try to identify actions to build a more secure world. We focused on 6 key areas of insecurity: health, food, environment, economics, peace and the digital world.

Being forced to hold the event digitally enabled us to expand the event – both in content (including contributions from all over the world) and also in time (holding a workshop every evening for a week, each focusing on a different aspect of security). We decided to consider not only the actions of global cooperation – identifying what is up to 'them' – but also how each of us can contribute in our own lives, and communities and countries to build the more secure future we want. Our [website](#)* included information and discussion, with blogs and dialogue following up the events. Our week-long UN75 digital festival culminated in a round table discussion, an intergenerational dialogue, a celebration of *The UN, Past, Present and Future* and a conference with feedback from the workshops, launching this *Urgent Actions for a More Secure World Action Plan*.

COMMON THEMES

The imperative of 'bottom-up' approaches was common in Action Points from all the workshops. From the "High-Level Champion for Civil Society" and UN Youth Council proposed by the Together First Stepping Stones Report, to the Local Green New Deals, food-sharing events, local mental health provision and the proposed 'Digital UN' operating through online International Citizen Assemblies, there was considerable appetite for input by "We the Peoples" into UN deliberations.

'Digital' was a word that came up frequently in the Action Points: encouraging the use of digital technologies to support existing public services; noting the importance of educating for digital literacy; bridging the digital divide; recognising the need for protection of individuals' rights in the digital space. The proposal for a UDHR 2.0 was disputed, but there was unanimous support for action to address abusive online behaviour and to work towards a framework of digital regulations pertaining to current digital trends and threats with binding enforcement mechanisms, like the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

*Hyperlinks can be followed using the digital copy, found at www.whatnext4un.org

The commitment to intergenerational dialogues highlighted the importance of education about issues that will be of increasing importance in the next 75 years. The Environment Workshop illustrated the potentially powerful role of creativity in examining challenges and creating change. The Festival appealed for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to become mandatory at all levels of schooling.

We need 'joined-up thinking', recognising the links between the issues. For example food policy needs to consider health, environment and business; it needs to support sustainable food production, soil protection, healthy diets and food waste-reduction. Progress on health and food require economic security and a peaceful environment. Economic security is needed, too, for subsidies to support the transition to a green economy.

If not now, when? For all the actions it is important to identify and exploit opportunities for their implementation. Individual actions can start immediately in our daily behaviour and relationships with each other. Opportunities for community actions arise in our interactions with our many communities – education, employment, entertainment, business, faith and belief, political activities, friends, families and neighbours, membership organisations. We all share responsibility for our nation's actions through our voting, campaigning and lobbying. The lead-up to COP 26 – in Glasgow in November 2021 – provides a major opportunity for action at national and international levels.

TAKE ACTION FOR A MORE SECURE WORLD!

Join in the discussion and help take forward actions for individuals, communities, nations and the UN!



HEALTH MATTERS

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What have we learned from the pandemic that will help us all to improve health care?

Dame Sally Davies, our workshop chair, made it very clear:

“As the impacts of COVID-19 continue to traverse the world and a second wave moves through Europe, we have a choice to make. Will we simply respond to the ‘here and now’ or do we take a moment to stop, look up, and see beyond the horizon of this pandemic towards the next one? “Because, there will be a ‘next one’. COVID-19 is neither the first nor the last health emergency we will face. Scientists estimate that we will face a health emergency at least once every five years from here on.”

SOME GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

Our 5 workshop panels looked at different facets of health that have been impacted by the pandemic: Health Emergencies/Pandemic Preparedness; Universal Access to Healthcare, including digital; Universal Mental Health for all; Maternal, New-born & Adolescent Healthcare; Non Communicable Diseases.

From all the panels emerged the need for governments/communities/individuals to listen, work together and learn from one another. There is no size that fits all. Planning must include ‘bottom up’ consultation, rather than being all ‘top down’. Community engagement should be prioritised, with those leading it being representative of all the community. National planning should be in place before any pandemic begins.

Policy makers should engage with communities on the communities’ priorities. Their top priorities might not always be disease prevention; they could be issues like access to food, education, or sexual health. It is important to empower communities, building up the capacities of local actors. They need the skills and the knowledge to respond to problems in their own areas, their own countries, their own communities.

They can’t always rely on the availability of international experts when they face a challenge; also, their own solutions might be more appropriate in their local context.

‘West’ is not necessarily best. We need to study how countries who have experienced earlier epidemics have learned to prepare. For instance, [this is a UNICEF plan](#) supplied by one of our panelists working for UNICEF in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Health challenges are often complex. Healthcare professionals need to work with social workers and economists.

Universal health care currently tends to over-emphasise curative work; there needs to be more investment and work preventing diseases and promoting good practice. That would optimise the results from investment in healthcare. Promotion of preventive health can use digital means – social media, other new media – as well as influencers and the networkers that are available to promote important aspects of health care.

The UN Secretary-General said the coronavirus pandemic has highlighted “the utterly inadequate health systems” around the world and he argued that universal health coverage (UHC) is essential for nations to deal with future health crises. We cannot wait till 2030.



Actions

INDIVIDUALS

The ability and willingness of each of us to engage in conversations and partnerships on health across generations is important. This will help break down barriers and reduce stigma. Peer education – such as on mental health, nutrition, exercise, sexual health – is powerful. Young people can be effective agents of change: for themselves, their peers and the wider community.

To improve their mental health, young people prefer talking to ‘buddies’ rather than going to hospitals. This has made the [Friendship Bench](#) (started in Zimbabwe) a highly effective community intervention. [Peer education programmes](#) in secondary schools also work well.

Each of us can use digital tools to stay healthy during a lockdown. We should each become well informed, while taking precautions to protect ourselves from the virus and building healthy lives – right now, as well as beyond the pandemic. We must take care of the people in our families and communities that might need extra help during this time.

COMMUNITIES

Community education and health care for all must be a priority. It is important to have plans in place before a pandemic begins; and then to promote social mobilisation projects, with community engagement, ensuring representation of all sectors. Digital tools can be used to help people stay informed and prepare for healthy lives right now, as well as beyond the pandemic. We need to promote community-volunteering to care for vulnerable community members. Nutrition NHS have an excellent app and online course to promote physical activity: [Couch to 5K: A Running Course for Beginners](#).

NATIONS

COVID-19 is a harsh reminder to all countries that investing in universal health coverage (UHC) is not an optional extra; it is the foundation of stable, prosperous and peaceful societies and economies. The COVID-19 pandemic must be a turning point for all of us; a catalyst for making UHC in all countries a reality, and not just an aspiration. The pandemic has exposed the importance of addressing social inequalities and the weaknesses of health systems in all countries. Governments need to stop dividing communities and must engage all sections of their communities. There should be transparency around significant plans that they implement with a form of feedback mechanism. Watch and learn how some non-Western countries are coping and planning. [See WHO – 7 Countries We Can All Learn From to Fight Future Pandemics](#).

THE UN/ INTERNATIONALLY

The WHO Emergency committee urged countries to avoid politicization of the pandemic response, which was seen as a major detriment to global efforts. Nor should they let the pandemic slow their other ongoing work. What the pandemic has demonstrated is the importance of public health promotion and dealing with problems of health inequity. Using digital technologies could be a quicker and more cost-effective entry point in many developing countries. They can help civil society, patient groups and associations to increase the accessibility of primary healthcare services. Meanwhile, as anti COVID vaccines are being produced, it is imperative that these should be made available to low- and lower-middle-income countries (LLMICs) . We must not jeopardise decades of economic progress – for both LLMICs and advanced economies alike.

A FOOD AWAKENING

The UK's Global Food Security programme led the Food Security workshop, which consisted of two cross-stakeholder, multidisciplinary, intergenerational panels. The first panel discussed the global and national actions that could be taken to transform the food system to meet today's global challenges, while the second panel discussed local and individual actions. These actions had been drafted earlier by an expert working group consisting of 20 food producers, campaigners, community leaders, academics, and youth representatives. Workshop attendees were invited to contribute to the action plan and the panel discussion.

SHIFTING TO SYSTEMS THINKING

The first theme was the recognition that food system transformation has the potential to address multiple global challenges due to its systemic nature and universal importance. The panel identified the need for 'food system thinkers', who are able to navigate the complexities and uncertainties in the food system to affect widespread systemic change. Increasing food system transparency and food system education were also identified as key strategies to bring about food system transformation - not just for consumers, but for all stakeholders in the supply chain.

EMPOWERING MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

Another recurring theme was the importance of actively engaging and empowering marginalised communities when reshaping the food system to meet global challenges. This theme is underpinned by the recognition that problems and solutions identified by one community are not necessarily applicable in another community, as these communities may experience the food system very differently. Strategies to engage and empower marginalised groups include enabling communities to identify their own problems relating to the food system, as well as develop their own solutions.



These solutions can then be implemented through establishing community projects or the involvement of marginalised groups in the policymaking process at the local, national and international levels. Collaborative approaches to food system transformation also help to ensure that the changes made are culturally appropriate and sensitive to context, as well as being capable of highlighting and dismantling the socioeconomic and racial injustices perpetuated by the current food system.

LISTENING TO YOUTH

The third key theme that emerged during the workshop was the need to listen to youth voices in decision-making about the future of the food system. It was stressed that youth representatives should not be invited to attend as a box-ticking exercise, but that their presence and contributions should be actively sought and valued at every level of decision making. The youth representatives also highlighted that youth experts do not need to possess an in-depth knowledge of the food system in order to challenge the status quo, and that the best way to learn about the food system is to get involved in a food movement.

BALANCING GLOBAL AND LOCAL

The cross-stakeholder expert panels discussed the globalisation of the food system and the ideal balance between local and global food systems. Local food production systems are often considered more sustainable and fairer than globalised food production systems due to their increased transparency and the greater public awareness of externalities (such as the environmental, health and social costs). Nevertheless, many local food producers struggle to compete with the ever-increasing productivity and ever-decreasing food prices of (often large-scale) international food producers. Strategies to support local, small-scale food producers include: community-supported agriculture; consumers buying directly from food producers; and government subsidies for small-scale producers.

Although local food systems are important to address global challenges, they do not necessarily serve communities who live in the UK as a result of immigration. Acknowledging the cultural value of food, it was agreed that it is important that communities who prepare and consume traditional foods to connect with their heritage should be able to retain physical and economic access to a global food market into the future.

BEING CAUTIOUS ABOUT 'TECHNOFIXES'

There were recurring warnings regarding the glamorisation of technological fixes to the food system (most of which are not yet fully developed or understood). Besides facilitating business-as-usual and the concentration of power in the food system, these techno-fixes are also capable of distracting attention and diverting funds from simpler methods that have already been proven to work, such as agroforestry and regenerating soil health. The focus on new technologies can also cut food system workers out of discussions about food system transformation, as workers are not deemed to play an important role in highly mechanised futures. Although technology will undoubtedly play a role in the future food system, the focus should shift to rapidly adopting and upscaling sustainable practices and behavioural changes that are known to help address global challenges.

RECOGNISING THE ROLE OF POLITICS IN FOOD

The impacts of politics on the food system was evident during the discussion, with both panels highlighting the vital role of state support in achieving positive food system change. Various strategies were suggested, such as introducing a universal right to food, subsidising healthy, sustainable diets, and financial support for small-scale food producers. Although businesses play a key role in transforming the food system, the first panel highlighted the folly of relying on the market alone. They also discussed the role of international legislation, particularly its futility if individual nations are not enforcing them. The panel expressed a preference for providing strong incentives that support the global adoption of sustainable, healthy and just practices in the food system, instead of punishing nations that are unable to meet the desired standards.

The importance of context-sensitive food system interventions and the dangers of imposing Western-centric ideals on non-Western food systems were also raised, as well as the need repeatedly to challenge the assumption that "West is best".

Actions

INDIVIDUALS

1. Join a local, national or global movement/network to help fight injustices in the food system.
2. If you can, learn to cook with plant-based whole foods, utilise food 'waste', and eat seasonally.

COMMUNITIES

1. Organise local food-sharing events to explore the cultural importance of food in the community, and collaboratively identify culturally appropriate changes that members can make to address the health-, sustainability-, and accessibility issues in the food system.
2. Establish community-led food growing, -sharing and -composting schemes.

NATIONS

1. Establish food system education (incl. dietary health, food sustainability and food justice) as a core subject in the national curriculum.
2. Adopt a whole-government food policy framework that supports sustainable food production, healthy diets, food waste-reduction, agricultural diversification, small-scale producers, high trade standards, and a just transition for food system actors.

THE UN / INTERNATIONALLY

1. Establish a global reward & recognition scheme to incentivise food system transparency and embed the SDGs in the food system.
2. Work with all members of civil society, particularly marginalised groups, to build a social revolution that promotes global citizenship through food.

SAVE LIFE! GRAB THE WHEEL!

WHY MUST WE TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY?

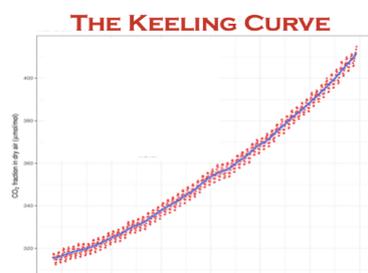
The black panels, taken from David Attenborough's Witness Statement, *A Life on our Planet*, show the destructive changes we've achieved in his lifetime. But the graph beneath shows that his lifetime is a tiny blip in the long course of human history: up to 1800, human economies were fuelled from sustainable sources. After 2100, all energy will have to come from renewable sources again as major sources of fossil fuels (oil, gas & coal) will have run out. Though it would still be possible to keep fracking and mining some fossil fuels, catastrophic climate change will have made the planet uninhabitable long before then.

WHY DO CARBON EMISSIONS KEEP INCREASING?

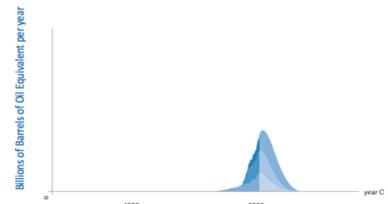
Burning fossil fuels generates carbon emissions – which can be measured by carbon parts per million (ppm). Before the Industrial Revolution, the atmosphere contained 280 ppm. We are now at around 415 ppm – and show no sign of reducing that number – even though the scientists tell us we have to get it back to 350ppm. The Keeling Curve (see below) shows carbon ppm in the atmosphere over time. It shows we have a problem: the Curve has been moving inexorably upwards since records began. All the windmills, all the solar panels – everything we greens have done these last 50 years to stave off the climate emergency – have not, to date, made the slightest dent in the upward climb of the Curve.

HOW CAN WE STOP THIS INCREASE?

Green taxes on unsustainable behaviour are an essential first step in the journey to phasing out Fossil Fuels by 2030 – or earlier if possible. We know from the experience of moving from leaded to unleaded petrol in the 1970s that raising the tax on leaded petrol, and reducing it on unleaded, quickly caused a dramatic public shift from leaded to unleaded. Green Taxes on unsustainable behaviours is necessary.



Global Production of Fossil Fuels: AD 0 to AD 3000



Personal Carbon Budgets (PCBs) are the next step: we need to calculate what is the average amount of carbon each human being on the planet can emit in a year to keep below the 2 degree threshold of global warming: a fairly easy calculation to make. Once we have that figure, those who wish to exceed their PCBs can buy carbon budgets off other people. This kind of green tax is a great leveller which would save the planet at the same time. Eventually, governments are going to have to make it a criminal offence to produce, sell or use fossil fuels. It's the only way to save life! Humanity has to end its addiction to oil, coal and gas.

We have to create a Green Economy: as we've seen, fossil fuels will run out by the end of this century. And long before they do, burning fossil fuels will trigger catastrophic climate change. So – we have no alternative but to make it work: it's our only hope! We shall make mistakes. But we cannot give up. Future generations depend on us making a green, sustainable economy work.

Like every other UN Member state, the UK has to present enhanced INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) at the UN Climate Summit that the UK is hosting in Glasgow in November 2021. The INDCs nations agreed at the Paris COP would give us between 3 and 4 degrees of global warming – far, far more than the planet can stand. In the UK, we have a golden opportunity to show global leadership and get all nations to deliver INDCs that will constrain global heating below 2 degrees or, better yet, below 1.5 degrees.

Greta Thunberg, Schools Strike 4 Climate, Fridays for the Future – even many adults – think that young people are the best chance we have of saving the environment. Perhaps the answer is for them to 'grab the wheel' themselves to steer humanity away from the cliff edge towards a green, sustainable society.

As Sir David Attenborough attests: "We could be a victim of the 6th Great Extinction...."

We need Education for Sustainable Development. Young people learn best through doing things. Experiential Education – like growing things, making things, selling things – embeds lessons more permanently in a child's brain than being told things in a classroom. Also, in their classrooms, children are seldom learning about the most serious threats that they will face in their lifetimes: Climate Change, Resource Depletion, how to conserve the eco-systems on which all life depends. They learn little about any of that. Nor about the Sustainable Development Goals which have to be met to secure their future. Instead, as they have put it: "You teach us about the Battle of Hastings which happened a thousand years ago – but you teach us NOTHING about the battle for survival which we are fighting right now..."

THIS IS THE MOST CONSEQUENTIAL DECADE IN HUMAN HISTORY

We are entering the most consequential decade in human history: by 2030, we will have made the decisions that determine whether or not humanity has a long-term future on this planet. David Attenborough powerfully explains how the 6th Mass extinction could occur in the lifetimes of young people born today. He explains that we must restore biodiversity. "Rewilding the world is simpler than you might think! And the changes that we have to make will only benefit ourselves and the generations that follow." Re-wilding, such as through Local Green New Deals – alongside education – is at the heart of the solution.

Actions

INDIVIDUALS

1. Expand the role of creativity in conservation;
2. Encourage Personal Carbon Budgets – so each individual rations their carbon emissions;
3. Encourage the creative engagement of individuals in to learn about their local environment;
4. Encourage intergenerational communication and friendships to engender long-term understanding of local micro-environments and their conservation;
5. Educate individuals to support ethical / sustainable practice by businesses, like boycotting fast fashion;
6. Lobby governments to commit to more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions ahead of the Glasgow Climate COP in 2021.

COMMUNITIES

1. Create a Local Green New Deal – an umbrella community stakeholder initiative, involving local government, planners, businesses, schools, shops and community groups working together to green their community by a certain date;
2. Create local tax incentives to encourage businesses to go carbon neutral;
3. Encourage collaboration and campaigns within communities to establish and protect green spaces like orchards, parks and community gardens;
4. Engage intergenerationally with farmers to promote agro-forestry and ways of managing farms so that they nurture and protect local wildlife;
5. Encourage every community to become a Transition Community: set time-tabled goals to achieve sustainability with targets for plastic-free / carbon-free / meat-free + other targets agreed by all;
6. Incentivise imaginative initiatives by setting aside funds for community-driven green events and installations.

NATIONS

1. Introduce environmental education / Education for Sustainable Development(ESD) as a core, continuous, examined component of every child's curriculum from Primary School to A-levels;
2. Create national programmes of rewilding incentivised by post-Brexit environmental grants;
3. Implement a Just and Fair Transition to a Green Economy: remove all fossil-fuel powered cars by 2030; impose punitive taxes on carbon use, and criminalise production, sale, use of Fossil Fuels by 2035;
4. Set up experiential environmental learning programmes for all young people – by, for example, monitoring biodiversity, the weather, crop yields etc. Promote accuracy in Eco-education at all levels.

THE UN / INTERNATIONALLY

1. Create a "We the Peoples...." citizen-led digital UN, operating through international citizens' assemblies - addressing issues that threaten the survival and prosperity of all life on earth;
2. Recognise ecocide as an international crime under the International Criminal Court;
3. Encourage nations to phase out all pollution subsidies as quickly as possible and to use subsidies to support the movement towards a green economy.

SECURE JOBS IN A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

People and nations around the world face myriad challenges, all needing urgent attention. While economic security is but one of these challenges, ensuring people have stable, sufficient, and predictable financial situations enables progress to be made far more easily on all the challenges. Whether the issue is health, democratic institutional resilience, peace, or digital access, the challenges are far more difficult if the population is destitute, or faces a great deal of economic uncertainty.

The most affordable and scalable intervention to promote economic security is to encourage employment growth. This allows people to stabilise their financial situation and provides self-reinforcing incentives for the broader economy to support that stability. Employed people also contribute to the economic stability of their communities, through their work, financial activities and taxes. Providing this employment is a huge challenge.

However, employment can be precarious, and thus deny employees stability. Employment can be exclusionary, and thereby deepen divisions in society. Employment can be antisocial, helping some prosper at the cost of others' wellbeing, environmental security, or even international peace. People need 'decent work'; employment needs to be sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.

ENCOURAGING INCLUSION

The priority given to bringing job access to groups previously excluded – by gender, race, class, migration, or religion – is vital, but it is only a start to addressing the uneven access to gainful employment that creates much uncertainty and insecurity. Inclusion begins with accessible and productive education to prepare people to provide for society's needs.

CREATING GROWTH

There are real concerns about an emphasis on growth, particularly in light of the climate change emergency. However, with the global population expected to grow by 2 billion people in the next 30 years, if there are not an additional 65 million new jobs each year, we will exacerbate an existing employment crisis for the young. The fact that global youth unemployment has currently reached 13.7% conceals marked unevenness in the distribution of jobs, with many countries having over a third of their employable young people out of work. The social problems, and long term economic issues this crisis creates will only deepen if the job growth shortfall is not addressed. Also, many jobs can actually support sustainable development.

There need to be accessible paths to financial investment, particularly for people from traditionally underprivileged groups seeking investment for new businesses. That access comes in the form of being able to secure financing on terms that are not prohibitive for the borrower. To do this, it is necessary to lower the risks that currently lead sources of financing to avoid investing in new or small-scale enterprises without charging an excessive risk premium. If the risk is not reduced but the charges are lowered, the existing shortfall in investment will get worse; the rationale for the investment must be addressed.

RESILIENT EMPLOYMENT

Ensuring stable employment does not mean freezing economies in their present state. Attempting to prop up obsolete or counterproductive industries or enterprises out of concern for their employees ignores the loss of a positive feedback loop between capital returns, labour compensation, and community prosperity that is required for economic growth to be sustainable. Instead of subsidies for dying industries, governments should invest in people, helping to identify transferable skills and manage individuals' economic transitions.

Likewise, ignoring the climate crisis to secure existing jobs is an unacceptably short-term strategy that neglects the concerns of people who work in other sectors that will be compromised by runaway climate change. Protecting polluters will hurt farmers, fishers, and tourism, all for the sake of preserving jobs that will inevitably have to end as the globe pivots to a greener economic model.

Increasingly, albeit unfortunately late, the global community is deciding that short term economic stability is not worth magnifying climate-driven dislocation and the harms to the natural world. At that point, individual nations (and sectors) must look to their own transition risks, and begin their own process of realigning their economic activity around their international carbon-reducing commitments.



Actions

INDIVIDUALS

Individuals should invest in local businesses, ideally through regional/community financial markets. We should also engage with new residents of our communities, whether co-nationals, migrants, or refugees. Individuals could start new businesses and offer different levels of employment.

COMMUNITIES

People should establish regional/community financial markets in the form of partly member-run, partly local government-owned regional stock markets that aim at helping participating small-capital ventures (members) exchange equity for capital. People should support local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) wherever possible.

NATIONAL

Countries should implement national 'transition services' in the Swedish model, which provide those made redundant with coaching and support through sectoral job security councils. School education should include the skills and understanding necessary for people to establish and run effective small businesses. Nations should also set up a national, public and transparent ledger of all national and subnational government debt issues, contractual obligations, and revenue sharing agreements, to improve the accountability and governance around public debt. To protect the economic security of refugees, countries should reinforce their national commitments (such as in health care and education) to the UN Refugee Convention, and its 1967 Protocol.

INTERNATIONAL

There should be a UN Convention on Pandemics that: expands the Responsibility to Protect to epidemics; provides for enforcement of national obligations to arrest communicable diseases both to its own residents and also to the people of other countries; reinforces and reforms the WHO to take the lead on proactive monitoring and intervention to preempt potential pandemics, and coordinate pandemic responses.

LET'S BUILD PEACE!

For long-lasting improvements in issues like health, food, the economy, the environment, digital transparency, peace is vital. We use the UN's Culture of Peace Initiative to divide peace into manageable elements: Education for Peace; Sustainable Development; the Equality of Women; Human Rights; Disarmament and Security; Democratic Participation; Tolerance and Solidarity; and the Free Flow of Information. The UN General Assembly proclaimed 2001-2010 to be the UN Decade for the Culture of Peace.

1. EDUCATION FOR PEACE

Need for capacity development

Education shapes and transforms society, playing a key role in peacebuilding. Capacity development issues for conflict prevention should aim to improve individual skills and organisational procedures, mitigating the risk of conflict. It must also assist educational planners on conflict prevention measures, ensuring they have skills and knowledge necessary for the development of curricula that reflect principles of peacebuilding, tolerance and human rights.

Strengthening the role of youth

Education policy-makers and planners can benefit from emerging thinking on how young people learn to adapt their education and training systems as part of the technological age, and thereby help them become leaders and role models in society both within and outside school. Youth can be mobilised to contribute to conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities with different groups of students, acting as mentors and mediators to younger children and peers, participating in intra-community projects, especially in sensitive areas, and humanitarian and emergency aid, taking on electoral responsibilities, and managing cultural of peace centres.

2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Security Council: an obstacle

The UN Security Council's delay in supporting the Secretary-General's call for a Global Ceasefire shocked all, especially as UNICEF reported 250 million children were caught in the armed conflict.

The UN's 70-years old Uniting for Peace resolution, first used in 1950 when the Security Council failed to act, allows the General Assembly to take over in such cases and 'use all means to maintain international peace and security'. Further use of the Uniting for Peace option could make it clear to the five permanent member states that they should reform - or get out of the way.

Smart Sustainable Cities

By 2050, 70% of us will live in cities; the Smart Sustainable Cities project offers an effective solution to the world's growing urban population. By integrating technology with sustainable management strategies to use resources more efficiently, we help the environment in a holistic way, from improving waste management to optimising traffic flow and sanitation systems. This resonates with the UN's SDGs, and with civic leadership, secures an important condition for the Culture of Peace Initiative.

3. EQUALITY OF WOMEN

Women on the front foot

Whereas the UN's challenge had traditionally been the protection of women, it agreed in 2000 to bring women to the forefront in overcoming the challenges to peace, especially in peacekeeping. In 1993, women made up 1% of UN peacekeepers, now 6%, and 10% in UN police but for 2028, it plans to raise this to 15%, with 20% in police units. To expedite this, the UN will bring in better recruitment, retention and training and provide better accommodation, sanitation, health care and protective equipment.

Women on the front line

These initiatives help women in the communities where UN peacekeepers are deployed. The claim, once thought as extravagant, that 'There is no sustainable peace without the full and equal participation of women' is now accepted. In Sudan, it was brave women who were the driving force in the protest movement. In African SADC states, 50% of election candidates must be women. Women leaders in African states are true game changers. We must support them.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS

Support the UN Peacebuilding Commission

Early operationalising of pre-emptive conflict prevention can work towards an ideal environment of 'Positive Peace' in which elevated economic and societal outcomes, paired with a diminished number of grievances, lower levels of violence and the will to resort to it. Positive peace is a society free from the structural problems that would lead its citizens to resort to violent actions.

Expand Accountability Mechanisms to Defend International Human Rights Through building on initiatives such as the [Responsibility to Protect](#), UN member states must commit to upholding human rights standards, initiate unanimous international responses when violations begin to occur, and cultivate a normative shift towards a culture that rejects human rights violations and resort to conflict as viable options.

5. DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY

Support the [#ICANSAVE My City](#) campaign

By happy chance, UN Day witnessed the ratification of the [2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#) and was welcomed by many. The most effective support for this is through the [#ICANSAVE MY CITY](#) campaign started by ICAN which was awarded the [2017 Nobel Peace Prize](#). Using social media, all should campaign for their own city to join the programme Lethal Autonomous Weapons (killer robots) Young people should support initiatives like [Pugwash](#), currently organising an ethical science festival for young people and extending their mission beyond nuclear weapons to tomorrow's horror weapon, [the killer robot](#). University UN societies across the country could lead workshops for younger people in the surrounding areas.

6. DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

Youth involvement

More than ever before, the UN seeks to link with today's youth. Research shows that the young and those in developing countries are more optimistic about the future than their elders. And yet, [new surveys](#) report young people in the USA, UK and Australia questioning the value of democracy. In response, we must ensure youth is represented even in the highest fora, starting with a [UN Youth Council](#), despite local and national cultural obstructionism.

Listening to minorities

The [Black Lives Matter](#) initiative challenges everyone to review their perceptions of others.

Communities link up worldwide

The [Open Government Partnership](#) linking governments and civil society in 78 countries encourages rich and poor to showcase successful case studies and identify 'bright lights': those communities which are exemplars of reform. More voices, more progress.



7. TOLERANCE AND SOLIDARITY

Tolerance

Tolerance is an important peacemaker. This involves not the indifference we sometime show another, but rather curiosity in the other, a desire to understand the other side of the argument. Be the first to try to understand the other person!

Solidarity

When the UN was founded, all had lived through a pandemic, a global depression, genocide and world war. They knew all about solidarity. How do we rate? Some countries took months to show such solidarity in joining the [COVAX](#) programme even though 'vacci-nationalism' is not only unfair, but self-defeating. In preparing for the next pandemic, let's show the same solidarity as shown in 1945!

8. FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION

Sharing best practice

Firstly, many feel that there has been too much attention focused on how the media conducts its reports on conflict management rather than examining how well it reports on those processes which are important, such as community peacebuilding and state-building institutions. To generate more effective [media development in post-conflict environments](#), especially where internet access is poor, [media-military dialogues](#) can help to build trust and understanding between these two sectors and beyond, to the communities they serve.

Media regulatory reform

This should play a role in political settlements in fragile states. The regulatory framework should accommodate proportionate political coverage of parties and mechanisms to include minority political and cultural interests. There must be clarity in setting guidelines for licences to accommodate all media actors, including the small and independent.

THE DIGITAL FUTURE WE WANT

WHAT DOES 'DIGITAL SECURITY' MEAN TO YOU?

Context and background are important when discussing issues of security. Our perceptions of security are different. At our workshop in October 2020, we illustrated this with an [introductory video](#) of cases we had collected from around the world that we called What does digital security mean to you?

Just like other issues that were discussed during the week – peace, food, environment, economics, health – digital security must be examined through an intersectional lens. Past generations have sought solutions to immediate problems, using the same method and logic for all of them; we know this cannot work. For some people, digital security refers to the right to privacy and the knowledge that private information is not being made available without consent. This is a western-centric problem as we seek to see our rights enforced by judicial institutions that were designed for this kind of challenge. For others, digital security is the most basic right to express oneself online without fearing negative repercussions, such as revenge porn, surveillance, harassment, violence, arrest. These kinds of concerns are predominant in countries which lack independent judicial institutions which will protect citizens and their right to free speech when expressing themselves online. For some, digital security refers to a safe, free, and accessible platform; for others, it is the idea that we should have the same kind of access as anyone else, regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexuality, economic background.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

This breakout room focused on abuse and human rights, like the ones we find offline. Perhaps abuse, racism, sexism, hatred are more prominent online, especially as certain public figures have appeared to legitimize this discourse.

The physical separation between the abuser and the abused can mean humanity is taken out of the equation and the damage being done is not measured in the moment and might never even come to light. [Yasmine Quirhrane](#) – an activist who deals with women's rights and religious rights – spoke about the hatred and abuse she faces online for being a Muslim woman and for speaking out against racism and bigotry. This leads to the major question of who is responsible for monitoring this kind of behaviour. [Bishakha Datta](#) – also an activist – is worried about some of her personal information being leaked or falling into the wrong hands.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is fast being integrated into large parts of our daily lives. Used to predict scenarios, AI is equipped with machine-learning technology whereby the machine can learn and adjust to different scenarios. How it learns will depend on the variables it is given. [Joy Buolamwini](#) has explained how the lack of diversity in design teams is leading to human bias being integrated into the machines.

TRUST AND TRANSPARENCY

This breakout session focused on the relationship between users and the technology. Transparency requires information to be freely available and understandable for users. Most countries do not give information to users regarding the use of their personal data by the government or by private companies. This means that there is no regulation and no protection. For example, in Egypt or Venezuela the regimes routinely use technology to spy on and detain activists. The only existing piece of regulatory legislation of its kind in the world, the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), is not designed in a manner that is comprehensible and understandable by most people.

The use of the internet and online platforms overwhelmingly comes without any kind of subscription price. The most important social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. – are free. Nevertheless, some of the wealthiest companies in the world are now technology platforms. They are indeed businesses and we must ask ourselves then, how do they make their money? The business plan is quite simple.



The currency that many platforms rely on today is data, which can only be acquired through users and through them accepting that their data be used for various monetization purposes like advertising. Users are in fact not the 'customers' of these business, they are the 'commodity' being sold. Most of the money made by these companies come from third-party businesses who pay for analytics and data produced by technology platforms and allow for personalised content and targeted content to be presented to users. Although some states are beginning to take a close look at these issues (the EU through the GDPR) by and large there is no consensus amongst states that international law can apply to the cyberspace, thus rendering some companies immune to international regulations and in some cases to national legislation. Is it possible to design technology with integrated protection against exploitation? Could there be consensus amongst states on how to regulate tech companies?

Online platforms become echo chambers of false information – such as that divulged by different political parties to delegitimise their opponents or by foreign entities which seek to interference in politics – so verification becomes difficult.

CYBER-SECURITY

This breakout session focussed on the criminal activities that might take place online and affect users directly. Many fear that our technology might be hacked or infiltrated by third parties; regulation to limit this kind of activity is not usually adequate. Furthermore, some states' internal laws might be used to exploit our technology itself; this can take the form of surveillance and invasion of privacy.

Most companies do not want to take responsibility for the possible criminal or bad activities that take place on their platforms, as that would open them to intermediate liability, making them vulnerable to lawsuits based on what is being said or done through their platforms. One cannot rely on governments to implement meaningful regulation on tech companies, as these companies often contribute massively to a country's wealth, or they have power superior to that of their state. This is where the need for an international consensus becomes paramount.

There is also a user responsibility to educate and raise awareness with regards to the dangers of using online platforms, teaching people how to be responsible online. Young people need to be educated in 'Digital Hygiene', learning how safely to navigate the online space.

Actions

INDIVIDUALS

1. Raise awareness through education on digital hygiene, thus promoting 'digital literacy';
2. Be firm in what they demand, and hold their local representatives to account for this;
3. Push for a multi-stakeholder framework for digital regulation in their states.

COMMUNITIES

1. Lobby governments to engage in the implementation of frameworks (such as GDPR in the EU) that will protect users and create better enforcement mechanisms;
2. Lobby for the implementation of education on the dangers of AI and the use of their data;
3. Address abusive online behaviour (racist, sexism hate speech, misinformation), with reporting mechanisms for abuse in digital spaces.

NATIONS

1. Share best practices through capacity building amongst nations and empower international organisations through funding to build a safe and secure global digital architecture while bridging the digital divide;
2. Hold companies housed on their territory to account, implementing regulations to prevent Big Tech from becoming monopolies and more powerful than States;
3. Work towards a universally accepted normative framework on digital regulations and commit to providing binding enforcement mechanisms.

THE UN / INTERNATIONALLY

1. Continue to provide expertise and funding through programmes pertaining to current digital trends & threats and dedicate more resources and means to Special Rapporteurs on digital issues (such as privacy, human rights, promotion of the right to freedom of opinion and expression);
2. Build the pathway/structure for a multi stakeholder approach in addressing digital issues;
3. Update our human rights to include proper and necessary digital human rights: UDHR 2.0.

ACTIONS

As INDIVIDUALS, we should:

1. Share solutions to problems with our local communities (such as Zimbabwe friendship benches to address depression) and voice our priorities to decision-makers;
2. Know our (and others') human rights - such as for healthcare - and how to lobby for them with decision makers;
3. Join local, national or global movements to help fight injustices (such as in the food system or in fast fashion)
4. Decide what it is important to us to demand (such as a framework for digital regulation) and join with others to achieve it, holding the powerful to account;
5. Whenever involved in negotiations, seek to ensure clear understanding of each other's positions;
6. Lobby our representatives (like MPs and Ministers) to commit to ambitious international actions (such as: supporting Countdown to Midnight to ensure more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions ahead of the Glasgow Climate COP in 2021; and engaging in the implementation of frameworks such as GDPR in the EU that will protect users);
7. Learn to cook with plant-based whole foods, utilise food 'waste', and eat seasonally;
8. Adopt Personal Carbon Budgets – whereby we each individually ration our carbon emissions;
9. Support and Invest in local businesses and support ethical trading.

COMMUNITIES should:

1. Share best practice with other communities (such as in normalising and addressing mental health needs) and learn what works for others;
2. Recognise the needs of diverse populations (such as in education and healthcare); and how to meet them (such as in types of jobs and the employment support needed);
3. Encourage imaginative initiatives, by setting aside funds for community events, protecting green spaces and solutions (such as for environmental issues);
4. Work together to address urgent local issues (such as creating Local Green New Deals to green communities by a certain date). This could include local government, planners, businesses, schools, shops and other community groups;
5. Respond to coordinated activity – led, for example, by local politicians or university students – by joining key campaigns (such as the #ICANSAVE My City campaign, moving public opinion towards support for the ratification of the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons);
6. Organise local food-sharing events to explore the cultural importance of food in the community, and collaboratively identify culturally appropriate changes that members can make to address the food system's wider issues in health, sustainability, and accessibility;
7. Reduce carbon emissions and work towards going carbon-neutral (such as for local institutions and businesses);

ACTIONS

8. Give local support to agro-forestry and farms to help them nurture and protect wildlife;

9. Become a Transition Community, and set goals for the community to achieve sustainability within a milestone time table (such as for growing, sharing and composting food);

10. Establish local financial markets that are community owned;

11. Mobilise the private sector to do the work (such as raising capital) governments are failing to do to create integration;

12. Address abusive online behaviour (such as racism, sexism hate speech, misinformation), implementing reporting mechanisms over these issues in the digital spaces.

NATIONS should:

1. Contribute to – and learn from – the sharing of best practices and capacity-building (such as in health care and food policies) between nations;

2. Invest in equitable public services (such as in health and education systems) and think long-term, ensuring that minorities are fully represented in all civic reviews;

3. Use digital technology to support rather than replace existing public services (such as health services);

4. Ensure that education systems include, in their core, key contemporary challenges (such as in: physical and mental health, food systems, dietary health, ESD, digital literacy including the dangers of Artificial Intelligence and the misuse of data);

5. Set up a national, public and transparent ledger of all national and subnational government debt issues, contractual obligations, and revenue-sharing agreements, to improve the accountability and governance around public debt;

6. Hold companies operating on their territory to account by making and implementing regulations to keep Big Tech from becoming over-powerful monopolies;

7. Reinforce and restate national commitment (such as in health care and education) to the UN Refugee Convention, and its 1967 Protocol;

8. Encourage city leaders in richer countries to embrace the Smart Sustainable Cities project and similar initiatives and to share their experience with disadvantaged cities;

9. Adopt a whole-government food policy framework that supports sustainable food production, healthy diets, food waste-reduction, agricultural diversification, small-scale producers, high trade standards, and a just transition for food system actors;

10. Create national programmes of rewilding (incentivised by environmental grants);

11. Implement a 'Just and Fair Transition to a Green Economy' (using subsidies and phasing out all non-green subsidies): establish plans to remove all fossil-fuel powered cars from our roads by 2030; impose punitive taxes on carbon emissions; and penalise the production, sale, and use of fossil fuels by 2035;

ACTIONS

12. Implement a national 'transition service' in the Swedish model, which provides – to those made redundant – coaching and support through sectoral job security councils;

13. Include women in all conflict resolution and civic management training programmes, as they have shown they are 'forces for peace';

14. Work towards a universally accepted normative framework concerning digital regulations and commit to providing binding enforcement mechanisms.

INTERNATIONAL organisations, led by the UNITED NATIONS, should:

1. Identify and seek to combat root causes of problems globally (such as the causes of ill health);

2. Encourage projects (such as in health) to be community-led;

3. Establish global reward and recognition schemes to incentivise change and embed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in economic systems (such as the food system);

4. For issues requiring social transformation (such as food production, distribution and use), work with all members of society, particularly marginalised groups, to promote shared ownership and responsibility;

5. Building on widespread education on global challenges and possible solutions, create a citizen-led, digital UN, operating through international citizens' assemblies, giving a voice to the voiceless;

6. Ensure youth is represented even in the highest fora, despite local and national cultural obstacles;

7. Provide expertise and funding, using multi-stakeholder approaches, to tackle new and emerging issues (such as creating safe and secure global digital architecture while bridging the digital divide);

8. Recognise ecocide as an international crime, especially in view of the vital need to protect forests, oceans and air quality;

9. Agree a UN Convention on Pandemics, that:

a. expands the Responsibility to Protect to cover epidemics;

b. obliges each nation to try to prevent the spread of communicable diseases (to safeguard its own residents, as well as the populations of other countries);

c. reinforces and reforms the WHO to provide it with tools to lead on proactive monitoring and intervention to halt potential pandemics, as well as to coordinate pandemic responses;

10. Encourage nations to raise awareness of conflict prevention and peacebuilding in education institutions and other civic society settings, with negotiators (international and inter-personal) demonstrating evidence of their understanding of each other's position;

11. Encourage media regulatory reform where it promotes post-conflict peace settlements and their implementation, and which denies access to those using the media for non-inclusive factionalism.

FEEDBACK & FOLLOW-UP INITIATIVE

1. Post-Festival Survey

Straight after the Festival, LASER sent out a 10-question survey to all audience members. The 65 responses were generally positive, showing that audiences from 17 countries took part, a third of whom had no links to the UNA; 95% agreed to help with follow-up actions. Asked which area of security concerned them most, Peace came top, closely followed by Environment, then a 20-point drop to Health and Food, with Digital and Economic a further 10-points behind. But the Health, Peace & Digital workshops got the biggest audiences! Go figure! For the full results of the survey (what appealed most? What could be improved? What actions will you take as a result? Etc.) – [Click Here](#).

2. Follow-up Initiatives



UN Green, Westminster, 2020

UN Green:

An important event marking the UN's 75th anniversary was the naming of the lawn facing Westminster Abbey and Methodist Central Hall [United Nations Green](#). Methodist Central Hall hosted the first UN General Assembly in 1946, opened by Britain's Prime Minister Clement Attlee. London's new Green joins New York, Paris, Berlin, San Francisco and 12 other cities around the world which boast squares, places and Plazas linked by name to the United Nations. 'Green' is surely appropriate with the UK hosting the important UN Summit on Climate Change in November 2021. David Wardrop, Chair of Westminster UNA which had campaigned for the name change since 2016, said: "Over the centuries, London has accumulated many landmarks and statues to military leaders including most recently those commemorating Bomber Command, the Battle of Britain, Women of World War 2, and Animals in War, in all thirty-nine, but none to peace. This new space encourages us to look forward, committing ourselves to reconciliation and dialogue, and the search for peace."

UN Day Festival 2021 – Songs for Survival:

As soon as our UN75 Festival closed on UN Day 2020, the question of what to do on UN Day 2021 came up. The UN has no regular public-facing event for UN Day. So we thought: “Let’s create one!” Peace Child founder, David Gordon, suggested a global song contest for songs composed by young people. 16-year old Pawel Sydor composed the beautiful: We want this world to survive for ever which inspired our working title: Songs for Survival. We feel there must be more Pawels around the world, so let’s showcase them in an upbeat, fun festival of songs, statements and statistics that shows the UN leading the world to create the future young people want and we all need.

The initiative builds on our shock at finding how many young people know nothing of the UN: “I thought we’d left that...” said one in the UK (- confusing the UN for the EU!) Even bright, high-achieving teen-agers sitting A-level politics had no clue what the UN does or why it might be relevant to them. So the 60-minute online event will be a full-throated promotion for the UN, targeted at young audiences. It will be broadcast on UN day in local languages and then available 24/7 to teachers and every one else who wants a 1-stop shop for accurate, up-to-the-minute, UN-verified data on the world’s most pressing challenges.

Like all Peace Child projects, it will be a youth-led, intergenerational / co-managed event designed to be fun, moving and informative. Like the Grab the Wheel animation we prepared for the UN75 Festival, we want youth to feel they can take control – and understand the data being thrown at them. Building on the Planet Dashboard idea PCI developed for its first book for the UN, we are thinking of framing the programme as an animated story of Spaceship Planet Earth trying to navigate its own dark corner of the Universe while carrying on board an unruly family of some 8 billion humans all of whom think they know what’s best for it.

A Google Earth dive from space takes the audience down to New York and up the East River to the UN Building – inside which is a sleek and startlingly modern Planet Dashboard showing key indicators on the State of the Planet. The Animated Planet coughs, bucks and convulses as Key Indicators reveal the threats to its survival but, by the end, after the UN and its agencies outline to the youth standing at the Dashboard how to deal with the threats, it floats on more serenely through space. Each year, it will show progress and ‘accentuate the positive,’ inspiring young people to be confident that these problems will be solved – IF – we support the UN and unite as one family to work on them.

3. Model Citizen Assemblies

Citizens’ Assemblies are one of the ways the UN is exploring to enable more permanent connections between its member governments, secretariat staff and “We the peoples...” Building on the success of the Model UN initiative, PCI has created a website to promote Model Citizens’ Assembly (MCA) – to continue the Global Conversation launched by the UN75 Secretariat on three key issues:

- Nuclear Disarmament
- The Climate Emergency
- Pandemic Preparedness



Lauren Banham – Host

The MCA follows the best practice developed in government-sponsored Citizens' Assemblies – assembling a jury of citizens carefully selected to reflect the country's age, gender, economic, professional + ethnic backgrounds using an algorithm developed by our in-house data scientist, Sebastian Dodt. The difference with an MCA is that we invite an observer audience to learn about the issue with the jury, put questions to the expert panel through them, listen to their deliberations and then express their opinion in a poll or show of hands after the jury has made their decision. Both Jury and audience then brainstorm "Next Steps" to action their decision.

PCI did its first one on January 10th 2021, hosted by 18-year old Lauren Banham, to discuss the question: **"Should the UK Join the UN's Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons? (TPNW)."** We struggled to get citizens to defend the UK's retention of nuclear weapons – but the question was about the TPNW – which all NATO countries boycotted. A UK government representative bravely argued to an audience mainly made up of anti-nuclear campaigners that it would be a mistake for the UK to break with NATO and sign a treaty that might distract from the work being done on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The TPNW expert failed to persuade the Jury – made up of a majority of "Don't Knows" – that it would be helpful for the UK to join. And the Jury voted decisively NO to the question. And most of the "Don't Knows" in the audience opted for the NO answer. But we all learned a lot about the complexity of the issue and the imperative of creating an intergenerational, gender-balanced jury representative of the UK as a whole was a constructive way to explore the issue. PCI hopes that other schools and communities will host MCAs in the same way that many host Model UNs: the website provides step-by-step guides, background materials and the expert testimony delivered in our pilot MCA. Our next, in April, will be on the Climate Emergency – and a third, in June, will be on Pandemics. In exploring these issues, it is our hope that we are continuing to educate for, and building, a more secure world.

4. Citywide Search for Sustainability – Luton Pilot



Luton Town Centre

Seeking to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals one city at a time, PCI has agreed to work with colleagues in Luton to pilot a project, sourced in schools, to explore how to move towards citywide sustainability. Luton citizens speak 147 languages and are thus a UN in microcosm: launching the "UN Decade of Action," this project will host intergenerational dialogues in secondary and primary schools to introduce students to the history and work of the UN + the existential threats that the UN is trying to solve through the Sustainable Development Goals in order to deliver their generation "the future they want." In the Orientation Day, students learn from local councillors, MPs, business people and UNA experts about the challenges – and are then tasked with researching the issues, discussing them with their peers and coming up with solutions. Their solutions from across the city – presented in the form of statements, songs, poems, videos, posters, dance or drama – are discussed with their elders and law-makers with a view to devising individual and local action plans and policies + making national and international policy appeals to the UN and their national government. Linked to MCAs and the Annual State of the Planet webcast, the citywide search for sustainability will urge young people to think globally but act locally.

USEFUL LINKS

WHAT NEXT FOR THE UN? *Building a More secure World*: *
Actions, Festival videos, Blogs, Discussion

Health Security

World Health Organisation (WHO);

Food Security

World Food Programme; Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Environmental Security

UN Environmental Programme; COP 26;

Economics Security

International Labour Organisation;

Peace and Security

UN Peacekeeping; UN Security Council; UNESCO Culture of Peace

Digital Security

Rights-Based Internet Policy; Secretary-General's Digital Roadmap

General

Sustainable Development Goals; Education for Sustainable Development; Smart, Sustainable Cities

Short Videos on each of the topics used at the conference:

Health Security

WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19;.

Food Security

The State of Food Security (FAO);.

Environmental Security

Climate Change – Make a World of Difference (UN Stories);.

Economic Security

Green jobs, the key to sustainable development (ILO);.

Peace and Security

Action 4 Peacekeeping (UN Peacekeeping);.

Digital Security

Information and Communication Technology for Development (UNCTAD).

*Hyperlinks can be followed using the digital copy, found at www.whatnext4un.org

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ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Trisha Shepheard Rogers (Chair); Peter Webster (Treasurer); Tom Powell (Creative Producer); Damian Belson (Technical Director); Paul Hutton (Administrative Adviser, Technical Support and Education Follow-Up); Rosey Woollcombe (Health Security Workshop Manager and Education Follow-Up); Maia Elliott (Food Security Workshop Manager); David Woollcombe (Environment Security Workshop Manager, Concert and Intergenerational Dialogue Director); Rahul Sinha (Economic Security Workshop Manager); David Wardrop (Peace and Security Workshop Manager); Toma Moran (Digital Security Workshop Manager); Bryony Pike (Conference Part 2, Manager); Gonzalo Alvarez (Eventbrite Manager); Shammah Gwedegwe (Social Media Manager); Louise Landman (Advisor); David Gordon (Lyricist and Composer).

The UN75 *Building a More Secure World* Festival involved substantial contributions from a large number of people, including the hundreds in our online audiences who contributed to these Actions through their questions and responses. In addition, there have been the following teams of contributors, in which we have enormously appreciated working. We look forward to building on this work to take forward these actions. The associated concert, describing the history of the UN and summarising the festival, is available on [our website](#).

HEALTH SECURITY WORKSHOP

Rosey Woollcombe (Manager); Dame Sally Davies (Chair); Professor David Heymann (Keynote Speaker); Health Emergencies: Samuel Boland (Chair); Simone Carter; Erin Polich; Angus Fayia Tengbeh; Rachel Fletcher; Ella Davies Universal Access to Healthcare: Gini Arnold (Chair); Dr Sivuyile Madikana; Abimbola O Adebakin; Orsola Ihasz; Dr Cassandra Bolanle Akinde; Alan Quinn Byrne; Professor Jay Himmelstein Mainstream Access: Clare Copleston (Chair); Lena Zamchiya; Olivia Green; Rigerta Ahmetaj; Victor Ugo Maternal and Newborn Health: Dr Sue Broster (Chair); Evelyn Brealey; Clare Hanbury; Dr Emily Tumwakire Non-Communicable Diseases: Dr Ibiye Adoki (Chair); Dr Andrej Martin Vujkovic; Margot Turne

FOOD SECURITY WORKSHOP

Maia Elliott (Manager and Chair); Louise Landman (Assistant Manager) Panellists: Christina Adane; Dr Hibbah Araba Osei-Kwasi; Paul Cherry; Lynne Davis; Dr Pete Falloon; Jyoti Fernandes; Dr Lydia Medland; Tasha Mhakayakora; Paul Newnham Expert Working Group: Christina Adane; Dr Ed Atkins; Carrie Bewick; Barbara Bray MBE; Dr Lottie Chapman; Dan Crossley; Dr Pete Falloon; Jyoti Fernandes; Dr Helen Harwatt; Dr Flora Hetherington; Professor Aled Jones; Louise Landman; Kate Mayne; Hannah McGrath; Dr Lydia Medland; Tasha Mhakayakora; Matt Sowerby; Laura Wellesley; Ali Yellop; George Young

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY WORKSHOP

David Woollcombe (Manager and Chair) Panellists: Mark Lynas; Jonathon Porritt; Karen Frances Eng; Bart Ullstein; Lauren Banham; Abigail Wordsworth; Ella Faye Donley; Rosa Lynas; Flora Griffiths; Estelle Marsh (Rapporteur)

PEACE AND SECURITY WORKSHOP

David Wardrop (Manager); Selim Mezhoud (Chair); Isabella Qin (Youth Panellist) Contributors: Autumn Melody Thomas; Andreea Prisecaru; Saoirse McGilligan; Zahed Amanullah; Ian Martin; Alan Doss; David Adams

DIGITAL SECURITY WORKSHOP

Toma Moran (Manager and Chair); Sebastian Dodt (Advisor) Experts: Yu Ping Chan; Dr Robert Krimmer; Yasmine Ourhrane; Lobsang Gyatso Sither Trust and Transparency: Roxana Lara Pomplun; Soukéïna Belkheir Digital Human Rights: Anahita Ghanbari Parsa; Estelle Marsh; Nouran Ragrag; Aditi Mishra Cyber-Security: Venetia Ellis; Emma Walley

CONFERENCE PART 1: Feedback and Launch of *Urgent Actions for a More Secure World*

Trisha Shephard Rogers (Chair); Peter Webster (Assistant Chair)
Health Security: Rosey Woolcombe; Sara Nyangu; Rhiannon Osborne; Ella Davies
Food Security: Maia Elliott; Tasha Mhakayakora
Environmental Security: David Woolcombe; Estelle Marsh
Economic Security: Rahul Sinha; Shammah Gwedegwe
Peace and Security: David Wardrop; Isabella Qin
Digital Security: Toma Moran; Roxana Pomplun; Soukéïna Balkheir

CONFERENCE PART 2: 2020 Brian Urquhart Award and Round Table

Zeinab Badawi (Award Winner), Natalie Samarasinghe (Host); Ahmad Fawzi (Moderator); H E Maria Fernanda Espinosa; Lord Mark Malloch-Brown; Nisreen Elsaïm; Mandeep Tiwana

INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE

David Woolcombe (Moderator)
Youth Panel: Toma Moran; Ella Faye Donley; Lauren Banham; Anahita Parsa; Sebastian Dodt
Elders: Ed Kessler; Richard Ponzia; Tom Rivett Carnac; Sir Richard Jolly; Jane Alexander; Natalie Samarasinghe; Shri Pillay; Dr Noeleen Heyzer

SOCIAL MEDIA

Shammah Gwedegwe (Manager), Titilayo Odukale, Annesha Kar Gupta

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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[This report was designed by Magdalena Paczocha](#)



To the many thousands of loyal UN staff, peace-keepers, UN member state governments and officials, UNA Members and staff who have served the UN these last 75 years and to those who will serve it in the next 75 years and, we hope, make it make it even stronger and more effective

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UNA MARKS UN'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY WITH FIRST EVER VIRTUAL UN DAY

UNA-UK commemorated the UN's 75th anniversary by presenting the Sir Brian Urquhart Award for Distinguished Service to the UN to renowned journalist Zeinab Badawi



Zeinab Badawi, 24th October 2020

Named in honour of Sir Brian Urquhart, whose service to the UN spanned four decades, UNA-UK's award celebrates individuals whose work reflects Sir Brian's own dedication and endeavour. In honouring Ms Badawi, we were able to highlight her years of work supporting global justice, women's education, and the crucial role of the Global South in shaping international institutions. Her long standing advocacy for a more open, inclusive and effective UN is relevant now more than ever amid calls for the doors to be opened wider at the UN. UNA-UK was delighted to be joined virtually by Zeinab Badawi, who accepted the award and underlined the importance of the United Nations, stressing that a world without the UN would be a world without hope. Reflecting on her interactions with the UN, Ms Badawi said:

"In so many ways, personally, as a journalist, and as an advocate and a sharer of the vision of the United Nations, I have seen the importance of their work at a grassroots level. As somebody who has always had a foot in two camps, the global south because I was born in the Sudan, and the global north because I have live in the UK since I was two years of age, I can honestly say that wearing these two hats, we need hope, wherever we are in the world."

Natalie Samarsinghe, Chief of Strategy for the Commemoration of the United Nations' 75th Anniversary, and Executive Director of UNA-UK, presented the award. Ms Samarasinghe said:

"Sir Brian was the second person recruited to the UN, and he shaped the organisation, he embodied its ideals. UNA presents this award each year to people we feel carry his legacy. In this anniversary year, a year marked by issues around gender equality, racial justice, the need to dispel misinformation, the need to reach out and touch people emotionally as well as intellectually, Zeinab was a unanimous choice. She is quite simply one of the most talented and distinguished broadcasters. She is a compelling storyteller and brilliant interviewer, and a longstanding champion - and not an uncritical one - of the United Nations and of UNA-UK, of bringing more diverse voices into international relations, and into broadcasting."

The UN's 75th anniversary also offered a key opportunity to look to the future.

UNA-UK was delighted to be joined virtually by H.E. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Lord Mark Malloch-Brown, climate activist Nisreen Elsaim, CIVICUS Alliance's Mandeep Tiwana and Ahmad Fawzi for a panel discussion on the future we want and the UN we need in 2020 and beyond.

They explored the vital role of the UN in the last 75 years, and the continuing relevance of the Organisation amid the Covid-19 pandemic. They also discussed the importance of good governance, leadership - and the need for the UN to connect better with people on the ground. H.E. Maria Fernanda Espinosa said:

"The UN has to learn to use less acronyms and more synonyms. To connect better with people on the ground. The Organisation has to deliver for - and with - 'We The Peoples.' Young people should be given a platform, a voice, and the opportunity to shape the future they want for themselves. We need to overcome a communications challenge, but also an inclusion and participation challenge and deficit."

Looking to the future, Lord Mark Malloch-Brown said:

"I think the UN will make it to 150 and beyond. Going forward it needs to renew its relevance and have an agenda which touches the lives and aspirations of people everywhere."

Nisreen Elsaim noted progress made by the UN, raising the importance of engaging people on the ground:

"I think the UN is getting more inclusive, especially with the start of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, that I am Chairing right now. The UN is opening more doors and opening its arms to young people. Young people have proved that in all aspects - peace, security, climate change - we are always in the front line. I think some of the UN agencies should do better to include climate change in their negotiations and agendas. If we want to move far we must move together."

The discussion also highlighted the growing movement calling for a champion for civil society at the UN. Mandeep Tiwana of Civicus calls for a move away from a state-centric focus:

“The UN Charter begins with the words ‘We the Peoples’. But a lot of people feel the UN is very far away from them. Even though the UN’s decisions are impacting their lives, they don’t feel they have enough say on these decisions. We need a Civil Society Champion at the UN, someone who can ensure more inclusive conversations at the UN. This is something that is fairly easy to do.”

Ahmad Fawzi said:

"The UN75 consultation process has underlined that people on the ground have a lot to say - and have the right to say it - they have to be included in the decision-making process."



Natalie Samarsinghe



H E Maria Fernanda Espinosa



Lord Mark Malloch Brown



Mandeep Tiwana