



**The UN is marking its 75th anniversary** at a time of great disruption for the world, compounded by an unprecedented global health crisis with severe economic and social impacts. Covid-19 is a stark reminder of the need for cooperation across borders, sectors and generations. Our response will determine how fast the world recovers, whether we achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and how well we handle the climate crisis, pandemics, inequalities, new forms of violence, and rapid changes in technology and in our population. Will this pandemic bring the world closer together? Or will it lead to greater mistrust? Global dialogue – and action – is now more urgent than ever.

Will we emerge stronger and better equipped to work together? Or will distrust and isolation grow further? 2020 must be a year of dialogue, when we come together to discuss our priorities as a human family, and how we can build a better future for all.

### **UN75 asks people to “join the conversation”**

and present ideas for tackling the challenges we face. How can people participate? What will happen with the findings? Will there be outcomes and actions?

Check out the frequently asked questions.

- Take our one-minute survey and share it widely: [www.un75.online](http://www.un75.online)
- Check out the [UN75 toolkit](#) with guidelines on **how to join**, and inspire conversations and amplify voices through channels and communities for people to talk and be heard. We will be adding more information on online dialogues in the coming days
- Follow @JoinUN75 and #UN75 on social media ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)) and add your voice to the testimonials from people who have already taken part

It is vital that your voice is heard at this crucial time for the world. Your views, concerns and ideas will be presented to world leaders and senior UN officials at the official commemoration of the 75th Anniversary by the UN General Assembly in September 2020. After September, groups around the world will discuss how best to take forward the priorities and proposals generated.

#### **UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE UN75 OFFICE**

- Preliminary Assessment of the UN75 Survey and Dialogues

[https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un75\\_update\\_report\\_april\\_2020\\_final.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un75_update_report_april_2020_final.pdf)



## UN 75 Year Highlights from New York Times

The United Nations is about to celebrate its birth in 1945 from the ruins of World War II, though “celebrate” might seem an odd choice of word amid the long list of current global woes and the organization’s own challenges. When the United Nations was founded by the Allied victors, the goal was to avert another descent into another global catastrophe. And for all its shortcomings, the organization that Eleanor Roosevelt called “our greatest hope for future peace” has at least helped achieve that. It serves as a **global forum** where countries can raise and discuss the most difficult issues, including problems of war and peace. In addition to maintaining **international peace and security**, the UN protects **human rights**, delivers **humanitarian aid**, promotes **sustainable development** and upholds **international law**.

The United Nations, which has grown from 50 members 75 years ago to 193 members and a global staff of 44,000, was intended at its inception to provide a forum in which countries large and small believed they had a meaningful voice. While it is the leading provider of humanitarian aid, and U.N. peacekeepers operate in more than a dozen unstable areas, the United Nations has not been able to bring an end to the protracted wars in the Middle East. On Secretary General António Guterres’s signature issue, climate change — a Time magazine cover last year showed him knee-deep in water — his pleas seem to have done little more than help publicize the issue. If the United States pulls its cards out of the game, that leaves more scope for China,” said Edward Mortimer, who was the chief speechwriter for former Secretary General Kofi Annan. “Now China is behaving in an incredibly heavy-handed and provocative way, and has a lot of countries worried.” Even Mr. Guterres, ordinarily careful to avoid offending member states, has described the relationship between the United States and China as dysfunctional and said their rivalry risks splitting the world into “two blocs.”

Still, despite its challenges, many ambassadors now see the United Nations as an even more vital forum, if only as a place for members to vent grievances. “Without the U.N., you don’t have a safety valve,” said Munir Akram from Pakistan.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/15/world/United-Nations-General-Assembly.html>

UN Turns 75 . . .      NY Times 9/16/20