New UN websites & publications

UN in General

Secretary-General's Priorities for 2023

Time is running out as the world inches closer to meltdown and countries must change course before it is too late, UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned on 6 February 2023, presenting his priorities for the year. Addressing the General Assembly in New York, he appealed for urgent action now to achieve peace, economic rights and development, climate action, respect for diversity, and inclusive societies – both today and for generations to come.

UN News Story
English: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/02/1133192
French: https://news.un.org/fr/story/2023/02/1132042
Spanish: https://news.un.org/es/story/2023/02/1518352
Portuguese: https://news.un.org/pt/story/2023/02/1809322

Press Release
English: https://press.un.org/en/2023/sgsm21680.doc.htm
French: https://press.un.org/fr/2023/sgsm21680.doc.htm

UN Geneva - Digital Recordings Portal
https://conf.unog.ch/digitalrecordings/
The UN in Geneva organizes thousands of meetings every year. In 2022, more than 2,800 of these meetings were recorded, the majority of which were recorded in multiple languages. This is a tremendous amount of data that needs to be recorded, stored, and preserved so that important decisions can be referenced in the future. The Digital Recordings Portal has been the go-to location for all meetings recorded at the Palais des Nations and the Palais Wilson in Geneva since 2013. While the tool is widely used, it was not usable by all. It excluded non-English speakers, as well as many persons with disabilities. The Division of Conference Management (DCM) at UN Geneva has relaunched the portal with several new functions. The interface has been updated to be fully accessible for users of assistive technologies such as screen readers. It can be controlled via keyboard navigation, enabling more persons with disabilities to use the portal. Building on a partnership between WIPO and the project FAST (Fully Automated Speech to Text), meeting transcripts are automated in English, French, and Spanish to accompany the audio recordings. This is an important update for accessibility and searchability, as well as for processing meeting outcomes. The new platform can be used in both English and French.

DPPA Strategic Plan 2023-2036
https://dppa.un.org/en/strategic-plan-2023-2026
DPPA's new Strategic Plan sets out a vision and priorities until 2026. It looks at how the Department will contribute to lessening tensions and changing the trajectory of conflicts over the coming three years.

see also: DPPA Politically Speaking, 30 January: https://bit.ly/3DME6Kp

Highlights of Security Council Practice 2022
https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/highlights-2022

The UN released its publication "Highlights of Security Council Practice 2022" in the second week of January. For the first time in four decades, the Council adopted a resolution calling on the General Assembly to hold an emergency special session in accordance with that organ's resolution "Uniting for Peace." The resolution was adopted with three abstentions, and despite the negative vote of the Russian Federation. 2022 also saw the addition of two new agenda items, "Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine" and "letter dated 13 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the UN addressed to the President of the Security Council." The publication further noted that in 2022, the 15-member organ held 292 formal meetings, adopted 54 resolutions, issued 7 presidential statements and considered 49 agenda items.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

How Effective were Job-Retention Schemes during the COVID-19 Pandemic? A Microsimulation Approach for European Countries (IMF Working Paper No. 2023/003)
https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/WP/2023/English/wpiea2023003-print-pdf.ashx
The COVID-19 pandemic had posed a dramatic impact on labor markets across Europe. Forceful fiscal responses have prevented an otherwise sharper contraction. Many countries introduced or expanded job-retention schemes to preserve jobs and support households. This paper uses a microsimulation approach (EUROMOD) and household data to assess the effectiveness of those schemes in stabilizing household income during the pandemic across European countries. Empirical evidence shows that job-retention schemes were effective in stabilizing income and, along with other measures, absorbed nearly 80 percent of market income shocks—almost doubling the extent of the automatic stabilization of the pre-pandemic tax and benefit systems.

The large effects are related to the widespread use and scaling up of those schemes and a deep but short-lived disruption to labor markets during the pandemic. Along with other fiscal support measures, job-retention schemes helped mitigate the rise in the unemployment rate, by about 3 percentage points, and income inequality during the pandemic. Our results show that job-retention schemes were largely targeted, in which households more vulnerable to income losses, such as lower-income families, youth, and low-skilled workers, are able to stabilize their income.

Implementation of the principles of purpose limitation, deletion of data and demonstrated or proactive accountability in the processing of personal data collected by public entities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (A/HRC/52/37, 27 December 2022)

English, French & Spanish: https://undocs.org/A/HRC/52/37

"Summary: The present report has been prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 46/16. In the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, data were collected from millions of people in all countries of the world for one sole purpose: to combat the pandemic. Although the principles of purpose and time limitation (which require personal data to be deleted from databases once the purpose has been achieved) are incorporated in national and international regulations on personal data processing, the following questions have nonetheless arisen: What will happen to the personal data collected from these millions of people for the purpose of combating the COVID-19 pandemic? Will they be deleted? Will they be anonymized? Will they be used for purposes other than those for which they were collected? The Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, Ana Brian Nougrères, envisages that the review forming the basis of this report might serve as a call on States to ensure timely application of the principles of purpose limitation, deletion of data and demonstrated accountability (also referred to as proactive accountability) in respect of the personal data that were collected from millions of persons in the context of the pandemic."

Infection prevention and control in the context of coronavirus disease (COVID-19): a living guideline, 13 January 2023 (WHO)

https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-ipc-guideline-2023.1

The World Health Organization (WHO) has updated its guidelines on mask wearing in community settings, COVID-19 treatments, and clinical management. This is part of a continuous process of reviewing such materials, working with guideline development groups composed of independent, international experts who consider the latest available evidence and the changing epidemiology.

For additional updated guidelines: https://www.who.int/publications/i

Risk Assessment prior to Introduction of Covid-19 Air Travel Requirements (ICAO)

https://www.icao.int/safety/CAPSCA/PublishingImages/Pages/Electronic-Bulletins-and-State-Letters/eb006e.pdf

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has issued reinforced recommendations on 16 January 2023 for countries on risk management and the introduction of COVID-19 related national air travel requirements. Issued in a new ICAO bulletin from its Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation, or 'CAPSCA' programme, the guidance is designed to help countries maintain air connectivity while taking prudent and evidence-based measures to mitigate ongoing risks of SARS-CoV-2 transmission.

Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

Addressing Mpox (Monkeypox): Effective Science and Rights-Based Responses

https://bit.ly/3WLIGiN

This Issue Brief between UNDP and the University of Southern California Institute on Inequalities in Global Health presents key factors to address in mpox responses, as well as lessons for future pandemic responses. It highlights key lessons from the first few months of the outbreak that build on lessons from the HIV and COVID-19 response. The brief provides clear recommendations to address mpox and future outbreaks and pandemics, including the importance of human rights-based and science-driven responses, community engagement, health systems strengthening, and global solidarity.

Bracing for Superbugs: Strengthening environmental action in the One Health response to antimicrobial resistance (UNEP)

https://www.unep.org/resources/superbugs/environmental-action

Curtailing pollution created by pharmaceuticals, agricultural and healthcare sectors is essential to reduce the emergence, transmission, and spread of superbugs – strains of bacteria that have become resistant to every known antibiotic – and other instances of antimicrobial resistance, known as AMR. This is the key message of a report released on 7 February 2023 by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on the environmental dimensions of AMR, which already is taking a serious toll on the health of humans, animals, and plants, as well as the economy. The report was launched at the Sixth Meeting of the Global Leaders Group on AMR, held in Barbados. It calls for a multisectoral One Health response. This is in line with the work of the Quadripartite Alliance, including UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

Elections in Digital Times: A Guide for Electoral Practitioners (UNESCO)

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382102

Democracy requires free, periodic, transparent, and inclusive elections. Freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and the right to political participation are also critical to societies ruled by the respect of human rights. In today's rapidly evolving digital environment, opportunities for communication between citizens, politicians and political parties are unprecedented –– with information related to elections flowing faster and easier than ever, coupled with expanded opportunities for its verification and correction by a growing number of stakeholders. However, with billions of human beings connected, and disinformation and misinformation circulating unhinged around the networks, democratic processes and access to reliable information are at risk. With an estimated 56.8% of the world's population active on social media and an estimate of 4 billion eligible voters, the ubiquity of social networks and the impact of Artificial Intelligence can intentionally or unintentionally undermine electoral processes, thereby delegitimizing democracies worldwide. In this context, all actors involved in electoral processes have an essential role to play. Electoral management bodies, electoral practitioners, the media, voters, political parties, and civil society organizations must understand the scope and impact of social media and Artificial Intelligence in the electoral cycle. They also need to have access to the tools to identify who instigates and spreads disinformation

and misinformation, and the tools and strategies to combat it. This handbook aims to be a toolbox that helps better understand the current scenario and share experiences of good practices in different electoral settings and equip electoral practitioners and other key actors from all over the world to ensure the credibility of the democratic system in times of profound transformations.

The Environmental Impact of the Conflict in Ukraine: A Preliminary Review (UNEP)

https://www.unep.org/resources/report/environmental-impact-conflict-ukraine-preliminary-review
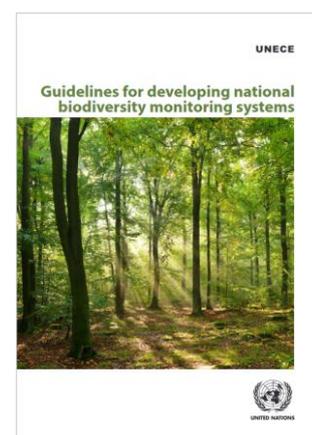
UNEP is mandated to assist countries, upon request, with pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism. Responding to a request by the Government of Ukraine, this report was drafted as part of a preparatory process to assist Ukraine in recovery from the current conflict and to inform a comprehensive post-conflict assessment. During the conflict that began on 24 February 2022, Ukraine has experienced considerable environmental destruction. Extensive field assessment work will be required to establish the character, magnitude and significance of conflict-related environmental impacts and remediation requirements. The report presents a snapshot – but by no means a comprehensive picture – of the damage inflicted on Ukraine's environment and the potential environmental and public health impacts, informing priorities for field-level verification work. Initial information shows that Ukraine, already burdened by a host of legacy environmental challenges, is now facing a compounded, multi-dimensional environmental crisis that has either exacerbated existing issues or added new ones. It is essential that the ongoing conflict ends now to ensure greater damage to the environment and to people is averted. The country and the region risk being burdened with a toxic legacy long after the conflict ends.

Guidelines for developing national biodiversity monitoring systems (UNECE)

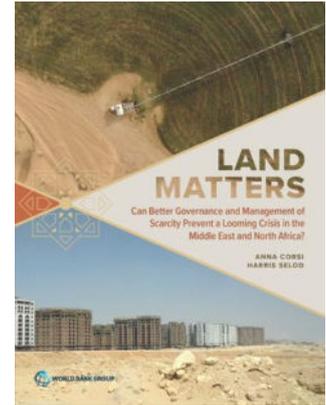https://unece.org/info/Environment-Policy/Environmental-Monitoring-and-Assessment/pub/375255

Updated guidance published on 26 January 2023 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will help governments to strengthen biodiversity monitoring as a basis for sharpened biodiversity protection policies across all sectors. The guidance is the first of its kind to build on the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at the 15th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-15) in December 2022. This comes at a crucial moment, with global biodiversity declining faster than at any time in human history. According to the 2022 UNECE report on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the pan-European region and North America needs to act urgently to reverse trends for biodiversity loss (target 15.5).

Land Matters: Can Better Governance and Management of Scarcity Prevent a Looming Crisis in the Middle East and North Africa? (World Bank)
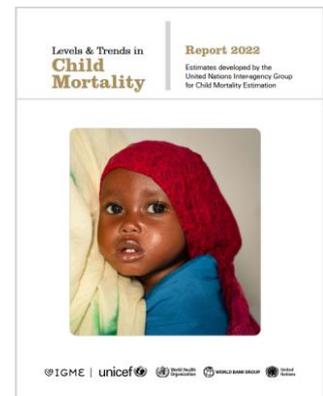
https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/38384

The growing challenge of land scarcity, exacerbated by population growth and the impacts of climate change, threaten economic development in the Middle East and North Africa region. This World Bank report highlights how weak governance is contributing to the inefficient and unsustainable use of land. Indeed, access to land is a severe constraint for both people and businesses in the MENA region. The report proposes a series of reforms, including the adoption of transparent market-driven processes to value and transfer land, as well as the creation of complete inventories of public land and improvements in the registration of land rights. Steps such as these could support more efficient land use and land management decisions and ensure that land serves social, economic and fiscal functions in a region where property taxes represent less than one percent of GDP. Moreover, sensible land policies could also reduce gender inequalities and promote women's empowerment. In a nutshell, the report stresses that "land matters" and that it is time to openly discuss and address land issues in policy debates in the MENA region. Addressing the land crisis will help countries move towards a path of more sustainable and inclusive growth.

Levels and trends in child mortality: United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), Report 2022

https://data.unicef.org/resources/levels-and-trends-in-child-mortality/

In total, more than 5.0 million children under age 5, including 2.3 million newborns, along with 2.1 million children and youth aged 5 to 24 years – 43 per cent of whom are adolescents – died in 2021. This tragic and massive loss of life, most of which was due to preventable or treatable causes, is a stark reminder of the urgent need to end preventable deaths of children and young people. Sadly, these deaths were mostly preventable with widespread and effective interventions like improved care around the time of birth, vaccination, nutritional supplementation and water and sanitation programmes. Timely, high-quality and disaggregated data – which allow the most vulnerable children to be identified – are critical to achieving the goal of ending preventable deaths of children. Yet as the COVID-19 pandemic has put into stark light, data of this nature are more the exception than the rule: Just 36 countries have high-quality nationally representative data on under-five mortality for 2021, while about half the world's countries have no data on child mortality in the last five years. These substantial data gaps pose enormous challenges to policy- and decision-making and prolong the need for modelling mortality from what little data are available. To improve the availability, quality and timeliness of data for monitoring the health and survival situation of children and youth, much greater investments must be made to strengthen data systems.

Never Forgotten: The situation of stillbirth around the globe

https://data.unicef.org/resources/never-forgotten-stillbirth-estimates-report/

Their names are Ashley, Everett and Shayen. They are among the 53 million babies that have been stillborn since 2000. Yet many of these children did not have to die. Many would be alive today had their mothers had access to proper care during pregnancy and labour. Instead of mourning them, their families would be celebrating birthdays, first steps and first words. Though these children's lives have been cut tragically short, their parents will never forget them, nor the trauma of their death. Every day in 2021, over 5,000 babies were stillborn at 28 weeks or more of gestation. That's a staggering 1.9 million babies stillborn in just one year.

Two in five of these babies died during labour – what is known as intrapartum stillbirth. The estimates in this publication, the second report to address stillbirth by the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), are derived from the most up-to-date data from 195 countries and provide a picture of late gestation stillbirth, or deaths that occur at 28 weeks or more of gestation. They highlight the immense and continued annual burden of stillbirths and the women in the world at greatest risk of having a stillbirth. They also call attention to the fact that when pregnant women have access to quality care, most stillbirths can be prevented.

Perspective Series Issue No. 42: Building Back Greener - In the Post-COVID-19 Era (UNEP)

https://www.unep.org/resources/perspective-series/issue-no-42-building-back-greener-post-covid-19-era

"Executive Summary: COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, and the intensifying climate crisis have combined to create an unprecedented global emergency, with governments and institutions struggling to adapt to a rapidly destabilising situation. However, over the last two years a set of interlocking policy reforms has emerged with the potential to protect marginalised communities, restore the environment, and mitigate future disasters. These policies are designed to bring about an Inclusive Green Recovery, and this paper sets out a cohesive programme of complementary policy recommendations designed to enable a more inclusive and sustainable economy."

Prospects for Children in the Polycrisis: A 2023 Global Outlook (UNICEF)

https://www.unicef.org/globalinsight/reports/prospects-children-polycrisis-2023-global-outlook

This report outlines the polycrisis in which the world finds itself — multiple, simultaneous shocks with strong interdependencies, intensified in an ever-more integrated world — along with eight trends that will shape child rights and well-being in the coming year. The trends explored are: 1. The pandemic's harms will continue to be counted — but reforms of health architecture and medical breakthroughs offer hope for children. 2. Efforts to tame inflation will have unintended negative effects on child poverty and well-being — requiring policy measures that protect investments for vulnerable families and children. 3. Multiple factors will contribute to continued food and nutrition insecurity — with increasing calls for greater climate adaptation and food systems reform to prevent food poverty in children. 4. The worsening energy crisis may cause immediate harm to children — but the focus on energy sustainability provides hope for a greener future. 5. Unmet needs and underinvestment in children warrant reforms of financial flows to developing countries — while renewed attention on climate finance and debt relief holds promise. 6. Threats to democratic rights such as freedom of expression are expected to continue — but social movements, including those led by young people and women, are likely to push back. 7. Increasing factionalism will put further stress on multilateralism — but efforts to address children's and young people's concerns may offer opportunities to find common ground. 8. The internet will continue to fragment and become less global, resulting in further disparities for children — prompting a greater push for openness, fairness and inclusion.

Ready to learn and thrive: school health and nutrition around the world

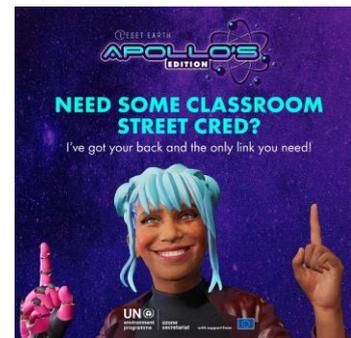https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000384421

While investing in school health and nutrition has a significant positive effect on children's academic achievement, 1 in 3 schools in the world still lack access to drinking water and basic sanitation facilities, according to a new report launched on 8 February by UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP). The report shows that the provision of school health and nutrition incentivize children to come to school, and to stay there. School meals alone increase enrolment and attendance rates by 9% and 8%, respectively. De-worming and micronutrient supplementation can result in pupils attending school for 2.5 additional years in places where anaemia and worm infections are prevalent. The report also addresses other issues such as the promotion of eye care, mental health and well-being of children and the prevention of school violence. The report underlines that all these measures represent a significant return on investment for countries, in addition to improving the daily lives and study conditions of children. For example, school feeding programmes deliver US$9 in returns for every US$1 invested, and school programmes that address mental health can potentially provide a return on investment of US$21.5 for every US$1 invested.
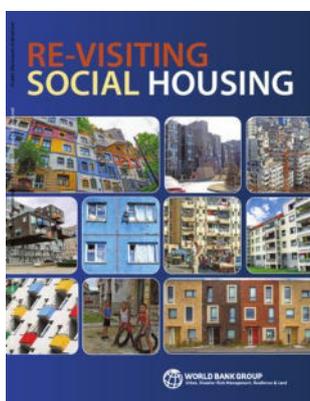
Reset earth: Apollo's edition education portal (UNEP)

https://ozone.unep.org/apollo-edition

The UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) Ozone Secretariat launched on 24 January 2023 a simulator game and avatar using the latest software technology. Apollo's Edition is the latest addition to the Reset Earth education platform. Targeting 13-18-year-olds, the free online education material developed provides educators with resources to teach students the importance of environmental protection. The Reset Earth Impact Simulator game puts the students in the hot seat. As decision makers, they get to decide on four possible policy directions, all of which have specific outcomes documented and visualised by the game. Based on their understanding of the ozone layer, its function and importance, the impacts of their decisions on the environment, society, economy, and political hegemony are recorded and scored. Teachers can mix and match the lesson contents as they see fit and appropriate for their classes. Tools include short videos, class activities to stimulate debate and individual project tasks. The lessons are a flexible learning tool to incorporate ozone layer and environmental protection into existing curriculums.

Revisiting Social Housing (World Bank)

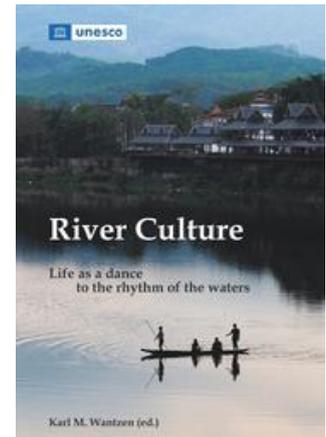https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/38470

This study aims to re-visit the concept and practice of social housing, take stock of good practices and innovations, as well as the failures of social housing, and suggest ways in which the World Bank can help client countries/cities to make social housing work for the poor and low-income households, as well as for the functioning of the housing market overall. Specifically, the task at hand in preparing this report was to: Develop a working/operational definition of the loosely used 'social housing' terminology; Take stock of housing policies and programs since the "demise" of public housing; Undertake in-depth case studies of successes and innovations, lessons learned, and factors for success; and reflect upon how the World Bank could engage with the social housing sector. The research included an extensive literature review of primary and secondary sources on social housing and in-depth case studies.

River culture: life as a dance to the rhythm of the waters (UNESCO)

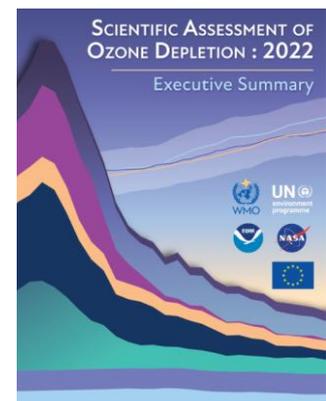https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382775

A book just published by UNESCO, presents 28 case studies and several reviews which show how differently humans and non-human organisms have adapted to the rhythms of natural flooding and periods of drought. This book examines the factors which nurture and threaten this biocultural diversity, as well as what we can do to restore this diversity and the socio-cultural circumstances that are most likely to guarantee success. The section on "European Rivers" includes the following chapters: The Rhine – An Important Biocultural Axis for Europe; River restoration on catchment scale in the metropolitan region and post-mining landscape of the Emscher catchment, Germany; The Isar River: social pride as a driver of river restoration; The Danube: on the environmental history, present, and future of a great European river; The Seine, the river dedicated to Paris; The Loire: a cultural and environmental exception in Europe; Dordogne: the first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve covering an entire river basin; Nature-human-river relationships at the Ebro river and its delta (Spain); The waterways of Venice as an 'extended museum': new opportunities for cultural, social and environmental regeneration of a forgotten water heritage.

Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion 2022: Executive Summary

https://ozone.unep.org/system/files/documents/Scientific-Assessment-of-Ozone-Depletion-2022-Executive-Summary.pdf
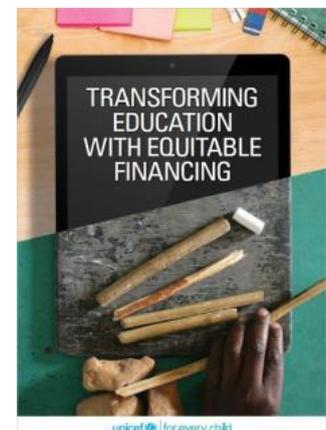
The ozone layer is on track to recover within four decades, with the global phaseout of ozone-depleting chemicals already benefitting efforts to mitigate climate change. This is the conclusion of an UN-backed panel of experts, presented on 9 January 2023 at the American Meteorological Society's 103rd annual meeting. Examining novel technologies such as geoengineering for the first time, the panel warns of unintended impacts on the ozone layer. The UN-backed Scientific Assessment Panel to the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances quadrennial assessment report, published every four years, confirms the phase out of nearly 99% of banned ozone-depleting substances has succeeded in safeguarding the ozone layer, leading to notable recovery of the ozone layer in the upper stratosphere and decreased human exposure to harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun. If current policies remain in place, the ozone layer is expected to recover to 1980 values (before the appearance of the ozone hole) by around 2066 over the Antarctic, by 2045 over the Arctic and by 2040 for the rest of the world. Variations in the size of the Antarctic ozone hole, particularly between 2019 and 2021, were driven largely by meteorological conditions. Nevertheless, the Antarctic ozone hole has been slowly improving in area and depth since the year 2000.
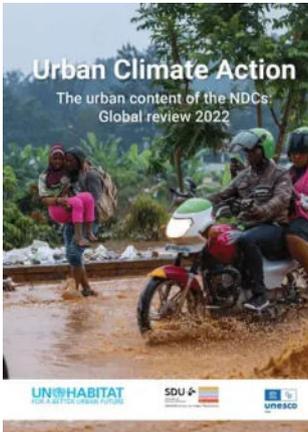
Transforming Education with Equitable Financing (UNICEF)

English & French: https://www.unicef.org/reports/transforming-education-equitable-financing

Children from the poorest households benefit the least from national public education funding, UNICEF said in a new report released on 13 January 2023, while calling for additional – and more equitable – investment to lift millions of children out of a learning crisis. The report, notes that on average, the poorest quintile of learners benefits from only 16 per cent of public funding for education, compared to the richest, who benefit from 28 per cent. Among low-income countries, only 11 per cent of public education funding goes to the poorest

learners, while 42 per cent goes to the richest. The report examines data on government spending across pre-primary, primary, secondary, and tertiary education from 102 countries. It found that a one percentage point increase in the allocation of public education resources to the poorest 20 per cent may pull 35 million primary school-aged children out of learning poverty. The study noted that around the world, public education spending is more likely to reach learners from wealthier households in both low- and middle-income countries.
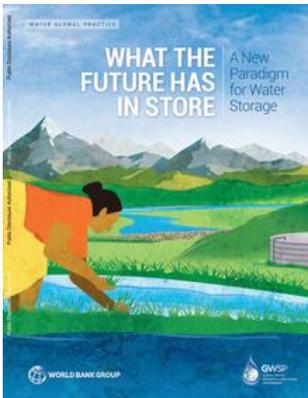
Urban Climate Action - The urban content of the NDCs: Global review 2022
https://unhabitat.org/urban-climate-action-the-urban-content-of-the-ndcs-global-review-2022

UN-Habitat and University of Southern Denmark have published a report analysing to what extent urban solutions to climate change and city-specific needs are central to the latest national climate action plans known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The year 2022 was devastating for climate disasters from floods in Pakistan to drought in Europe to extreme storms in the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific. The report reveals that while the urban content in NDCs has increased, they are inadequate to respond to the climate crisis. It says that to achieve climate ambitions, national governments must place cities at the heart of national climate strategies. Despite occupying only about 2% of the global footprint in terms of land area, cities consume about 78% of the world's energy and emit over 70% of greenhouse gas emissions. These numbers will spike further as urban populations rise from the current 57% to 68% by 2050, as projected. There is growing awareness that cities are at the forefront of delivering solutions.

What the Future Has in Store: A New Paradigm for Water Storage (World Bank)
https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water/publication/what-the-future-has-in-store-a-new-paradigm-for-water-storage
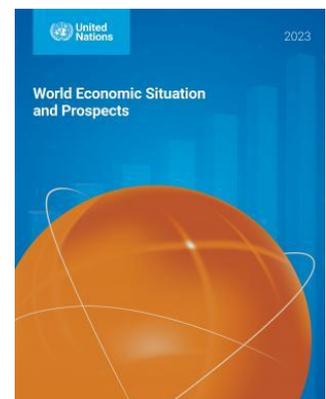
The report is an urgent appeal to practitioners at every level, both public and private, and across sectors, to come together to champion integrated water storage solutions—natural, built, and hybrid—to meet a range of human, economic, and environmental needs for the twenty-first century. Closing storage gaps will require a spectrum of economic sectors and stakeholders to develop and drive multi-sectoral solutions. The proposed integrated water storage planning framework is grounded in sustainable development and climate resilience, with the potential to pay dividends for people, economies, and environments for generations.

World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023
Report in English, Executive Summary in English, French & Spanish:
https://desapublications.un.org/publications/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-2023

A series of severe and mutually reinforcing shocks — the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and resulting food and energy crises, surging inflation, debt tightening, as well as the climate emergency — battered the world economy in 2022. Against this backdrop, world output growth is projected to decelerate from an estimated 3.0 per cent in 2022 to 1.9 per cent in 2023, marking one of the lowest growth rates in recent decades, according to the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2023, launched on 25 January 2023. The report presents a gloomy and uncertain economic

outlook for the near term. Global growth is forecast to moderately pick up to 2.7 per cent in 2024 as some of the headwinds will begin to subside. However, this is highly dependent on the pace and sequence of further monetary tightening, the course and consequences of the war in Ukraine, and the possibility of further supply-chain disruptions. The tepid global economic prospects also threaten the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), when the 2023 SDG Summit in September marks the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2023 (ILO)

Report in English, Executive Summary in English, French & Spanish:
https://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/weso/WCMS_865332/lang--en/index.htm

The current global economic slowdown is likely to force more workers to accept lower quality, poorly paid jobs which lack job security and social protection, so accentuating inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, according to a new International Labour Organization (ILO) report released on 16 January 2023. … The report also identifies a new, comprehensive measure of unmet need for employment – the global jobs gap. As well as those who are unemployed, this measure includes people who want employment but are not actively searching for a job, either because they are discouraged or because they have other obligations such as care responsibilities. The global jobs gap stood at 473 million in 2022, around 33 million above the level of 2019.

World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World (DESA)

http://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/world-social-report/2023-2.html

Population ageing is a defining global trend of our time. People are living longer, and more are older than ever before. Spectacular improvements in health and survival and reductions in fertility have driven this momentous shift, which has begun or is expected to begin soon in all countries and areas. This change brings both challenges and opportunities as countries strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2022, the world marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. To commemorate this landmark, the World Social Report 2023 explores the economic and social implications of the ageing of the human population. It builds on the Plan of Action's framework for national policies to create equitable, inclusive societies for people of all ages, providing recommendations to put the rights and well-being of older persons at the centre, across the life course.

International Peace and Security

Concept note for the ministerial-level open debate of the Security Council on the theme "The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security: the rule of law among nations"
English, French & Spanish: https://undocs.org/S/2023/1
The Security Council held a ministerial-level open debate on 12 January 2023, on the theme "The rule of law among nations", under the item entitled "The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security". Japan, the Security Council President for January 2023, has prepared this concept note.

Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges"
English, French & Spanish: https://undocs.org/S/2023/19
The Security Council held an open debate on 26 January 2023 on the theme "Investment in people to enhance resilience against complex challenges", in connection with the item entitled "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace". Japan, the Security Council President for January 2023, has prepared this concept note.

Journey to extremism in Africa: Pathways to recruitment and disengagement (UNDP)
https://www.undp.org/publications/journey-extremism-africa-pathways-recruitment-and-disengagement
The surge in violent extremism in sub-Saharan Africa undermines hard-won development gains and threatens to hold back progress for generations to come. The need to improve understanding of what drives violent extremism in Africa, and what can be done to prevent it, has never been more urgent. Against this backdrop of the surge in violent extremism in sub- Saharan Africa, and the continued prioritization of security-driven responses, UNDP initiated a follow-up study, Journey to Extremism in Africa: Pathways to Recruitment and Disengagement in 2020. The research was developed to strengthen and refine the evidence base established in 2017, as well as to update and expand the scope of the research, tracking variations in relation to the findings of the first report: Journey to Extremism in Africa: Drivers, Incentives and the Tipping Point for Recruitment

https://peacekeepingresourcehub.un.org/
United Nations Departments of Peace Operations (DPO) is pleased to introduce the newly re-designed Peacekeeping Resource Hub. The website is designed to serve as the primary resource for Member States, Peacekeeping Training Institutes, Peacekeeping Operations and the UN's partners on peacekeeping-related issues in all six official languages. It serves as a repository for all official DPO and DPPA training and guidance materials, and provides links to other related UN documents and resources. It also offers links to real-time news and updates in the United Nations peacekeeping world.

Human Rights

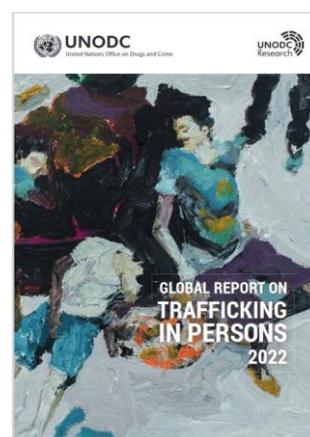### General comment No. 26 (2022) on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/GC/26)

English, French & Spanish: https://undocs.org/E/C.12/GC/26

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has issued a guidance note to clarify States' obligations regarding the access to, use of and control over land, particularly about pressing issues affecting human rights such as eviction of land users, international investment, land-related conflicts, and climate change. "In many parts of the world, land is not only a resource for producing food, generating income, and developing housing; it also constitutes the basis for social, cultural and religious practices and the enjoyment of the right to take part in cultural life," the Committee states in its guidance note, formally known as a general comment.

Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022 (UNODC)

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html

Fewer victims of trafficking in persons are being identified even as the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises are increasing vulnerabilities to exploitation, according to the latest Global Report on Trafficking in Persons launched on 24 January 2023 by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The number of victims detected globally fell by 11 per cent in 2020 from the previous year, driven by fewer detections in low- and medium-income countries. The pandemic, in addition to reducing opportunities for traffickers to operate, may have weakened law enforcement capacities to detect victims. The seventh UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons covers 141 countries and provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at global, regional and national levels, based on trafficking cases detected between 2017 and 2021. The findings are further informed by analysis of 800 court case summaries and accompanied by detailed suggestions to policy makers to help formulate effective responses.

Guidance on Racism and Xenophobia: How UNHCR can address and respond to situations of racism and xenophobia affecting persons under its mandate

English: https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98475
French: https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98477
Spanish: https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98483

The Human Rights Liaison Unit in the Protection Policy and Legal Advice (PPLA) section of UNHCR's Division of International Protection has prepared this Guidance in response to a number of requests for advice from UNHCR operations on issues related to racism and xenophobia affecting persons of concern to UNHCR. The Guidance aims to: (1) provide a comprehensive framework for UNHCR's interventions regarding racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; (2) expand the ways UNHCR describes and presents issues related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to include intersectional dimensions as well as structural, institutional and historical perspectives; (3) provide concrete examples of how UNHCR operations have addressed racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; (4) highlight avenues to leverage the national, regional and UN human rights mechanisms and other platforms.

Illegal and Illegitimate: Examining the Myanmar military's claim as the Government of Myanmar and the international response Conference room paper of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A /HRC/52/CRP.2, 31 January 2023)
https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/mm/2023-01-27/crp-sr-myanmar-2023-01-31.pdf
Myanmar's junta—the State Administration Council (SAC)—is illegal and illegitimate, the UN human rights expert on Myanmar said 31 January 2023. He called for the international community to deny the SAC legitimacy, create a coalition of member states to enforce strong, coordinated sanctions against the SAC, and support the National Unity Government which has a stronger claim to legitimacy. On the eve of the second anniversary of the military coup in Myanmar which deposed the democratically elected National Unity Government, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Myanmar Tom Andrews, issued a new report that lays bare the junta's flawed claims to be the legitimate government of Myanmar.

Stepping Forward: Parliaments in the Fight Against Hate Speech (UNDP Development Future Series, January 2023)
https://www.undp.org/publications/dfs-stepping-forward-parliaments-fight-against-hate-speech
This brief provides an overview of the background, drivers, enablers and the impact of hate speech and identifies strategies to counter it, with a focus on the role of parliaments as a positive force for change. Of particular relevance are the concrete actions parliaments can take to address and mitigate the prevalence and impact of hate speech on those who are most vulnerable in society, including women, minorities and other underrepresented groups. The objective of this brief is to provide meaningful and practical guidance for parliaments and parliamentarians, as well as those who programmatically support them, on steps they can take to reduce and counter hate speech while fostering peace, constructive dialogue and trust.

Humanitarian Affairs

Refugee and Migrant Health Toolkit (WHO)
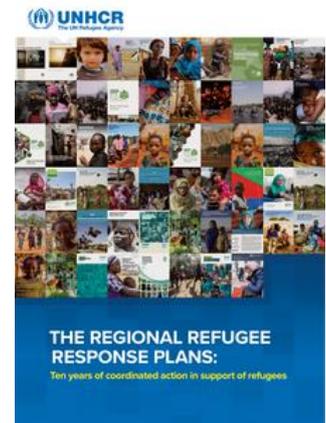https://www.who.int/tools/refugee-and-migrant-health-toolkit
The World Health Organization (WHO) developed a Refugee and migrant health toolkit, a web-based one-stop comprehensive platform of tools and resources, to support the global, regional, and country efforts in implementing health and migration-related activities. Migration and displacement often impact people's physical and mental health and well-being, especially for those who were forced to flee their homes. It can leave particular impact on people displaced across borders or within their own country and those in an irregular situation or with vulnerabilities and specific health and protection needs. Refugee and migrants could face many factors such as their migratory status; national migration policies; and linguistic, cultural, economic, and social barriers that often hinder their access to health services. It is essential that countries have strong and inclusive health systems equipped with the necessary knowledge and tools to help decision-makers and health personnel meet the health needs and rights of these populations and advance the health and migration agenda.

The Regional Refugee Response Plans: Ten Years of Coordinated Action in Support of Refugees (UNHCR)

https://reporting.unhcr.org/document/4185

"A word from the Deputy High Commissioner: This year, we mark the tenth anniversary of the Refugee Response Plans (RRPs). In that time, more than 3,000 partners have been engaged in 12 regional refugee situations covering 50 countries worldwide to provide protection, humanitarian aid and solutions to those most in need. Through these efforts more than 83 million refugees and 65 million hosts, were identified for assistance. This would not have been possible without the continued engagement and collaboration of partners and support from our donors. Thanks to their support, the Plans have raised US$36 billion to support refugees and host communities. Introduced in 2012, the main aim of the Regional Refugee Response Plans is to ensure host governments, partners and donors have a clear overview of the response and budgetary needs. …"

Justice and International Law

International Criminal Court launched French and Spanish Versions of Case Law Database
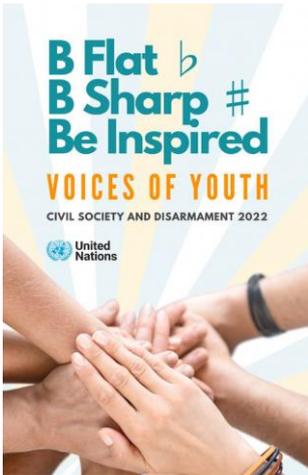
https://legal-tools.org/cld

On 20 January 2023, the International Criminal Court (ICC) launched the French and Spanish versions of the ICC Case Law Database (CLD). The CLD is an easily searchable database of the Court's jurisprudence providing free access to the entire case-law of the ICC in English, and to the available translations in French and Spanish. The CLD is also part of the ICC's Legal Tools Database (LTD), the leading information service on international criminal law developed by the Court as a digital public good. The LTD interface now functions in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The LTD contains more than 179,000 court decisions from all international criminal jurisdictions since Nuremberg and other international courts; relevant treaties and UN resolutions, documents from the International Law Commission, UN human rights bodies and fact-finding mandates; relevant domestic statutes and court decisions; and other documents that may aid international criminal law work and research.

Nuclear, Chemical and Conventional Weapons Disarmament

UN Office for Disarmament Affairs – new and enhanced platforms

- **UNODA Documents Library**
  The portal for documents of official disarmament meetings
  https://library.unoda.org/

- **UNODA Meetings Place**
  The portal for official and other disarmament meetings
  https://meetings.unoda.org/

B Flat, B Sharp, Be Inspired: Voices of Youth
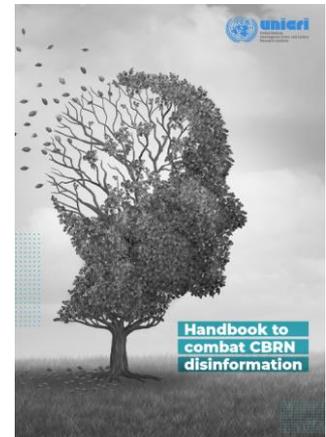https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Civil-Society-and-Disarmament-2022-rev.pdf
Launched in 2019, the #Youth4Disarmament (Y4D) initiative of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs seeks to engage, educate and empower young people to facilitate their meaningful contribution to disarmament efforts. The "Spotlight Stories" section of the Y4D community website offers a space for young people to share – in their own voices and from their own perspectives – why the work of disarmament is critical to building peace and how they are helping push the field forward. This publication is a compilation of those stories, which reveal hope for a better future and show some of the diverse ways to pursue peace through disarmament in the twenty-first century.

Handbook to combat CBRN disinformation (UNICRI)
https://unicri.it/News/Hanbook-to-combat-disinformation
To produce this handbook, The UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) has monitored several social media platforms, paying specific attention to the role of violent non-state actors, namely: violent extremists; terrorist organizations (particularly those associated with ISIL, also known as Da'esh and Al-Qaida); and organized criminal groups. The Handbook aims at enhancing understanding of CBRN disinformation on social media while developing competencies to prevent and respond to disinformation with a specific focus on techniques for debunking false information. It has been designed for individuals or agencies working in CBRN risk mitigation at different levels (communication, decision-making, managerial, operational, technical, etc.) who have been or could potentially be exposed to and targeted by disinformation. The Handbook equips practitioners with the competencies to effectively analyse, understand and respond to CBRN disinformation in the media and on social media platforms.

Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Counter-terrorism

Media and the coverage of terrorism: manual for trainers and journalism educators (UNESCO)
English: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380356
French: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380608
In 2017, a Varkey Foundation survey of 20,000 young people across the globe found that 83% of respondents think that terrorism made them fearful for the future - more than any other factor, including climate change and war. Many of the violent attacks we see playing out today are at least partly conceived with media coverage in mind. According to the 2020 UNESCO Director-General Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity, a total of 24 of the 156 journalists and media workers killed during 2018-2019, lost their lives to attacks by groups engaged in violent extremism as well as terrorism. Journalism educators and trainers have a role to play in supporting the quality of reporting on this complex topic, as well as in raising journalists' ability to protect themselves while covering terrorist attacks. Building on a previous UNESCO publication "Terrorism and the media: A Handbook for journalists (2017)", this new manual is designed primarily for media trainers and journalism educators. Based on real life lessons and extensive analysis of the risks and pitfalls in covering terrorism, the handbook adds significant value to media's role in covering these challenges.

Back issues of this newsletter are available at the UNRIC Info Point & Library website:
https://unric.org/en/unric-info-point-library-newsletter-archive/