

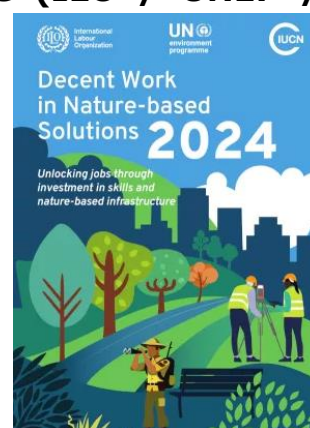
New UN websites & publications

TOPIC OF THE MONTH: Desertification

Decent Work in Nature-Based Solutions 2024: Unlocking jobs through investment in skills and nature-based infrastructure (ILO / UNEP / IUCN)

<https://www.ilo.org/publications/decent-work-nature-based-solutions-2024-unlocking-jobs-through-investment>

Investing in nature-based solutions (NbS) could create up to 32 million new jobs by 2030. This is according to this new report by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Launched on 7 December 2024 at the [16th session](#) of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the [Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions 2024 report](#) calls for increased and more targeted investments to the countries with most potential for use of NbS.



Economics of drought — investing in nature-based solutions for drought resilience

<https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/economics-drought-investing-nature-based-solutions-drought-resilience>

As droughts fueled by human destruction of the environment are projected to affect three in four people by 2050, investing in sustainable land and water management is essential to reduce their costs, which already exceed \$307 billion per year globally. Drawing on a wealth of evidence and case studies from various countries — including Chile, India, Jordan, Kenya, Spain and Tunisia— this report makes the business case for nature-based solutions to drought — practices that restore ecosystem functions and soil health to enhance water cycling, storage, and supply in support of human wellbeing — for example, reforestation, grazing management, and the management, restoration and conservation of watersheds.



Fashion & Land: Unravelling the Environmental Impact of Fibres



<https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/fashion-and-land>

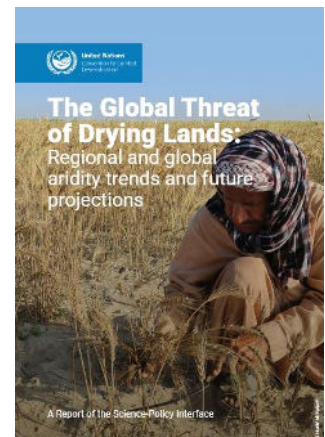
The fashion industry significantly influences land use, soil health and degradation through its fiber choices and production practices. From cotton's high resource demands to the overgrazing linked to wool and cashmere, and the microplastic pollution of synthetic fibers, each material poses unique challenges. Emerging alternatives, such as agricultural waste fibers, offer promise but remain niche. Addressing the environmental pressures caused by the fast pace of consumption and material reliance requires sustainable practices across the fashion value chain. This publication, being launched at UNCCD COP16 in Saudi Arabia, highlights the connection between fashion and land, showcasing innovative solutions, policy frameworks and actionable strategies to reduce the industry's impact and promote long-term environmental stewardship.

The Global Threat of Drying Lands: Regional and global aridity trends and future projections (UNCCD)

Report: <https://www.unccd.int/resources/reports/global-threat-drying-lands-regional-and-global-aridity-trends-and-future>

Science-policy brief: <https://www.unccd.int/resources/brief/science-policy-brief-global-threat-drying-lands-regional-and-global-aridity-trends>

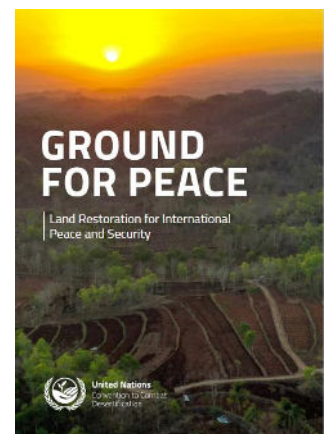
The report was launched at the 16th conference of UNCCD's nearly 200 Parties in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (COP16), the largest UN land conference to date, and the first UNCCD COP to be held in the Middle East, a region profoundly affected by impacts from aridity. The report by UNCCD Science-Policy Interface (SPI) — the UN body for assessing the science of land degradation and drought — points to human-caused climate change as the primary driver of this shift. Greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation, transport, industry and land use changes warm the planet and other human activities warm the planet and affect rainfall, evaporation and plant life, creating the conditions that increase aridity.



Ground for peace: Land restoration for international peace and security (UNCCD)

Report & Summary: <https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/ground-peace-land-restoration-international-peace-and-security>

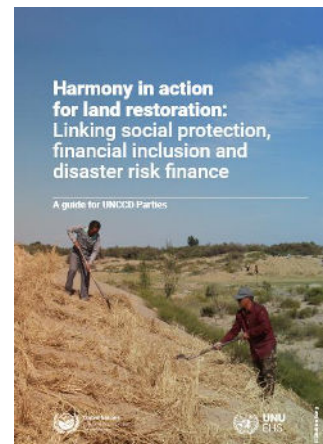
The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the linkages between land, peace and security in the context of the [UNCCD Peace Forest Initiative](#), drawing insights from global research, case studies, and expert perspectives. It sets out the political case for investing in land and ecosystem restoration as a powerful contribution to international peace and security and calls for policymakers and practitioners working in the field of environmental restoration and peace-building to incorporate its findings and recommendations into their strategies for addressing land-related conflicts as a route towards sustainable peace.



Harmony in action for land restoration: Linking social protection, financial inclusion and disaster risk finance - A guide for UNCCD Parties (UNU-EHS / UNCCD)

<https://www.unccd.int/resources/reports/harmony-action-land-restoration-linking-social-protection-financial-inclusion-and>

This report serves as a roadmap for policymakers, drawing 2 pathways to where the objectives of land restoration, social protection, financial inclusion and disaster risk management intersect. These synergies can make land restoration fair and equitable, respecting land rights and the tenure of those who often rely on these lands as both a home and as a source of livelihood. By centering inclusivity and equity, this approach aims to build a sustainable future in which all communities benefit from restored and resilient landscapes.



Stepping back from the precipice: Transforming land management to stay within planetary boundaries (UNCCD)

<https://www.unccd.int/resources/reports/stepping-back-precipice-transforming-land-management-stay-within-planetary>

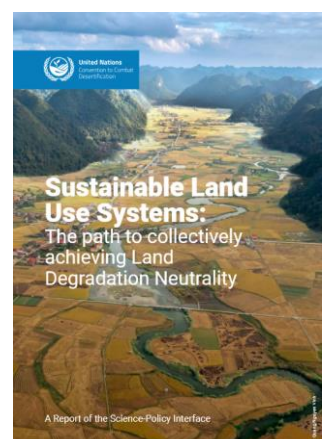
This major new scientific report charts an urgent course correction for how the world grows food and uses land in order to avoid irretrievably compromising Earth's capacity to support human and environmental well-being. Produced under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström at the [Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research](#) (PIK) in collaboration with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the report was launched as nearly 200 UNCCD member states began their [COP16 summit](#) on 2 December 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The report situates both problems and potential solutions related to land use within the scientific framework of the planetary boundaries, which has rapidly gained policy relevance since its unveiling 15 years ago.



Sustainable Land Use Systems: The path forward to collectively achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (UNCCD)

<https://www.unccd.int/resources/reports/sustainable-land-use-systems-path-forward-collectively-achieve-land-degradation>

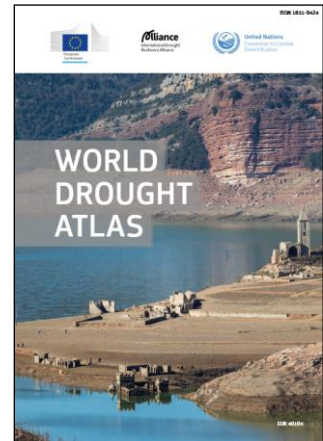
This report presents science-based evidence concerning sustainable land use systems (SLUS) and the potential of the SLUS approach to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets, reduce inequalities, achieve social justice, improve economic viability and, consequently, help achieve multiple United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets. It aims to guide countries to use SLUS to apply more effective management of natural resources and the environment.



World Drought Atlas 2024

<https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/world-drought-atlas>

As record-breaking droughts are becoming a new normal around the globe, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) launch the most comprehensive global publication on drought risks and solutions as an urgent wake-up call for world leaders and citizens. The World Drought Atlas depicts the systemic nature of drought risks for both specialist and non-specialist audiences. Through dozens of maps, infographics, and case studies, it illustrates how drought risks are interconnected across sectors like energy, agriculture, river transport, and international trade and how they can trigger cascading effects, fueling inequalities and conflicts and threatening public health.



UN in General

"Journal of the United Nations" launches global calendar

<https://journal.un.org/>

Have you ever wanted to view all the meetings of a particular UN organ in a calendar view? Now you can with the Global Calendar feature of the [Journal of the United Nations](https://journal.un.org/). The [Global Calendar](https://journal.un.org/) allows you to view meetings of all or just specific intergovernmental bodies that you may be interested in on a month-by-month basis. It can be accessed from the sidebar beneath "Conferences and Summits" on the Journal of the United Nations website.

see also: <https://www.un.org/en/delegate/journal-united-nations-launches-global-calendar>

Security Council Resolutions

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/>

[Full-text search for Security Council resolutions is here!](#)

The United Nations Security Council adopted its first resolution, [S/RES/1\(1946\)](#), on 25 January 1946 – long before the current modes of online distribution of documents.

As of 30 November 2024, the Council has adopted 2,760 resolutions in pursuit of its duty to uphold international peace and security. These resolutions are adopted in open formal meetings, and the voting information is recorded in the respective meeting records.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library digitized the historic collection of Security Council resolutions over two decades ago. However, due to limitations in technology at that time, the files did not allow for full-text searching.

To improve access and discovery, the Library launched a project to add text-searchable features to resolutions published before UN documents became fully digital in 1993. Using an optical character recognition (OCR) tool, we converted over 900 Security Council resolutions and related documents from images into searchable text. That meant processing more than 6,000 files in all official languages!

The Library's ongoing digitalization initiative prioritizes the scanning of important documents issued by the Security Council, General Assembly, and Economic and Social Council in the public domain since the Organization's founding.

Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

A Blueprint for Resilience: Charting the Course for Water Security in Europe and Central Asia - Diagnostic Report (World Bank)

<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099120424173017419/p1700301be9b560a61821b15190340120f8>

The Europe and Central Asia region is highly heterogeneous, and water security challenges vary widely. Although relatively similar, some challenges are of a different size, especially given each country's various geographical, cultural, economic, and political departure points. This assessment explores the main regional challenges and opportunities related to water security by delving into the situations faced by each of the three major subregions: the Danube, Central Asia, and the South Caucasus.



Community protection for the mpox response: a comprehensive set of actions (WHO)

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/B09182>

This is the first of a collection of technical briefs devoted to community protection for mpox. These briefs provide practical information for strengthening person- and community-centred responses to mpox. They are designed for use by people working with and among all affected communities to achieve desired outcomes for emergency mpox responses in all areas at risk.

Detecting Information Voids During Floods in the Central European Region (UNU-CRIS Insight Brief)

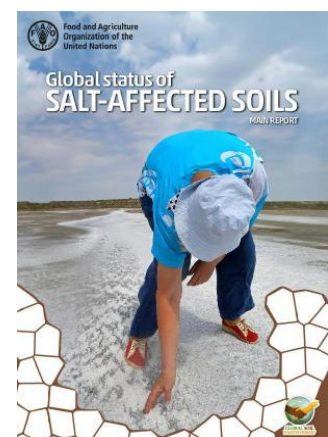
<https://cris.unu.edu/detecting-information-voids-during-floods-central-european-region>

This research aims to detect information voids (IVs) during the Central European floods, a critical issue exacerbated by climate change and increased urbanization. The study employs rapid pulse surveys as an innovative data collection method, enabling efficient outreach to a large sample size during emergencies. We propose an operational definition of IVs as a four-dimensional problem encompassing gaps in informational quality, quantity, sources, and channels. This nuanced understanding allows for targeted interventions in regions such as Belgium, Germany, and Poland, where similarities and differences in IVs are examined.

Global Status of Salt-Affected Soils (FAO)

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd3044en>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has released its first major global assessment of salt-affected soils in 50 years. The report shows that nearly 1.4 billion hectares of land (just over 10 percent of the total global land area) are already impacted by salinity, with an additional one billion hectares at risk due to the climate crisis and human mismanagement. The report was presented on 11 December 2024 during the [International Soil and Water Forum 2024](#) in Bangkok. The event, co-organized by FAO and Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, discussed an action plan for halting and reversing soil degradation and water scarcity.



International Migration and Sustainable Development (UN DESA)

https://bit.ly/Megatrends3-international_migration

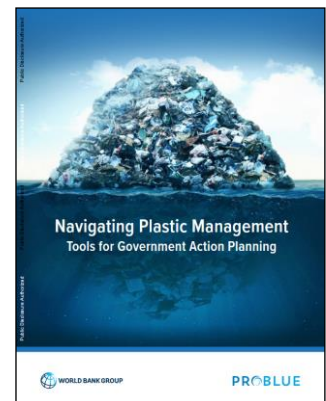
On 18 December 2024, International Migrants Day, UN DESA launched a comprehensive report examining the linkages between international migration and the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report comes at a time of great need for balanced, fact-based analysis on migration. By strengthening the evidence base regarding the positive contributions of safe, orderly and regular migration, while highlighting the risks associated with unsafe or irregular movements, the report will support informed policymaking. It will also counter harmful and misleading narratives about migrants and migration.



Navigating Plastic Management: Tools for Government Action Planning (World Bank)

<https://hdl.handle.net/10986/42450>

Plastic pollution is a significant global issue impacting ecosystems, livelihoods, and human health, prompting international efforts to create a legally binding instrument known as the Plastic Treaty. To address the scale and nature of plastic pollution and implement potential solutions, various stakeholders have developed numerous approaches, tools, methods, models, and information sources. These resources, including guidance documents, academic research, technical reports, decision support software, and publicly available data sets, cover a wide range of issues from assessing plastic pollution flows to evaluating policy solutions and financing. This report aims to inform national governments about key tools and toolkits specifically designed to help plan actions at the national level to combat plastic pollution.



Promoting innovation and tradition: Solutions for climate change adaptation in mountains (FAO)

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd3668en>

Although living at altitude has never been easy – and mountain communities have long demonstrated exceptional ingenuity in thriving in harsh environmental conditions – the escalating impacts of climate change pose unprecedented challenges to mountain people, threatening their traditional ways of life and survival strategies. This publication discusses how mountain adaptation solutions contribute to addressing the climate crisis. All the case studies included here were provided by Mountain Partnership Members. By presenting their concrete adaptation efforts in mountain regions worldwide, we want to highlight the role of local actors, especially women farmers Indigenous Peoples and youth as principal agents of change. The publication is also a contribution to the celebration of International Mountain Day 2024, which takes the theme “Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation and youth”.





Trade against hunger: Exploring trade actions to fight acute food insecurity and the threat of famine (UNCTAD)

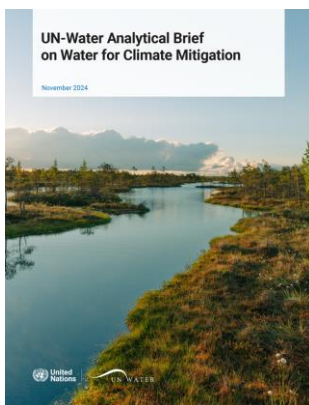
<https://unctad.org/publication/trade-against-hunger>

Global food insecurity has surged in recent years, reversing decades of progress in the fight against hunger. Conflict, climate shocks, poverty and economic instability are driving this crisis and threatening the global goal to eradicate hunger. The report examines how trade can help address food insecurity and prevent famine, outlining actions to stabilize food systems and build resilience against future shocks.

UN Climate Relief

<https://climaterelief.un.org/>

Introducing [UN Climate Relief](https://climaterelief.un.org/), a new donation platform dedicated to empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to face the climate crisis. Launched at COP29 in November, Climate Relief offers an easy and secure way to support frontline responders delivering life-saving relief and strengthening resilience to climate shocks through the UN Central Emergency Response Fund's (CERF) Climate Action Account.



UN-Water Analytical Brief on Water for Climate Mitigation

<https://www.unwater.org/publications/un-water-analytical-brief-water-climate-mitigation>

Water is necessary for many key climate mitigation measures, including for the clean energy transition and the natural and artificial removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Understanding water availability and constraints should assist in deciding on climate mitigation options and guide the design of climate mitigation projects. The UN-Water Analytical Brief on Water for Climate Mitigation discusses the dependency of climate mitigation on the use of water and the effective management of water resources and related services to ensure sustainable and effective outcomes.

Human Rights

Haiti Flash Report, 23 décembre 2024 : 207 personnes exécutées par le gang de Wharf Jérémie (Port-au-Prince)

https://binuh.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/flash_report_20241223_wharf_jeremie_fr.pdf

A little over two weeks after a surge of violence in the Cité Soleil commune of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, this UN report has concluded that more than 207 people were executed by the Wharf Jérémie gang. The report by the UN Integrated Office in Haiti ([BINUH](#)) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights ([OHCHR](#)) covers the period between 6 and 11 December, during which 134 men and 73 women were killed. Most of the victims were elderly people accused of practicing voodoo and causing the gang leader's child's illness. Other victims included those who tried to flee the area for fear of reprisals or were suspected of leaking information about the crimes to local media.

Policy Brief - Climate Change, Mental Health and Human Rights

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/policy-briefs/policy-brief-climate-change-mental-health-and-human-rights>

Climate change has growing detrimental impacts on mental health and well-being.² Research at the intersection of climate change and mental health already provides indications of foreseeable impacts that can be prevented. At the same time, more research and monitoring mechanisms are needed to enhance the effectiveness of proposed action that addresses some of the impacts of climate change while producing shared benefits for improving mental health and well-being. This brief builds on a contribution submitted by the Special Rapporteur in response to OHCHR's call for inputs on mental health and human rights, which aims at informing a mandated consultation and comprehensive report on mental health and human rights, as per [HRC resolution 52/12](#).

Position paper of the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in respect of the case of "Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic)", before the International Court of Justice"

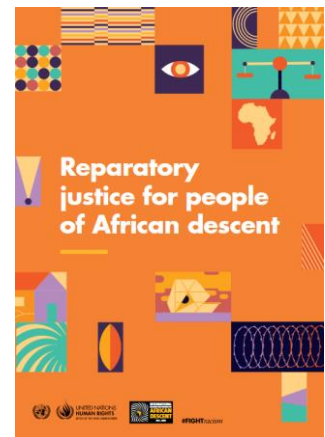
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/position-papers/position-paper-special-rapporteur-torture-and-other-cruel-inhuman-or>

The Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Dr. Alice Jill Edwards, has issued a position paper in respect of the case of "Application of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada and the Netherlands v. Syrian Arab Republic)", currently being examined by the International Court of Justice. The goal of the position paper, drafted on a voluntary basis for the consideration of all parties interested, is to promote, in the interest of justice, the human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as enshrined in international law.

Reparatory justice for people of African descent (OHCHR)

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/tools-and-resources/reparatory-justice-people-african-descent>

The present publication focuses on reparatory justice for people of African descent. It acknowledges increased acceptance of the need to address the continuing impacts of enslavement and colonialism, including through reparatory justice. It takes stock of existing frameworks and initiatives and identifies areas for further consideration. It contains recommendations for States to take a comprehensive approach, grounded in international human rights law, that seeks to address legacies of the past in order to build societies that are free from systemic racism and racial discrimination. To achieve these objectives effectively, the approach should be participatory, gender-sensitive and inclusive, and should combine a plurality of measures, including, where appropriate, restitution, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.



The Right Start in Life: Global levels and trends in birth registration, 2024 update (UNICEF)

<https://data.unicef.org/resources/the-right-start-in-life-2024-update/>

Over 500 million – or close to 8 in 10 – children under five have had their births registered in the last five years, reflecting notable strides in securing legal identity worldwide, according to this new UNICEF report released on 11 December 2024. Released on UNICEF's 78th birthday, the report the latest update on the number of children registered since 2019, when global levels stood at 75 per cent. Despite the increase to 77 per cent today, 150 million – or around 2 in 10 – children under five remain unregistered and invisible to government systems.



Thematic Report: Attacks on hospitals during the escalation of hostilities in Gaza (7 October 2023 - 30 June 2024)

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/thematic-report-attacks-hospitals-during-escalation-hostilities-gaza-7-october>

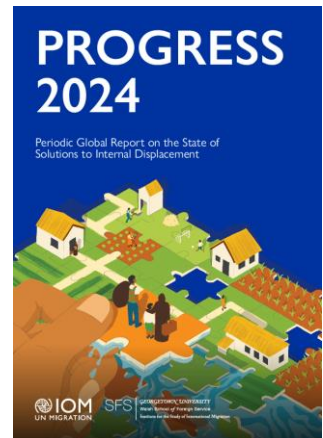
This report published on 31 December 2024 by the UN Human Rights Office found that Israel's pattern of deadly attacks on and near hospitals in Gaza, and associated combat, pushed the healthcare system to the brink of total collapse, with catastrophic effect on Palestinians' access to health and medical care. The attacks, documented between 12 October 2023 and 30 June 2024, raise serious concerns about Israel's compliance with international law, the report states. Medical personnel and hospitals are specifically protected under international humanitarian law, provided they do not commit, or are not used to commit, outside their humanitarian function, acts harmful to the enemy.

Humanitarian Affairs

PROGRESS 2024: Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement

<https://dtm.iom.int/products/progress-2024>

The IOM's Global Data Institute (GDI) and Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) collaborated on the second edition of the Periodic Global Report on the State of Solutions to Internal Displacement (PROGRESS). This analysis is primarily based on household level data collected through surveys in 11 displacement affected countries. Additionally, focus group discussions were conducted in 5 countries. The analysis draws on data from 15 distinct countries with the main purpose of providing people-centred and operationally relevant insights to inform decision-making for supporting IDPs along their solutions pathways.



A simplified and more efficient humanitarian system / by Jan Egeland and Joyce Msuya

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/simplified-and-more-efficient-humanitarian-system>

"Introduction: ... This report lays out our proposals for how to ensure faster and more decisive humanitarian decision-making while wasting fewer resources on bureaucratic processes. In a nutshell, there is scope to reduce internal process, rationalize overlapping and large coordination bodies, prioritize between indispensable and optional international meetings and ensure our in-country presence is located where it is most effective, with focused leadership at national, regional and global levels. ..."

see also: A simplified and more efficient humanitarian system: A message from USG Fletcher
<https://www.unocha.org/news/simplified-and-more-efficient-humanitarian-system-message-usg-fletcher>

Justice and International Law

UN General Assembly adopts milestone cybercrime treaty

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1158521>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/cybercrime/convention/home.html>

The General Assembly adopted on 24 December 2024 the **United Nations Convention against Cybercrime**, a landmark global treaty aimed at strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime and protecting societies from digital threats.

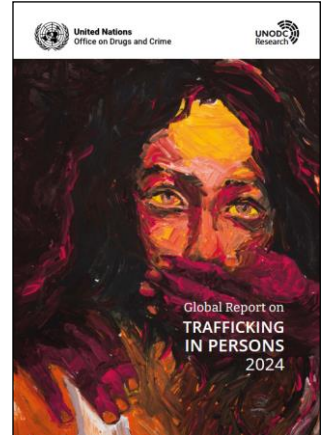
see also: Making the digital and physical world safer: Why the Convention against Cybercrime matters (UN News, 24 December 2024): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1158526>

Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Counter-terrorism

Global Report on Trafficking in Persons in 2024 (UNODC)

Report & Country Profiles: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>

Child trafficking, trafficking for forced labour and forced criminality are rising as poverty, conflict and climate leave more people vulnerable to exploitation, according to the 2024 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons published on 11 December 2024 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The Report records a 25 per cent increase in the number of trafficking victims detected globally in 2022 compared to 2019 pre-pandemic figures. Between 2019 and 2022, the global number of victims detected for trafficking for forced labour surged by 47 per cent.



Illicit Goods Mitigation Portal (UGPU)

<https://www.upu.int/en/universal-postal-union/outreach-campaigns/illicit-goods>

This new portal from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) provides postal operators with access to campaigns, tools and resources for tackling the growing threat of illicit trade and enhance global collaboration.

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