

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE UN75 OFFICE

# RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS

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Preliminary Assessment  
of the UN75 Survey  
and Dialogues

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APRIL 2020



**UN75**  
2020 AND BEYOND

SHAPING  
OUR  
FUTURE  
TOGETHER



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# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations is marking its 75th anniversary at a time of great upheaval, as the COVID-19 virus continues to spread, exacting a heavy toll on lives, societies and economies in all regions of the world. How we respond will determine how fast the world recovers, and will shape our ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to manage other global challenges.

In January 2020, the UN75 initiative launched a global conversation, inviting people around the world to discuss their priorities for the future, obstacles to achieving them, and the role of global cooperation in overcoming these challenges. The UN75 initiative gathers data and input from the public and stakeholder groups through five streams: a one-minute public survey ([www.un75.online](http://www.un75.online)); dialogues; public opinion polling; social/traditional media analysis; and a mapping of UN reports, and academic and policy research.

As of March 2020, over 13 million people in nearly all UN Member States had taken part in the initiative, with more than 40,000 completing the one-minute survey, and more than 330 dialogues held in 87 countries. This report contains the preliminary findings of two data streams—the public survey and dialogues—for the period January to mid-March 2020. The results indicate the following key findings:

1. The **public's priorities** for 'the world we want to create' emerging in the UN75 initiative were: **environmental protection, protection of human rights, less conflict, equal access to basic services**, and **zero discrimination**.
  - The top three priorities emerging from the survey were: environmental protection, protection of human rights, and less conflict.
  - The top three priorities emerging from the dialogues were: a more secure/peaceful world; a world with equal access to basic services; and a world without discrimination and with representation based on race, gender, origins, religion, disability and health status.
  - When asked whether they believed people would be better off or worse off in 25 years, survey respondents were split almost equally, with optimists slightly outnumbering pessimists; the young generally more optimistic than older age groups; and men generally more optimistic than women.
2. The **top three global trends** emerging in the UN75 initiative are: **climate and the environment, armed conflict/violence**, and **health risks**.
  - The top three global trends emerging from the survey were: climate and



environment, armed conflict and violence, and health risks.

- We have observed a rise in survey responses that emphasise health risks since early March, and we expect this trend to continue as the effects of COVID-19 are felt around the world.
  - Survey respondents who prioritized environmental trends tended to place greater emphasis on the need for countries to work together, than those who prioritized socio-economic and violent trends.
  - The main trends discussed in dialogues, in terms of risks and proposed actions, were: 1) Climate and the environment; 2) Poverty and inequality; 3) New technologies; 4) Security threats; 5) Population changes; and 6) A breakdown of trust between governments, and between people and governments.
3. An **overwhelming majority—95%—of respondents agreed on the need for countries to work together** to manage current global trends, with a noticeable uptick as **COVID-19** began to spread around the world.
- 95% of survey respondents indicated that international cooperation is either 'essential' or 'very important' to manage global trends.

- The survey data shows a noticeable uptick in perceived importance of countries working together since late February 2020, as the socio-economic upheaval caused by COVID-19 spread around the world.
- A number of ideas on how global cooperation could potentially be enhanced emerged from the dialogues: adopting more of a bottom up approach to developing solutions; more effective global partnerships and platforms for cooperation/ knowledge sharing; and greater involvement of women, youth, indigenous and vulnerable groups in policy/decision-making.

Amidst the current global uncertainty, the UN75 initiative remains committed to engage people around the world in conversation. We have always placed strong emphasis on online engagement, through virtual events and social media, and we are now scaling up these efforts, in partnership with youth, civil society, business, media, tech and other stakeholders. We will continue gathering input through the five data streams and we will present our findings in September 2020, at the official commemoration of the UN's 75th anniversary. After September, UN75 will convene discussions on how best to take forward the findings. We will present the final UN75 report in January 2021.



## **II. UN75 METHODOLOGY & DATA STREAMS**





## II. UN75 METHODOLOGY & DATA STREAMS

### BACKGROUND

The United Nations is marking its 75th anniversary at a time of great challenge. COVID-19 is a stark reminder of the need for cooperation across borders, sectors and generations. It is having profound effects on our societies, economies, our enjoyment of human rights and day-to-day lives. Our response will determine how fast the world recovers. It will also affect our ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to handle the global trends and challenges shaping our future: from the climate crisis to pandemics, inequalities, new forms of violence, and rapid changes in technology and in our population.

In January 2020, we launched a global conversation, inviting communities around the world to discuss their priorities for the future, obstacles to achieving them, and the role of global cooperation in making progress on addressing them. Amidst global uncertainty, it is crucial that the UN increases its efforts to engage people, to listen to their hopes and fears, and to empower them by making their voices heard. 2020 must be a year when we all come together as a global community, to discuss how we can work together more effectively to manage our shared challenges.

While COVID-19 has made physical events challenging, the UN75 vision remains intact. Indeed, it has grown in urgency as this pandemic highlights the importance of greater solidarity and coordination. We have always placed strong emphasis on online engagement, through virtual events and social media, and we are now scaling up these efforts. We are also working with youth, civil society, business, media, tech and other partners to hold digital and broadcast dialogues and to find innovative ways to engage audiences – online and offline – in line with WHO guidelines and local health regulations.

### THE UN75 METHODOLOGY: FIVE DATA STREAMS

The UN75 initiative is an exercise in global public opinion gathering through **four data streams**:

- A one-minute online survey
- Future-focused dialogues, with key points transmitted to the UN75 team
- Public opinion polling
- Analysis of print, broadcast, online and social media

These first four streams serve as a “reality check” of attitudes towards global challenges and cooperation. They also enable



us to build a repository of crowd-sourced solutions to major global problems.

The **fifth data stream** is a mapping of UN reports, and academic and policy research to take stock of research on themes identified in the survey and dialogues, and topics that relate to the UN75 initiative.

### 1. One-minute survey

The UN75 one-minute survey ([www.un75.online](http://www.un75.online)) captures people’s priorities for the future, obstacles to achieving them, and the role of global cooperation in addressing them. Respondents can also advise (and tweet) the Secretary-General on

where they most want to see him and the United Nations act. As of mid-March 2020, more than 35,000 people had responded to

#### ➤ ONE-MINUTE SURVEY



- Key to reaching millions
- 47+ languages
- Working with social media, mobile providers, universities, civil society and youth groups
- Custom versions for partners



UN Photo / Mark Garten



Secretary-General António Guterres listens to youth at the inaugural UN75 dialogue at UN Headquarters in New York, which reached over 7 million people online. Key topics included the wide-ranging impacts of new technologies on our societies and economies, and the need to find lasting solutions for the increasing number of people forced to flee their homes.





the survey in 187 countries. An additional 5,500 responded through mobile phone applications. We are using quantitative and qualitative methods to analyse the data, and for our September report, we will also use custom-made algorithms to analyse the data digitally.

➤ **UN75 DIALOGUES**



- In-person & online
- Digital dialogue platforms
- Social media chats & events
- Radio dialogues & events
- Support to UN country teams, universities, civil society to find online solutions


## 2. UN75 dialogues

The UN75 dialogues empower people from all walks of life to set the agenda by hosting and participating in conversations tailored to their communities on future priorities, challenges and global cooperation. Each dialogue is also an opportunity to encourage local action, and build greater trust between groups and sectors. Anyone can hold a UN75 dialogue. We simply ask for dialogues to be registered and for a summary of key points to be submitted via the UN75 website.

While we have created a toolkit of resources to support those wishing to hold dialogues, they are guidelines. In practice,

UN75 conversations have been wide-ranging, covering issues such as corruption, education and mental health. We then use qualitative social-science methods to analyze the key themes emerging and to identify patterns in the discussions. Going forward, we will also work with our tech partners to carry out digital analysis of the dialogues data.

➤ **PUBLIC OPINION POLLING**



- Representative sampling in 50 countries
- Online youth polling in 30 countries

## 3. Public opinion polling

Pew Research Center, a key UN75 partner, offered in-kind, scientifically sampled public opinion polling in 50 countries. Given our current COVID-19 restrictions on in-person surveys, we are now working with Pew and other partners to combine telephone and online polling, with a continued emphasis on public attitudes toward international cooperation, global challenges and the role that multilateral institutions, such as the UN, can play in improving security and prosperity in the world.

## 4. Traditional and social media analysis

Working with our partner Edelman, which produces the global trust barometer each



year, we will analyse online and offline media (print, TV, radio, online and social) in 70 countries, to understand public opinion in relation to today's megatrends and the role of global cooperation, and specifically the United Nations, in addressing them.

**TRADITIONAL & SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYSIS**



- Traditional & new media analysis in 70 countries
- Take the temperature on attitudes towards megatrends & global cooperation

**RESEARCH MAPPING**



- Map relevant academic & policy research
- Take stock of latest thinking on global cooperation, United Nations, mega trends

**5. Research mapping**

Finally, we are conducting a mapping of UN reports, and academic and policy research, which will offer evidence-based insights to themes identified in the survey and dialogues, and topics that relate to the UN75 initiative.



### **III. PRELIMINARY RESULTS & ANALYSIS**



### III. PRELIMINARY RESULTS & ANALYSIS

#### GLOBAL REACH AND DATA ANALYSED IN THE FIRST 2.5 MONTHS

In the first two and a half months of the UN75 initiative, we have:

- Reached over 13.3 million people in 186 Member States, through dialogues, survey and online outreach, country teams and partners.
- Built a network of some 5,000 partners, including youth, civil society, business, local government and cities, research community and media in all five regions.
- Initiated all five data-streams, with greater emphasis on scaling up the digital components of our work and moving activity online.

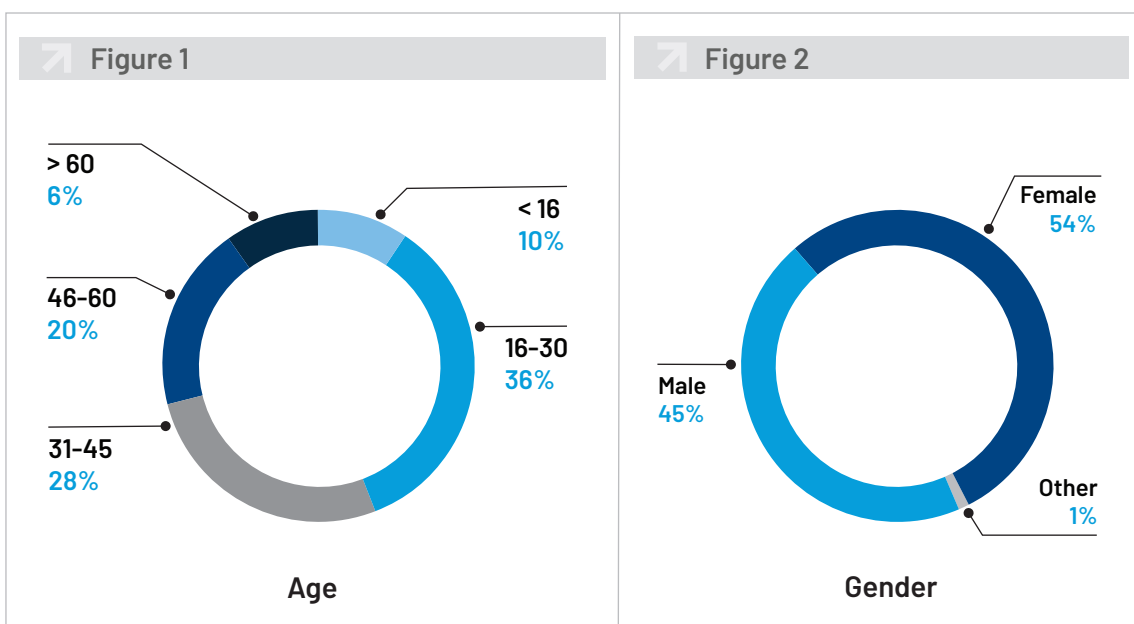
This update contains a **preliminary** analysis of the data received in the first 2.5 months for two of the five data streams: 1) the UN75 survey; and 2) UN75 dialogues.

#### Online survey sample

This update includes the analysis of 35,556 survey responses captured through the online survey platform: [www.un75.online](http://www.un75.online).

**Figures 1 and 2** show the breakdown of these respondents by gender and age. We additionally gathered 5,688 survey responses using mobile phone polling applications, which do not permit gathering demographics data. These additional responses are therefore excluded from the cross-analysis of responses and cross-analysis with the demographics

**FIGURES 1 & 2: Survey by age and survey by gender, 35,556 survey respondents**





data (the additional 5,688 responses are included in **Figures 3, 5, 6 and 8**; and are excluded from **Figures 1, 2, 4, 7, 9 and 10**).

### **Dialogues sample**

As of March 2020, over 330 dialogues in 87 countries have been held. Of those 330 dialogues, 56 dialogue summaries from 32 countries have already been submitted through our online dialogues form. This update includes the analysis of those 56 dialogue summaries received so far.

Among the dialogues held so far are those hosted by President of the UN General Assembly Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, UN Secretary-General António Guterres,

Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, Under-Secretary-General Fabrizio Hochschild and Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake in Fiji, Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Switzerland, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

### **Structure of the results**

We present the results and analysis as they relate to three themes: 1) The world we want to create; 2) Global trends and ideas to manage them; and 3) Ideas for enhanced global cooperation through the United Nations. We integrate the analysis from the survey and dialogues data under each theme.

Photo: Office of the President of the General Assembly



*H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, hosts a UN75 youth dialogue at the University of South Pacific in Fiji. The conversation covered the importance of empowering marginalized communities, education, environmental protection and greater resilience to disasters.*





### 3.1. THE WORLD WE WANT TO CREATE

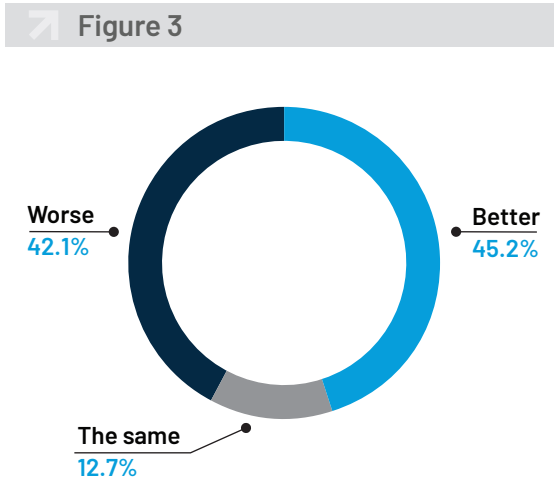
Current priorities for ‘the world we want to create’ emerging in the UN75 initiative are focused on environmental protection, protection of human rights, less conflict, equal access to basic services, and zero discrimination. Below we present the results and analysis of the survey and dialogues data on the future we envisage and the priorities for the world we want to create.

#### SURVEY

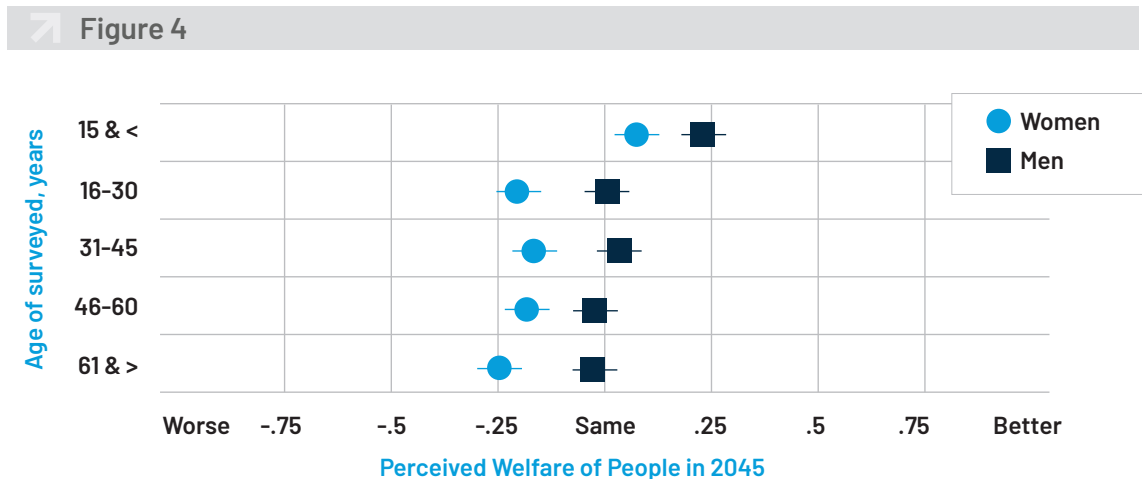
When asked “Overall, do you think that people in 2045 will be better off, worse off, or the same as you are today?”, optimists numbered slightly higher than pessimists, with 45% of the combined 41,244 survey respondents answering that the world will be better in 2045, as illustrated in **Figure 3**. 42% of respondents expressed their views that the world will be worse off, and 13% envisaged a world that will be about the same.

The majority of survey responses analysed thus far were captured prior to, or in the early stages of the global upheaval caused by COVID-19. It will be important to observe changes in outlook for the future in the coming months.

**FIGURE 3: 40,636 survey respondents on the status of the world in 2045**



**FIGURE 4: Cross-analysis of age, gender and outlook for survey sample of 34,717 complete responses**





**FIGURE 5: 41,244 Survey respondents on the three things they most want to see in 25 years**

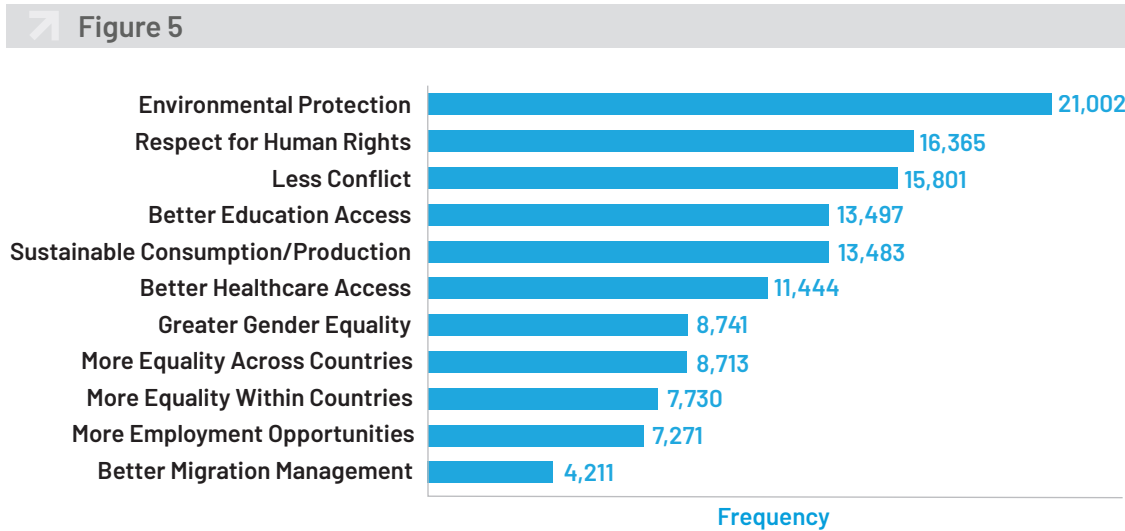


Figure 4 overlays the demographics data of gender and age with the responses for outlook for the year 2045, showing that across all age groups, men are showing more optimism than women; and children, aged 15 years or younger, are showing far more optimism than all other age groups. This optimism, on average, reduces significantly among youth and young adults.

Survey respondents were then asked, “If you picture the world you want in 25 years, what three things would you most want to see?”

Figure 5 illustrates the top things survey respondents want to see in the year 2045. Environmental protection was the most important vision for ‘the world we want to create’, with 21,002 respondents, followed by respect for human rights (16,365), less conflict (15,801), better access to education (13,497), and sustainable consumption and production (13,483). Better access to healthcare has been growing in importance since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, ranking sixth in mid-March (11,444).

## DIALOGUES

When participants in dialogues were asked to share their vision for the world they want to create, a slightly different order of priorities emerged than from the survey. The following ten themes were most frequently raised in the 56 dialogue summaries analysed, in order of frequency:

1. **A more secure and peaceful world, free of violence, conflict and terrorism** was the most frequent vision that emerged in 18 dialogues around the world, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Argentina, multiple dialogues held in India, Indonesia, Mexico, Montenegro, Senegal, Spain, multiple dialogues held in Switzerland, multiple dialogues held in Uzbekistan and Zambia.
2. **A world with equal access to basic services**, including food, water, health, shelter and electricity, with strong governance institutions to ensure this is possible, including in rural areas, and



Photo: Executive Office of Deputy Secretary-General



The UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed (front, centre), asks young people about their priorities for the future at a UN75 dialogue held during a Special Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa in Zimbabwe. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary for the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and Aya Chebbi, African Union Special Envoy on Youth, were also present. The transformative impact of women's empowerment, the urgent need to invest in skills development to manage the 4th industrial revolution, and the importance of youth leadership were stressed.

- including individuals affected by disabilities was the second most common theme, raised in 14 dialogues. Among them were multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Fiji, Ghana, multiple dialogues held in India, Indonesia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, multiple dialogues held in Uzbekistan, and Zambia, including youth dialogues.
3. **A world without discrimination and with representation of race, gender, origins, religion, disability and health status** was raised in 12 dialogues. Among them were multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Fiji, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, multiple dialogues held in Uzbekistan, and Zambia, including youth dialogues.
  4. **A world that protects its ecosystems and respects its natural resources** was raised in 11 dialogues in Argentina, multiple dialogues held in India, Mexico, Spain, multiple dialogues in Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.
  5. **A world with human rights for all, including child rights, freedom of expression and religious association** was raised in 10 dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Guyana, Italy, Nigeria, multiple dialogues held in Switzerland, multiple dialogues held in Uzbekistan and Zambia, including youth dialogues.
  6. **A world free of poverty and unemployment** was raised in nine dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in





Afghanistan, multiple dialogues held in India, Nigeria, multiple dialogues held in Uzbekistan and Zambia, including youth dialogues.

7. **A world with equal access to education and reformed education systems** emerged in nine dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Fiji, Guyana, Mexico, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and multiple dialogues held in Uzbekistan, including youth dialogues.
8. **A world that commits to fight climate change**, including the promotion of sustainable/electric transport, alternative energy sources, and with governments willing to take the lead on providing for climate refugees emerged

in eight dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Uzbekistan, including youth dialogues.

9. **A world of societal and institutional cooperation between countries** was raised in eight dialogues, including those held in Afghanistan, Fiji, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia and Uzbekistan, including youth dialogues.
10. **A world with gender equality** was raised in seven dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Fiji, multiple dialogues held in Switzerland and multiple dialogues held in Uzbekistan.



Photo: PyeongChang Peace Forum 2020



*Fabrizio Hochschild, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the UN's 75th anniversary, holds a dialogue with international civil society at the Pyeongchang Peace Forum in the Republic of Korea. Participants sent a strong message on the importance of greater participation, transparency and accountability within the UN system, as well as the need to protect human rights while taking action to tackle current and future challenges.*



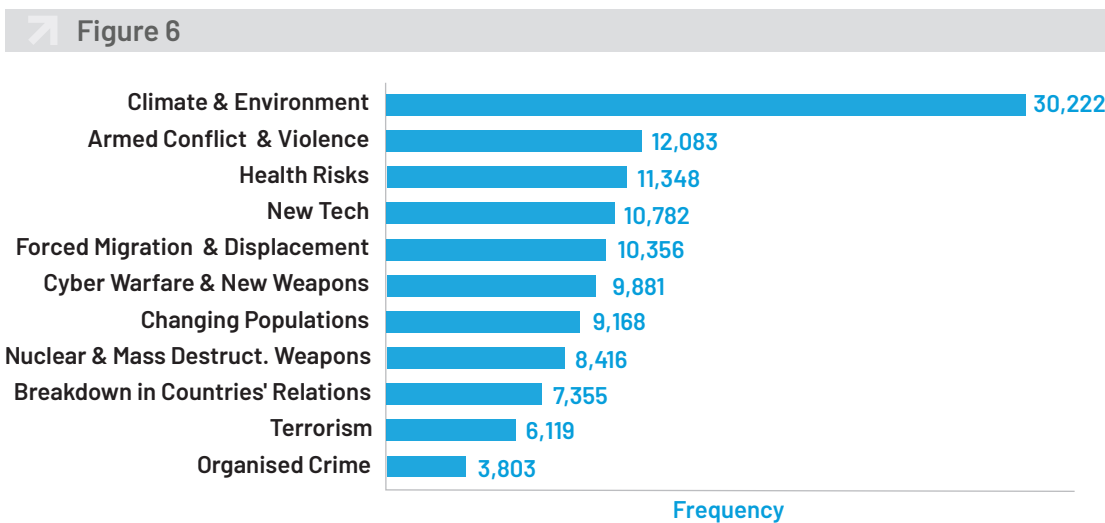
### 3.2. GLOBAL TRENDS AND IDEAS TO MANAGE THEM

The top three global trends expected to most affect our future emerging in the UN75 initiative are climate and environment, armed conflict/violence, and health risks. We are already observing a rise in survey responses that emphasise health risks since early March, and we expect this trend to continue as the socio-economic upheaval caused by COVID-19 is felt around the world. Those who prioritize environmental trends emphasise a greater need for international cooperation than those who prioritize socio-economic and violent trends. Below, we present the preliminary results and analysis of the survey and dialogues data on the global trends and ideas to manage them.

#### SURVEY

When survey respondents were asked, “Which of the global trends identified in the survey do you think will most affect our future?”, with the option to select up to three, **Figure 6** shows that climate and environment came through as the strongest trend (30,222 responses) by more than double any other issue raised. All other trends were raised fewer than 12,500 times, with armed conflict coming in second at 12,083 responses, health risks at 11,348, new technology at 10,782 and forced migration at 10,356. We are observing a rise in survey responses that prioritise health risks since early March, and we expect this trend to continue due to the effects produced by COVID-19.

**FIGURE 6: Global trends identified in 41,244 survey responses**





When categorising the above trends into three groups—environmental trends, socio-economic trends, and violent trends—and overlaying this data with survey respondents’ views on the need for collaborative action to manage them, we see (in **Figure 7**) that those who prioritize environmental trends perceive the need for countries to work together as higher than those who prioritize socio-economic trends and higher again than those who prioritise violent trends.

**FIGURE 7: Perceptions on the importance of countries working together for environmental, socio-economic and violent trends**

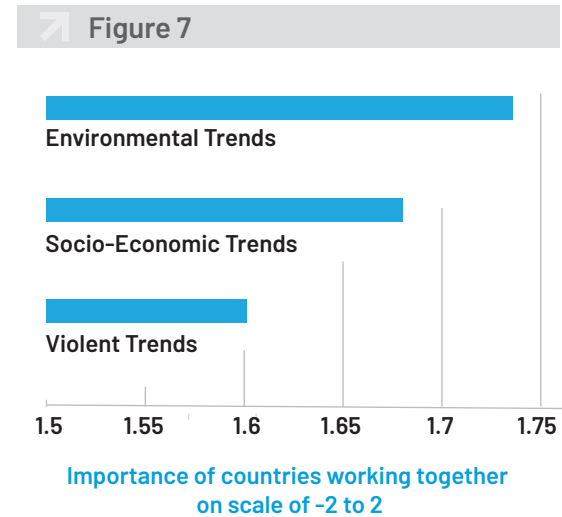


Image: United Cities and Local Governments

*United Cities and Local Governments, the largest organization of local and regional governments in the world, finds ways to continue the UN75 conversation online, while practicing physical distancing. Their discussion highlighted opportunities and challenges in relation to urbanization, as well as the crucial role that cities will continue to play in managing global trends and taking innovative action.*



## DIALOGUES

Of the 56 dialogue summaries received so far, the main global trends and their impacts discussed, including preliminary ideas for addressing them were: 1) Climate change and the environment; 2) Poverty and inequality; 3) New technologies; 4) Security threats; 5) Population changes; and 6) A breakdown of trust between governments, and between people and

governments. In this section, we provide the key points discussed for each and list the countries where participants in dialogues discussed each global trend and challenge. Not all dialogues discussed every trend and challenge, and the participants of some dialogues voiced divergent opinions on certain topics. We seek to reflect this variety in the summary of key points included in this section.



Photo: Thomas Xavier Christiane



*Climate change – including its impacts on security and prosperity – was the overwhelming concern among Palestinian and Israeli teenagers, who travelled to New York for a UN75 dialogue.*



### **Climate change and the environment**

In more than thirty dialogues held across the world, participants focused on the global trend of climate change and environmental issues, discussing their worsening nature and that average temperatures and pollution will increase. These issues were raised in multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Fiji, Guyana, multiple dialogues held in India, Indonesia, Italy,

Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, multiple dialogues held in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uzbekistan and Zambia, including youth dialogues. Some participants in dialogues held in Nigeria and Tunisia voiced the opinion that climate change would have less of an impact on socio-economic progress than other global challenges.



#### **Impact of climate change** *identified by participants:*

- Threaten water and food security
- Worsen the lives of the poor and vulnerable populations
- Cause major environmental disasters including floods, droughts, fires and desertification, rising sea levels
- Create an unhealthy environment, worsening the quality of life, introducing new diseases, and creating mental health problems
- Exacerbate conflicts and lead to mass migration
- Waste management systems will collapse and plastic will invade oceans
- Hinder progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



#### **Proposed actions** *identified by participants:*

- Countries with a major carbon footprint will need to take action and sanctions against polluters should be increased
- Member States should take action to prevent climate change and to promote climate change mitigation technologies
- Coal use should be discouraged around the world
- Natural resources should be used sustainably



### **Poverty and inequality**

The participants of more than 25 dialogues discussed the growing trend of increasing poverty and inequalities, the need for reduced inequalities within and between countries and that poverty is reducing at lower rates than expected. These views were expressed in multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Argentina, Fiji, Guyana, multiple dialogues held in India, Indonesia, Italy,

Republic of Korea, Mexico, Montenegro, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, and Zambia, including youth dialogues. Participants felt that poverty and inequality will be exacerbated by factors such as climate change, illiteracy and barriers in access to basic services.



#### **Impact of poverty and inequality** *identified by participants:*

- Increase insecurity, exacerbating conflicts, social unrest and human rights violations
- Increase inequality in wealth distribution, as well as the urban-rural gap
- Increase migration and refugee crises
- Lead to vulnerable groups, including women, illiterate people and people with disabilities remaining excluded from progress
- Increase hunger and malnutrition
- Increase inequalities between countries
- Hamper economic development



#### **Proposed actions** *identified by participants:*

- Use new technologies to fight poverty and climate change
- Emphasize education, in particular the education of youth
- Protect those left behind, including children, communities and people with disabilities
- Officially recognize indigenous peoples, their land, rights and the concerns they have for their environment



### **New technologies**

Participants in more than 25 dialogues felt that new technologies will have both positive and negative impacts on socio-economic progress. These views were expressed in multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Argentina, Fiji,

Indonesia, Italy, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Montenegro, Nigeria, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, South Sudan, Switzerland, the United States of America, multiple dialogues held in Uzbekistan, and Zambia, including youth dialogues.



#### **Impact of new technologies** *identified by participants:*

- Positively increase global communication
- Positively impact economic and governance systems
- Help fight climate change
- Reduce corruption
- Create new jobs
- Help those affected by disabilities
- Threaten personal privacy
- Change the future of work and cause unemployment
- Have a negative impact on human relations and on mental health
- Will not, themselves, stop climate change
- Increase the risk of cyber attacks, cyber bullying and the spread of fake news
- Inequality in access to technology will exacerbate existing issues, such as the urban-rural divide and the gender gap.
- There is a major lack of access to new technologies in developing countries



#### **Proposed actions** *identified by participants:*

- Need for global legislation to regulate new technologies





### Security threats

Participants in more than 15 dialogues highlighted that security trends are a major problem and will increase. These views were expressed in multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, and Zambia. Some participants in dialogues held in Montenegro, South Africa and Spain voiced the opinion that security threats would not

impact socio-economic progress as much as other global trends.

Participants in some dialogues expressed the view that security threats will increase. Among the reasons for this increase, they mentioned inequality; lack of adequate action by the UN Security Council; a rise in religious and ethnic conflicts; gender-based and domestic violence; cyber-security threats due to technological change; conflict over natural resources; nuclear war; and violent extremism.



#### **Impact of increased insecurity** *identified by participants:*

- Have major economic impacts on poorer economies
- Cause migration and displacement, especially for youth
- Increase malnutrition and hunger
- Increase nationalist sentiment and nepotism
- Increase addiction problems related to drugs and alcohol
- Affect people living with disabilities



#### **Proposed actions** *identified by participants:*

- Address conflicts and extremism
- Promote peace and disarmament
- Work to achieve peace, fight the causes of conflicts and terrorism and promote a disarmament agenda
- End all forms of violence and acts of discrimination against women, people living with disabilities and people of different sexual orientation



### **Population changes**

Several participants in dialogues discussed the challenges caused by population changes, including population growth, shifting demographics and increasing population movements within and between countries. These points were discussed in more than 20 dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Argentina, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Spain, South Africa,

South Sudan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, and Zambia, including youth dialogues. Some participants in dialogues held in Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe expressed less concern about population changes, as they did not perceive population growth to be rising at the rates previously projected. Some participants in these dialogues did note that this could change again if new global challenges emerge.



#### **Impact of population changes** *identified by participants:*

- Cause conflicts, major refugee crises, increased migration and brain drain
- Increase unemployment, especially among youth
- Put stress on natural resources
- Increase mental health issues
- Increase inequality, especially in developing countries due to higher population growth
- Deepen the rural-urban divide
- Threaten access to basic services, including health, water, food and education
- The increasing global population will have major impact on progress
- The aging of populations will require more elderly support
- Growing problem of unemployment in the Africa region, with imbalance between jobs created and youth entering the workforce



#### **Proposed actions** *identified by participants:*

- Fight discrimination and protect vulnerable groups, in particular individuals with disabilities; embrace diversity; change mindsets to view cultural diversity as a strength; and encourage co-existence while we co-create
- Improve migration governance and refugee integration
- Protect freedom of speech and freedom of information in the media; create an impartial international news agency
- Indigenous empowerment through the proper development and management of indigenous communities' resources



**Breakdown of trust between governments, and between people and governments**

Discussions in more than 20 dialogues found that breakdown of trust between governments, and between people and governments will increase. These included multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Argentina, Fiji, India, Italy, Nigeria, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tunisia, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe,

including youth dialogues. Participants in two dialogues, held in Montenegro and Spain, voiced the opinion that a lack of trust will not be of major concern.

Participants felt that the breakdown of trust between people and governments will increase due to misinformation, corruption, inefficient judicial systems, empty promises, a lack of transparency, increased human rights violations, war and in military regimes.



**Impact of a breakdown of trust** *identified by participants:*

- Conflict
- Terrorism
- Human rights violations
- Governments are not implementing promised agendas
- Existing systems continue, while resisting changes



**Proposed actions** *identified by participants:*

- Increased participatory democracy and cooperation
- More vigilance and the protection of human rights, in particular freedom of expression
- Ensuring laws do not discriminate and ensure civic participation and freedom of movement for women, girls and LGBTI individuals.
- Good governance, including the proper management of resources and finances
- Having user-friendly policies and structures for rural populations, and ensuring policies are informed by taking into account local realities, and enforced, to ensure the protection of the rights of marginalized people, including women and youth

Photo: Rotary Youth Brazil



The youth wing of Rotary – a global network of 1.2 million people working on local and global solutions – mobilizes young people in Brazil to join the UN75 conversation. Among the issues raised was inequality, a defining challenge for the present and the future.

Photo: FERMUN



Over 700 students from 23 countries took part in a future-focused discussion at the Ferney-Voltaire Model UN conference in Geneva – one of the UN75 launch events held in January 2020. They discussed topics including an international framework to respond to conflict in cyberspace, and the role of ICTs in delivering healthcare in remote areas.

Photo: SOAS The Centre for International Studies & Diplomacy



A young speaker in Estonia shares her hopes and fears for the future during a UN75 dialogue, co-organized by a coalition of civil society groups working on child and youth issues.



### 3.3. ENHANCED GLOBAL COOPERATION THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS

Global public opinion gathered through the UN75 initiative to date almost unanimously agrees on the need for countries to work together to manage current global trends, with a noticeable uptick in perceived importance of countries working together since late February 2020, as COVID-19 began to spread around the world. Below we present the preliminary results and analysis of the survey and dialogues data on the importance of countries working together to manage global trends, and ideas for enhanced global cooperation to manage global trends.

#### SURVEY

When 40,636 survey respondents were asked ‘how important—or not—is it for countries to work together to manage global trends’, 95% of them responded that it is either ‘essential’ or ‘very important’, illustrated in **Figure 8**. This suggests that there seems to be a general consensus among our survey respondents that no country can manage global trends alone, and that we must work together in order to manage the trends.

**Figure 9** shows that at all levels of education, on average, respondents believe it is important for countries to work together to manage global trends. However, higher levels of education are associated with noticeably higher perceived importance,

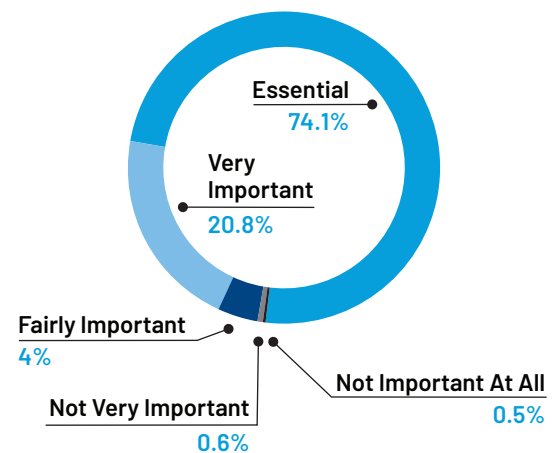
with the highest educated averaging over 1.7 (on a -2 to 2+ scale), whereas the lowest educated average below 1.4.

In all age groups, there is also a strong perception that countries need to work together to manage global trends. However, older age cohorts are associated with higher perceived importance: those aged 61 years and above average over 1.8, while those who are 15 years or younger average below 1.6 (on a -2 to +2 scale).

Upon completion of the survey, respondents were asked “What would you advise

**FIGURE 8: 40,636 survey respondents on importance of international cooperation**

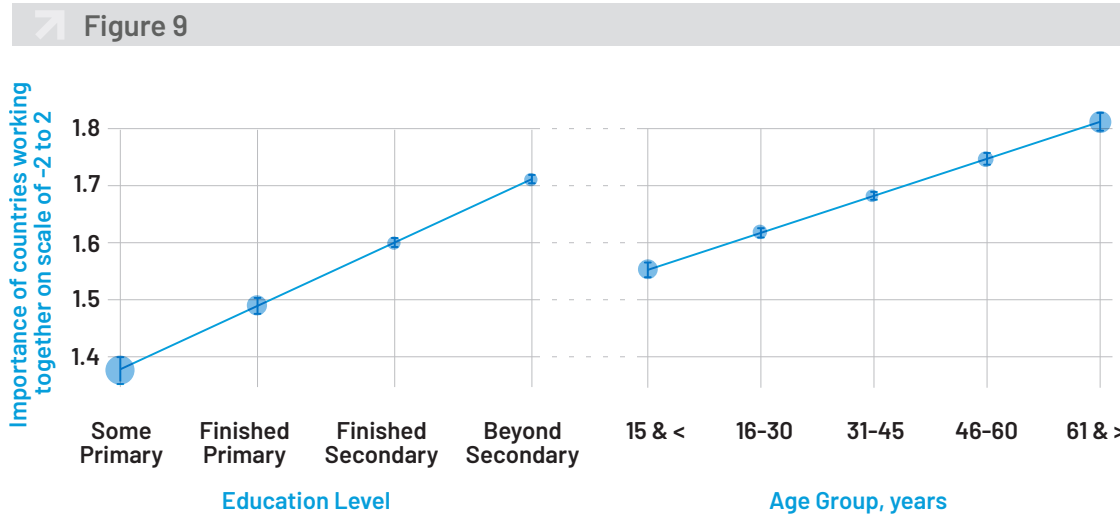
➤ **Figure 8**







**FIGURE 9: Perceived importance of countries working together to manage trends, by education and age**



the UN Secretary-General to do to address these global trends?”, expressed in 140 characters or less. They also have the opportunity to tweet their advice to the Secretary-General. **Figure 10** illustrates the survey respondents’ most frequently mentioned themes and priorities for the Secretary-General to act on. A more thorough synthesis and analysis of advice given to the Secretary-General in responses to the one-minute survey is being worked on and will follow in subsequent reports, including an analysis of all languages submitted.

**FIGURE 10: Top themes and priorities in survey respondents’ advice to the Secretary-General**





## DIALOGUES

The UN75 dialogues held so far have generated numerous ideas and suggestions of how the United Nations can work better and how global cooperation can more effectively address today's global challenges. Among the themes that emerged repeatedly in dialogues analysed so far, in order of priority and frequency, were:

1. **Place greater emphasis on bottom-up approaches to solutions**, by listening more to local communities' voices and needs, by giving increased attention to local solutions and cultural diversity, by avoiding 'one-size fits all' policies, and by increasing information and awareness-raising in local languages and at local levels of the role of the United Nations and the role of different UN agencies, particularly in countries where they operate. This can include increasing efforts to identify local solutions and local drivers to bring about the change 'we' want, by being more present in local conversations, by respecting the country in which the UN operates, by avoiding the imposition of Western policies, and creating more forums of discussion that include least developed countries and local diversity. This was raised in 22 dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Fiji, Guyana, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, multiple dialogues held in Uzbekistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe, including youth dialogues.
2. **Promote more effective global partnerships and platforms/mechanisms for coordination, cooperation and knowledge sharing** between Member States, other international organizations and different stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. This was raised in 13 dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Italy, Republic of Korea, Nigeria, South Africa, multiple dialogues held in Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe, including youth dialogues.
3. **Involve more women, youth, indigenous and vulnerable groups in policy- and decision-making** including setting up a forum for youth or a youth network, with increased youth representation and dialogues with youth, for example intergenerational dialogues, at the UN. These points were raised in 11 dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, Uzbekistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe, including youth dialogues.
4. **Re-build trust by ensuring UN independence, neutrality, accountability and transparency**, and further increase evaluation and monitoring. This was raised in nine dialogues, including



multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Mexico, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, including youth dialogues.

5. **Better support for international standards, enforcement of international agreements and improved implementation** with concrete action, oversight and a prevention approach, with specific reference to scaling up implementation of the disarmament agenda and the SDGs. These points were raised in eight dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Argentina, India, Mexico, Slovenia, and South Africa, including youth dialogues.
6. **Provide greater technical support** including capacity and resource mobilization. This was raised in seven dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Indonesia, South Sudan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.
7. **Be more open to change, reform and innovation**, including by continuing to reform the UN's structure, management and leadership, reducing bureaucracy and ensuring more

equal distribution of the UN's budget across countries, and by revisiting and reforming specific UN mechanisms and areas of the UN's work, including the purpose of the World Bank; reforming the UN Security Council by expanding membership and removing veto rights; peacekeeping operations; updating UN policies every decade; building a long-term vision to ensure long-term humanitarian aid where needed; and solving short-term problems, such as corruption. These points were raised in seven dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Montenegro, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland and Zimbabwe.

8. **Enhance regional and global cooperation**, and accountability and transparency. This was raised in five dialogues, including multiple dialogues held in Afghanistan, Mexico, Switzerland and Uzbekistan.
9. **Ensure an inclusive United Nations workplace** that includes paid internships, equal treatment for people with disabilities and youth involvement. This was raised in four dialogues held in Fiji, Senegal and Switzerland.



## **IV. KEY TAKEAWAYS & GOING FORWARD**



## IV. KEY TAKEAWAYS & GOING FORWARD

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

Based on the preliminary analysis of data collected through the one-minute survey and dialogues, and research mapping in the first two-and-a-half months of our yearlong UN75 initiative, the following key findings have emerged for each of our three areas of analysis:

1. **The future we envisage and the world we want to create:**

- Current priorities for 'the world we want to create' focused on environmental protection, protection of human rights, less conflict, equal access to basic services, and zero discrimination.
- Survey respondents are split almost equally in their outlook for the future, with optimists slightly outnumbering pessimists; with the young generally more optimistic than older age groups; and men generally more optimistic than women.
  - The top three areas of concern for the future we want to create emerging in the survey include: environmental protection, protection of human rights, and less conflict.
  - The top three areas of concern for the future we want to create emerging in the dialogue summaries include: a more secure/peaceful

world; a world with equal access to basic services; and a world without discrimination and with representation based on race, gender, origins, religion, disability and health status.

2. **Global trends and ideas to manage them:**

- The top three global trends registered are climate and the environment, armed conflict/violence, and health risks. Those who prioritize environmental trends emphasise a greater need for international cooperation than those who prioritize socio-economic and violent trends.
- The top three global trends emerging in the survey include: climate and environment, armed conflict and violence, and health risks.
  - Survey respondents who prioritize environmental trends perceive the need to work together as higher than those who prioritize socio-economic and violent trends.
  - The main trends discussed in dialogues so far, including risks and proposed actions, are: 1) Climate and the environment; 2) Poverty and inequality; 3) New technologies; 4) Security threats; 5) Population changes; and 6) A breakdown of trust between governments, and between people and governments.



3. **Ideas for enhanced cooperation through the United Nations:** Survey respondents and dialogue participants almost unanimously agree on the need for countries to work together to manage current global trends, and this remains high amidst the COVID-19 upheaval.
- 95% of survey respondents indicated that it is either 'essential' or 'very important' for international cooperation to address our shared global challenges.
  - Ideas for enhanced global cooperation through the United Nations emerging in the dialogues include: adopt more of a bottom up policy solutions approach; promote more effective global partnerships and platforms for cooperation/ knowledge sharing; and involve more women, youth, indigenous and vulnerable groups in policy/ decision-making processes.
  - The survey data shows a noticeable uptick in perceived importance of countries working together since late February 2020, as the socio-economic upheaval caused by COVID-19 spread around the world.

## GOING FORWARD

We are still in the early stages of the UN75 initiative, which will run throughout 2020. We will continue rolling out all five data streams, with our UN75 dialogues, one-minute survey and research mapping running across the year. Our public opinion polling and media/social media analysis will commence in April.

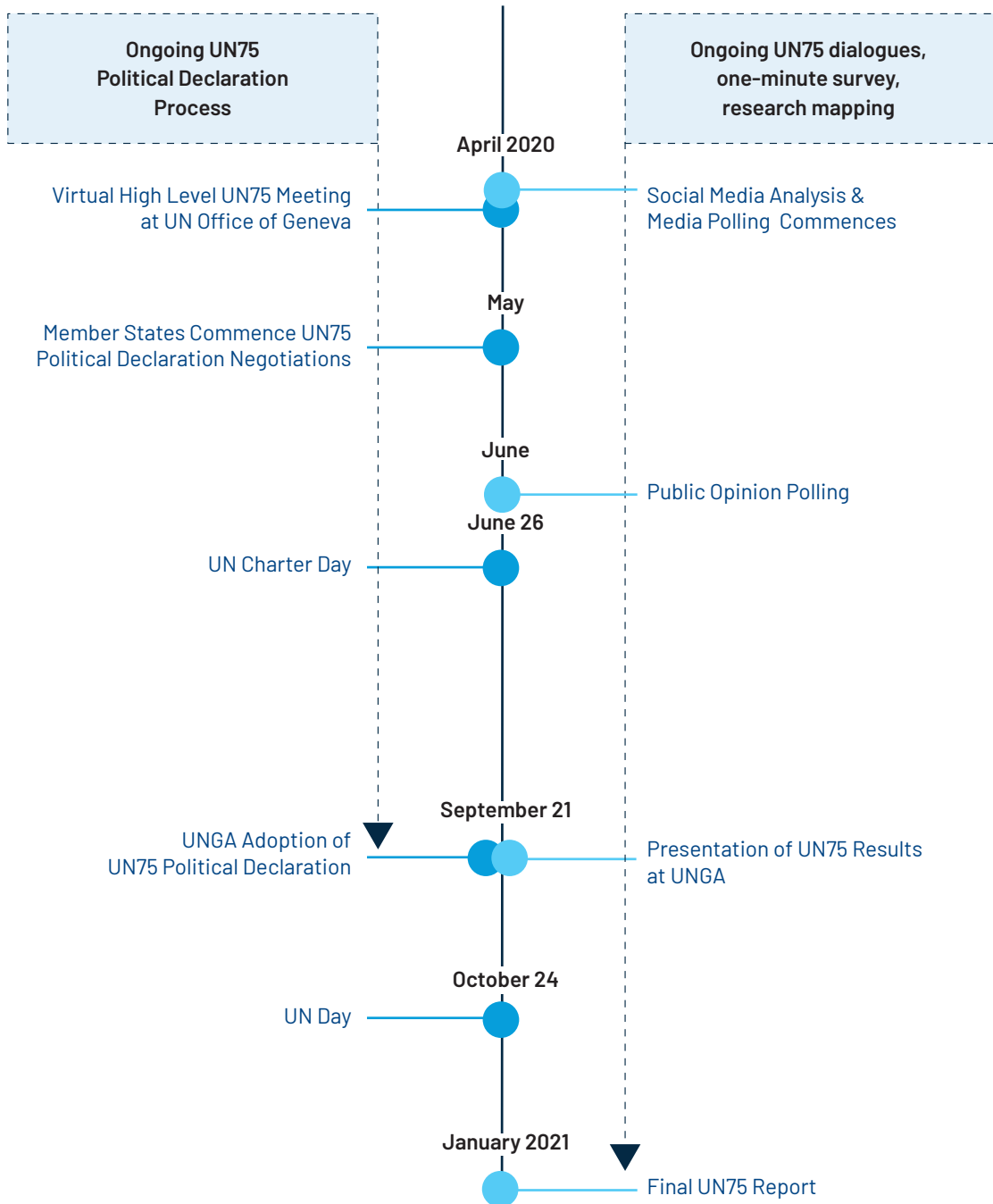
We will present our findings in September 2020, at the official commemoration of the UN's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After September, UN75 will convene discussions on how best to take forward the findings. We will present the final UN75 report in January 2021, containing our analysis of the data collected throughout the year, presenting our key findings, and presenting some ideas for action emerging from our analysis that might be useful for the implementation of the UN75 Political Declaration adopted by Member States at the UN General Assembly in September 2020. **Figure 11** shows our timeline of key UN75 activities and dates, alongside the key UN dates throughout 2020.





**FIGURE 11: UN75 timeline of activities and key UN dates throughout 2020**

**Figure 11**





## ANNEX – FUNDING PARTNERS

### CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

Partner	Amount (in USD)
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	5,000.00
Federal Republic of Germany	55,355.00
Hungary	10,000.00
Ireland	53,900.00*
Kingdom of Denmark	149,566.26
Kingdom of Norway	276,824.93
Kingdom of Sweden	307,596.09
Kingdom of the Netherlands	1,176,470.00
People’s Republic of China	301,600.00
Portuguese Republic	55,740.00
Republic of Iceland	20,000.00
Republic of Italy	100,000.00
Republic of France	111,300.00
Republic of Korea	46,500.00
Republic of Turkey	100,000.00
Swiss Confederation	49,975.00
United Arab Emirates	300,000.00
<b>Sub-total Member States</b>	<b>3,119,827.28</b>
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	500,000.00
Ford Foundation	200,000.00
Global Challenges Foundation	110,000.00
Open Society Foundations	1,675,000.00
Robert Bosch Stiftung	1,300,000.00
Stiftung Mercator	270,000.00*
United Nations Foundation	200,000.00
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	200,000.00
<b>Sub-total Foundations</b>	<b>4,455,000.00</b>
UNICEF	100,500.00
<b>Sub-total UN Agency</b>	<b>100,500.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,675,327.28</b>

In-kind contributions
Fondation Pour Genève
Kingdom of the Netherlands
Pew Research Center
Swiss Confederation
UN Foundation
UN entities: UNICEF, UNOCT, UNRISD and WHO

\* exact USD amount to be confirmed upon fund receipt

