



Vision Statement

"Restoring trust and inspiring hope"

The next five years for the United Nations

by António Guterres

I am grateful for the opportunity to share with Member States my vision statement as a candidate for the position of the Secretary-General of the

As five years ago, I wish to start with a reaffirmation of the Charter of the United Nations, which is perseveres even in the face of profound transformation. Its purposes, principles and provisions epitomize all that we stand for and guide all that we do.

For all that the world changed in the intervening years, the tenets of my 2016 vision statement are still coordination and partnerships, reform and innovation – underpinned by the values of the Charter – remain key for the discharge of the mandate of a UN Secretary-General.

But what does this mean in 2021, as we look ahead to the years to come?

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Not enough. And because of this, we are all at greater risk. And not only all of us, but succeeding generations as well, and indeed the very viability of life on earth.

Over the past four years, within the possibilities of the office that has been entrusted to me as the Secretary-General and in the face of complicated political realities, I have tried to give voice to drive action on our interconnectedness. To the risks and opportunities that it yields. To the imperative of working together to solve problems before they overwhelm us. To the amazing possibilities at hand if we do it in solidarity.

Over those four years, we have taken this journey together to lead the charge on climate action; launch the Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development; vigorously promote gender equality; engage in a surge in diplomacy for peace and a better integration of prevention and risk assessment into core UN decision-making; set in motion Action for Peacekeeping; take early action against the four famines;¹ reinforce prevention and response measures to sexual exploitation and abuse; initiate a Call to Action for Human Rights; ensure a coordinated UN response to prevent and counter

Alternatively, let us imagine that we get more serious about our shared vulnerability and the need for collective action. Let us imagine that leaders and people alike recognize the need to come together at local, national and global levels, to chart a course towards a better Í and not a dystopian Í future. Out of immense suffering, we have a once-in-a-lifetime window of opportunity. But I also think it is a window that could rapidly close. We have therefore reached an important inflection point in history Í a genuine moment of truth.

Based on the foregoing, a central question of today remains prevention in all its aspects, ranging from conflict, climate change, pandemics to poverty and inequality. Indeed our success in finding solutions to the interlinked problems we face hinges on our ability to anticipate, prevent and prepare for major risks to come. This puts a revitalized, comprehensive and overarching prevention agenda front and centre in all we do from now on. We need more innovation, more inclusion and more foresight, investing in the global public goods that sustain us all. It requires a reset multilateralism for the new era, based on principles of equity and solidarity. It is my firm conviction that this new awareness of our shared vulnerability, and the need to work and act together, will help us seize the opportunity to correct course and shape a better future

need new agreements, for instance, for regulating cyberspace, artificial intelligence and other frontier issues.

And in a world on a precipice, we must combine the best of our past achievements with the most creative and adaptable look to the future. It is vital

undertaken so far in this area, it will be important to use the convening power of the UN to support leadership for a unified global push that is based on principles of equity and solidarity in order to:

- i) get past COVID-19 as a health threat, in particular ensuring that vaccines are available to everyone everywhere as soon as possible;
- ii) sustain a joined-up recovery that is inclusive and sustainable, notably in the most affected developing and middle-income countries, through inclusive and sustainable recovery and reversing the significant se

and more dangerous zoonotic diseases is real. Moreover, the past decade was the hottest in hum

attention to the full breadth of rights í

the next, violence and conflict, natural hazards or a pandemic can massively disrupt an existence and a previously expected life path. Each of the stories we listen to brings home to us the very essence of human existence, the rich texture of life, and how interrelated everything is. They motivate us to make a difference in the lives of others, and these voices need to be heard in everything we do in the UN, and I would rigorously pursue giving voice to the voiceless in our daily work.

Rising to the challenge of digital transformation

Advances in technology and science have left no aspect of life untouched. The fourth industrial revolution has been deeply transformative, connecting and networking the world in hitherto

Advancing multilateralism and our common agenda

If there has been a single lesson of the past four years, it is that we cannot solve our biggest problems if we do not come together. But coming together is not only about institutions or processes. It is in the first instance about our mindsets. It is very human to want to retreat into like-minded groups, into comfortable ways of thinking, into old ways of doing business. But this tendency is harming us. Everything has been changing around us much more rapidly than ever before. And as we look ahead, the way we live and where, the type of cities or rural areas, how we educate ourselves throughout our lifetime, the type and forms of work we will engage in, all of that and much more will look very

Embarking on a United Nations 2.0

Over its seventy-five years, the UN has been capable of enormous adaptation and innovation – far more than it is traditionally given credit for. The most famous example is peacekeeping. But there are so many more. I have always understood the Charter as able to deal with evolving circumstances, to envisage cross-pillar cooperation and to guarantee coherence in the work of the UN. The reform endeavours over the last four years have already been yielding results, best demonstrated by how the UN system came together to rise to the COVID-19 challenges. It is clear that institutions are not static but need to be nimble, dynamic and evolving to address ever more complex issues both at Headquarters and in our operations around the world. We, in the UN, are called upon to adapt in order to remain a universal platform for cooperation among sovereign States, based on the principles of equality, mutual respect, mutual benefit and international law, in accordance with the Charter.

It is also important to highlight that the work of the UN is only possible because of the strong

More specifically, as regards any decisions by Member States to adapt the intergovernmental organs to the needs and realities of today, I would stand ready to provide the necessary support.