



# Our Common Agenda

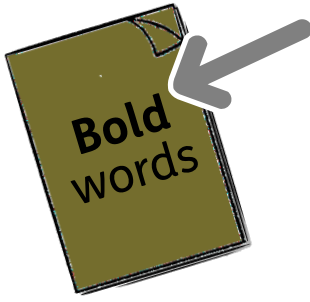
The work that everyone must do together



easy  
read

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In this Easy Read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

# Introduction



The **United Nations** (UN) is an organization made up of many countries working together. We work to make the world a safer and better place.



The world is facing many serious problems.



To solve these problems, we think the countries of the world must work together urgently and take action to make changes.



This document explains the main problems that the world faces and the most important actions we think need to be taken. We call it 'Our Common Agenda'.



# World problems



Right now, the world is facing some of the most serious problems it has ever faced.

## Coronavirus



Coronavirus is also known as COVID-19. It is an illness that has spread around the world.

Because of Coronavirus:



- health services have found it difficult to cope with all the people who need help. Many people have died.



- businesses have had to close and people have not been able to work.



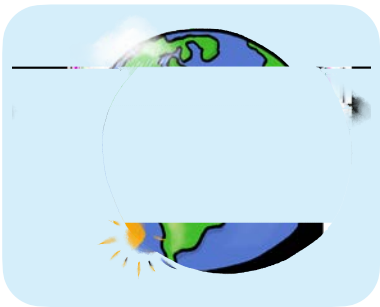
- people who need extra care and support have not been able to get it, which has made their situation worse.

## War



Serious fighting is making some countries unsafe for people to live in.

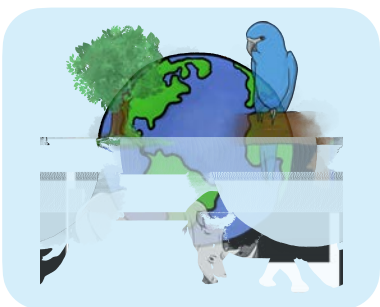
## Climate change



Climate change is big changes in the weather. For example, worse storms, flooding, extreme heat and fires.



Climate change is caused by pollution - this is dirty chemicals from cars, factories, homes and power plants that harm the space around us.



Millions of living creatures will die because of the damage we are doing to the planet.

# People not being treated fairly and equally



Many people around the world are not getting their **human rights**.



**Human rights** are the things that every person should have, like:

- the right to be safe and healthy.
- the right to food and clean water.
- the right to an education.

# The actions that should be taken



Countries all around the world must take action against the serious problems we are facing.



We have come up with suggestions for the actions we think all countries should take.

We have divided our suggestions into 4 areas:

## 1. A social contract



We think that a **social contract** is needed to help people trust each other and their governments.

A **social contract** is when people, communities and governments agree to work together to make life better for everyone.

## 2. Thinking about the future



We think that all countries must plan for the future so that the world is a better place for:

- our children and young people.
- people who will be born in the future.

## 3. All countries working together



We think that better ways should be found for all of the countries of the United Nations to work together.



When countries work together, share ideas and listen to each other, they can be stronger against the challenges the world is facing.

## 4. Using the United Nations to help solve problems



We think that the United Nations must continue to help countries and people come together to try and solve the world's problems.

# 1. A social contract

## Building trust



A social contract is a good way of building trust between governments and the people in their countries.

We think that countries could build trust between their governments and people by:



- working to make sure that information from governments and other important groups like **the media** is always truthful.

**The media** is things like television, radio and newspapers.



- improving the way government services work with people.



- listening to what people would like their governments to do in the future.

## Treating people fairly



A social contract is also a good way of helping to make sure people get their human rights.



Governments around the world must work with the people in their countries to make sure everyone is getting their human rights.



Women and girls are often not treated fairly or given their human rights.



All women and girls should be treated fairly and given an equal chance to take part in the world around them.





All people should have:

- a safe place to live.
- access to good health care.
- a chance to go to school and carry on learning throughout their lives.
- a fair chance to work in a good job.
- enough money if they are unable to work.
- the chance to use computers and phones linked to the internet.

People should be given a chance to speak up, and governments should listen to what they say.

# How well countries are doing



A social contract will also help countries to look at how well they are doing.



Countries should not just be judged on how much money they have.



Instead, countries should look at how everything they do affects people and the planet.



Some things that a country does can cause damage to people and the planet, and this needs to stop.

## 2. Thinking about the future



We think that all countries should:

- involve young people in decisions about the future.



- think about people who will be born in the future, not just people who are alive now.

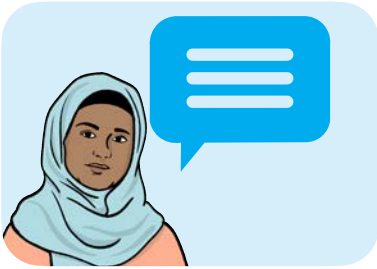


- teach young people:
  - about how to deal with world problems, and how to stop them from happening.



- how to read, write and do maths.

We want to involve young people in our work and take better decisions for the young people of the future by:



- helping more young people to have a say in what their governments do.



- setting up an office to support young people at the United Nations.



- setting up a conference in 2022 to look at education around the world and how it needs to change.



- looking at how young people can get the chance to work in a good job.



- working to set up lots of new jobs that help to protect the planet.



- setting up a part of the United Nations that thinks about what will happen in the future called 'Futures Lab'.



- setting up new ways of working now that will make sure the world is a better place for our children and young people in the future.

It is important to involve and teach young people so that:



- they feel they can trust their leaders and governments.



- they can help to make a world they want to grow up in.

# 3. All countries working together



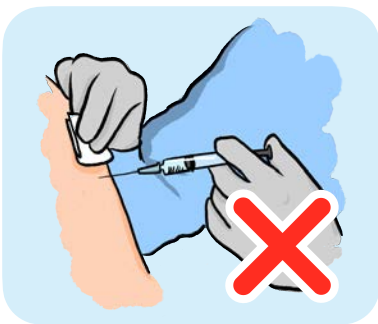
Coronavirus reminded us that world problems are dealt with best when countries work together.



Countries must work together to solve world problems in areas like health, peace, the planet, and the **global economy**.

The **global economy** is all the trade, services and money around the world.

## Health



There are still poorer countries where people are not getting a fair chance to have the Coronavirus **vaccine**. All countries must work together to change this.



A **vaccine** is an injection or jab that helps to stop you being ill with a certain illness.

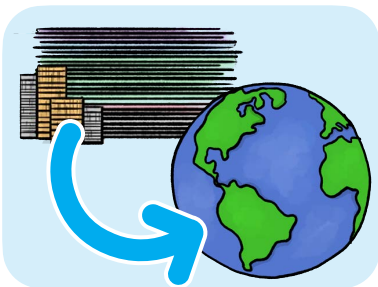


# The global economy

Countries must work together to:



- make sure money is being used for the good of everyone around the world.



- make sure poorer countries get the money they need.



- help countries to look for new ways to develop and raise money through their own businesses.



- help countries that can't afford to pay back the money they have borrowed from other countries.

# The planet

Countries must work together to protect the planet by:



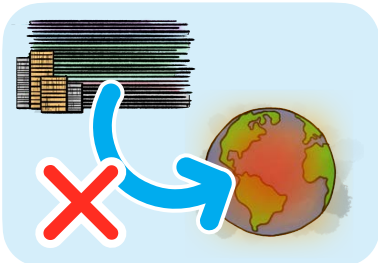
- stopping pollution to reduce climate change.



- supporting poorer countries to play their part.



- encouraging everyone to stop burning coal.



- not buying cheap oil and petrol which causes pollution.



- making plans to stop creatures and plants from dying out.



- changing the way they grow food.



# Peace



Countries must work together to:

- avoid using weapons that would affect millions of people.



- find new ways to deal with disagreements, without fighting.

# Space



Countries must make sure that as they carry on exploring space, they do it in a peaceful and safe way.

# Technology



Countries must make sure that:

- people are safe when they use the internet.



- new technology is made safely.



- everyone can access computers and technology.

## International Law



Countries must work together to agree on a set of rules they should all follow.



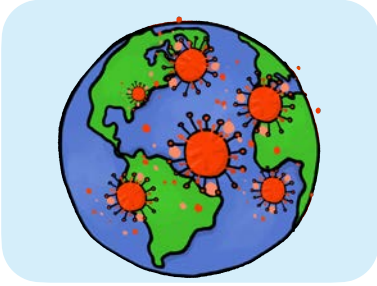
As the world changes, countries must continue to make new rules.

## Being ready for when bad things happen



Countries need to be ready to act when bad things happen.

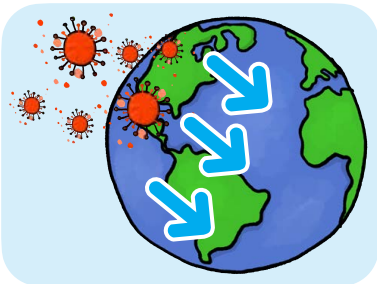
Nobody knows which bad thing might happen next, but it could be:



- an illness spreading round the world, like Coronavirus.



- war.



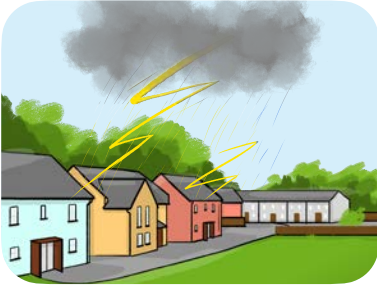
- a biological attack - this is where someone uses germs or viruses to harm people.



- a cyberattack - this is where someone tries to steal information from or damage computer systems.



- a nuclear event - this is where a nuclear power station goes wrong, causing damage to people or the planet, or where there is a fight between countries using nuclear weapons.



- big changes in the weather causing harm to people and damage to our surroundings.



- new technology being used in a harmful way.

## World Conference

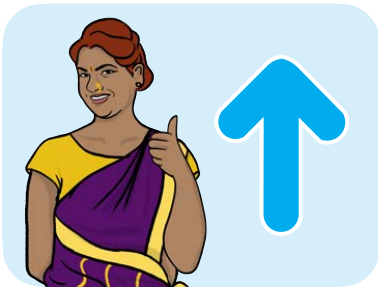


To talk about these and other problems, we want to set up a World Conference in 2023 to look at the future of the world and how countries and people can work together better to protect it.

# 4. Using the United Nations to help solve problems



For 75 years the United Nations has been a place where people and countries can come together to solve world problems.



We must continue this good work and improve as we move into the future.

We want to improve our work by including things like:



- making sure the United Nations is working for all people, from all backgrounds.



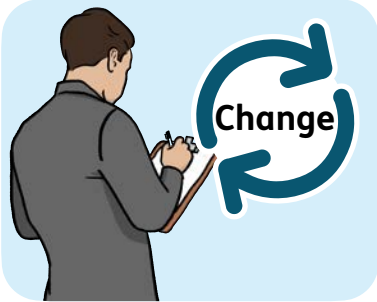
- listening to and involving people in our work and the decisions we make.



- making sure that there are equal chances and fair pay for women and men in the United Nations by 2028.



- setting up a group of scientists to give us advice about our work, to help us make better decisions.



- making changes to the way we collect information and measure our work so that we can keep on improving.

# What should happen next



It is important that all countries work together to solve the problems the world is facing.



The United Nations is the best organization to bring countries together and make sure they keep their promises.



By taking action now, the planet can be protected and the world can be made a better and safer place for everyone.

# For more information



You can read the full report on Our Common Agenda here:

[www.un.org/en/un75/common-agenda](http://www.un.org/en/un75/common-agenda)