

Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General
United Nations

“Our aim is clear. Our mission is possible. And our destination is in our sights: an end to extreme poverty by 2030; a life of peace and dignity for all. What counts now is translating promises on paper into change on the ground. We owe this and much more to the vulnerable, the oppressed, the displaced and the forgotten people in our world. We owe this to a world where inequality is growing, trust is fading, and impatience with leadership can be seen and felt far and wide.”

Anthony Lake
Executive Director
United Nations Children’s Fund
(UNICEF)

“There are more than 500 million adolescent girls living in the developing world today. Every one of them can potentially help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, with ripple effects multiplying across her society.”

Kofi Annan
Chairman
Kofi Annan Foundation,
Former Secretary-General
United Nations

“Let us recall that poverty is a denial of human rights. For the first time in history, in this age of unprecedented wealth and technical prowess, we have the power to save humanity from this shameful scourge. Let us summon the will to do it.”

Guy Ryder
Director-General
International Labour
Organization (ILO)

“Decent jobs are key to ending poverty in its most extreme forms and transforming the lives of millions.”



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
United Nations
Under-Secretary-General,
Executive Director
UN Women

“The recurrence of poverty is a consequence of underlying structures of inequality – everything from inadequate physical infrastructure to the chronic imbalance of unpaid.”

Nelson Mandela
1993 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate,
Former President of South Africa

“In this new century, millions of people in the world’s poorest countries remain imprisoned, enslaved, and in chains. They are trapped in the prison of poverty. It is time to set them free. Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. And overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom.”

Helen Clark
Administrator
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

“Eradicating poverty requires economic growth which is inclusive and sustainable. It needs well-designed social protection systems which enable people to sustain basic living standards even when shocks occur. These systems also help children stay in school, enable families to get enough nutritious food, and provide a stable foundation on which people can build a better future.”

Jacques Diouf
*Former Director-General
United Nations Food and
Agriculture Organization (FAO)*

“Defeating hunger is a realistic goal for our time, as long as lasting political, economic, financial and technical solutions are adopted.”

Josette Sheeran
*Former Executive Director
World Food Programme
(WFP)*

“Ending world hunger is an achievable goal within this generation if the right strategies are adopted.”

José Graziano da Silva
*Director-General
United Nations Food and
Agriculture Organization (FAO)*

“We have the opportunity to end hunger within our lifetimes. This is the greatest legacy we can leave to future generations.”

Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein
*Messenger of Peace
United Nations*

“Hunger and malnutrition remain the biggest single threat to public health worldwide – more than heart disease, cancer, or any other malady. Nearly every country on earth faces some degree of food insecurity.”

Tom Arnold
*Former Coordinator
Scaling Up Nutrition
(SUN) Movement*

“Defeating malnutrition, united with multiple sectors and stakeholders in a truly coherent approach, is no longer an abstract aspiration – it is the new normal.”



Ban-Ki Moon
*Secretary-General
United Nations*

“In a world of plenty, no one, not a single person, should go hungry. But almost 1 billion still do not have enough to eat. I want to see an end to hunger everywhere within my lifetime.”

Marc Van Ameringen
*Executive-Director
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)*

“The world now has a clear vision of what needs to be done to end malnutrition by 2030. The new SDGs expand the vision, placing nutrition at the heart of the new food system we must create for a world population growing towards 9 billion. Aid is only a small part of the solution, harnessing it to leverage other investments will be a key to success.”

Ertharin Cousin
*Executive Director
World Food Programme
(WFP)*

“The conversations that go on at the global level are important. But we must remember, the achievement of Zero Hunger will only occur with the implementation of programs at country and regional level that make the difference for the 805 million food insecure and 162 million chronically malnourished children. The global architectures are important, but the work at country level requires us to work together.”

Babatunde Osotimehin
Executive-Director
United Nations Population Fund
(UNFPA)

“An essential, but often neglected aspect of the development of human capital is the realization of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for all.”

Michel Sidibé
Executive-Director
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

“Geography and society should not dictate who lives or dies, who prospers and who is left behind. Ending the AIDS epidemic is our human rights legacy—delivered by and for all of us. It is our bequest to this generation and to all future generations.”

Margaret Chan
World Health
Organization
(WHO)

“Universal health coverage is the pro-poor health target that underpins all SDGs and is key to their achievement.”



Mark Dybul
Executive-Director
Global Fund to Fight AIDS,
Tuberculosis and Malaria

“Many diseases disproportionately affect the groups of people who get left behind, because they are criminalized and at the margins of society.”

Seth Berkley,
Chief Executive Officer
Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)

“It is important that, in a broader set of goals tackling the myriad challenges the world faces, we do not lose sight of the fundamental importance of a healthy population. An immunisation indicator is a vital tool for measuring the impact of global efforts to increase access to vaccines and we strongly encourage its inclusion in the monitoring framework.”

Lelio Marmora
Executive-Director
UNITAID

“Although still a young organization, UNITAID has clearly proven how its business model, using market dynamics to ensure that more suitable and more affordable products are made available for those most in need, delivers high value impact for global health and development.”

Ban-Ki Moon
*Secretary-General
United Nations*

“Education is a major driving force for human development. It opens doors to the job market, combats inequality, improves maternal health, reduces child mortality, fosters solidarity, and promotes environmental stewardship. Education empowers people with the knowledge, skills and values they need to build a better world.”

Anthony Lake
*Executive-Director
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)*

“Whether in a classroom, a makeshift shelter or a shady spot beneath a Mopane tree, educating a child is an investment in his or her future — and in ours. Education creates entrepreneurs and a skilled workforce, more consumers, more prosperous communities and stronger, healthier, more just countries.”

Malala Yousafzai
*2014 Nobel Prize Laureate
and Education Activist*

“In some parts of the world, students are going to school every day. It’s their normal life. But in other parts of the world, we are starving for education... It’s like a precious gift. It’s like a diamond.”

Christian Dussey
*Director
Geneva Centre
for Security Policy
(GCSP)*

“Education and training allow you to seize opportunities when they arise... If you are not prepared, you can easily miss unique chances to consolidate peace, prevent a war, or reinforce security.”



Irina Bokova
*Director-General
United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO)*

“From better health to increased wealth, education is the catalyst of a better future for millions of children, youth and adults. No country has ever climbed the socioeconomic development ladder without steady investments in education.”

Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

“An education must go beyond reading, writing and arithmetic and include skills and values that equip children to participate responsibly in our communities. I am increasingly supportive of the proposition that education of any kind, if it is devoid of a strong universal human rights component, can be next to worthless when it should matter most: in crisis, when our world begins to unravel.”

Nelson Mandela
*1993 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate,
Former President of South Africa*

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
*United Nations Under-Secretary-General and
Executive-Director
UN Women*

“With technology, we can achieve universal access to secondary education within a generation.”

**Phumzile
Mlambo-Ngcuka**

*United Nations Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director
UN Women*

“There can be no gender equality without investment and willingness to change the status quo. To make 2030 the expiry date for all forms of gender discrimination, everywhere, all businesses will need to step up essential investments in gender equality.”

Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

“If our international commitments to gender equality are to be more than lip service and empty marketing exercises, we must take action at the national and international level to address discrimination, combat stereotypes and promote equality.”

Helen Clark

*Administrator
United Nations
Development Programme
(UNDP)*

“Business as usual with women left out of the decisions which affect them, and with their particular needs and circumstances overlooked in the outcomes, must not continue.”

Emma Watson

*Goodwill Ambassador
UN-Women*

“No country in the world can yet say they have achieved gender equality.”

Kofi Annan

*Chairman
Kofi Annan Foundation,
Former Secretary-General
United Nations*

“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.”

Michael Møller

*Director-General
United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)*

“When it comes to gender equality, we all have a role to play. In confronting and eliminating bias in our own actions. In making sure that we conceive and implement programmes that promote empowerment of both women and men. In contributing to a working environment where all can contribute equally and fully.”

Irene Khan

*Director-General
International Development Law Organization (IDLO)*

“A core principle of the rule of law is equality – we are all equal in the eyes of the law, equally protected by the law and equally accountable to it. The rule of law...is the best antidote for gender inequality.”



Michel Jarraud

*Chair
UN-Water,
Former Secretary-General
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)*

“The linkages between human rights and access to water and sanitation are deeply interwoven. And because water, as a fundamental resource, cuts across all aspects of sustainable development, recognizing this connection is not only critical to achieving SDG 6, but the broader 2030 Agenda.”

Chris Williams

*Executive-Director
Water Supply and Sanitation
Collaborative Council (WSSCC)*

“Sanitation interventions are one of the most effective ways to improve the health, economic prosperity and dignity of the world’s most disadvantaged populations. It is not merely the right thing to do. It is essential for guaranteeing a world of equal rights, sustainable development and dignity for all.”

Martin Khor

*Executive Director
South Centre*

“While climate change has captured the headlines, many countries are running out of freshwater supplies, threatening human health and causing conflicts between nations. Water should be at the top of global and national agendas.”

**Helen Clark**

*Administrator
United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)*

“To tackle challenges related to water and sanitation successfully, integrated approaches which cut across ministries and sectors are needed. By the same token, international development actors, including the UN, need to address these issues, working holistically across institutional silos.”

Michael Møller

*Director-General
United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)*

“SDG 6 characterizes in a nutshell the holistic, inclusive, cross-sectorial and innovative nature of the 2030 Agenda... The sustainable management of water is recognized as a key factor for success of other SDGs, as it can contribute to poverty reduction, protection of human rights, disaster risk reduction, political stability and many others.”

Lee Jong-Wook

*Former Director-General
World Health Organization (WHO)*

“Water and sanitation is one of the primary drivers of public health. I often refer to it as “Health 101,” which means that once we can secure access to clean water and to adequate sanitation facilities for all people, irrespective of the difference in their living conditions, a huge battle against all kinds of diseases will be won.”

Espen Ronneberg

*Climate Change Advisor
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme (SPREP)*

“Renewable energy, at least from the perspective of small islands states, is absolutely crucial in the fight against climate change. The amount of money we spend each year on fossil fuels is totally unsustainable. By utilizing renewables we can significantly improve lives through energy access, while reducing fossil fuel purchases.”

Christiana Figueres

*Executive-Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*

“Quite frankly, there is no answer to climate change without substantially, dramatically increasing the amount of renewable energy in the global energy system.”

Adnan Z. Amin

*Director-General
International Renewable
Energy Agency (IRENA)*

“To drive the rapid uptake of renewables, legislators have to take an urgent and active approach, adopting new policy frameworks at the national and regional levels. Without the support of legislators, we will be unable to turn the tide. I encourage you to come together and embrace the extraordinary opportunities the renewable revolution has to offer.”

Jacqueline McGlade

*Chief Scientist
United Nations
Environment Programme
(UNEP)*

“We urgently need to shift to carbon-free ways of generating energy and change our consumption patterns to reduce energy demand. That will demand contributions from across society, from both suppliers of energy and consumers; from all economic sectors and from academia, non-governmental organizations and, of course, governments.”

**7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY**



Christian Friis Bach

*United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive-Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

“Sustainable Development Goal 7 is the energy goal. However, energy underpins all goals in some way or another, whether climate action, air pollution, jobs, health, education, cities or transportation. Energy is a golden thread throughout them all.”

Al Gore

*Chairman
The Climate Reality Project,
Former United States Vice President*

“The answer is to end our reliance on carbon-based fuels...If we succeed, we create booming new industries, wealth, clean secure energy and maybe we prevent the greatest disaster so far in human history, saving millions of lives while improving billions more. If we fail, basically it's business as usual while things slowly get worse all around us.”

Guy Ryder

*Director-General
International Labour Organization
(ILO)*

“To advance towards full and productive employment and decent work for all it is important to have productive development policies to help achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, innovation, entrepreneurship and investment in skills.”

Kofi Annan

*Chairman
Kofi Annan Foundation,
Former Secretary-General
United Nations*

“Building inclusive financial sectors improves people’s lives, in particular those of the poor. A small loan, a savings account or an insurance policy can make a great difference to a low-income family. They enable people to invest in better nutrition, housing, health and education for their children... They help people plan for the future.”

Helen Clark

*Administrator
United Nations
Development Programme
(UNDP)*

“Work provides the means to tackle poverty, empower minorities by being inclusive, and protect our environment if jobs are green in a green economy.”

**8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH**



Roberto Azevêdo

*Director-General
World Trade
Organization (WTO)*

“Without trade, it is difficult to see how the world can provide for the additional 2 billion people expected by 2050, and respond to the urgent need to improve living standards, particularly for the poorest.”

Arancha Gonzalez

*Executive-Director
International Trade Centre (ITC)*

“The global economy is slowing down. Downside risks are rising amid the slowest growth rates since the financial crisis. Meanwhile, what growth there has been in recent years has skewed disproportionately to the relatively wealthy, leading to rising inequality and social tension. After decades of targeting high growth, governments’ focus has shifted to better quality growth. Inclusive growth is the new goal.”

Mukhisa Kituyi

*Secretary-General
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*

“More than ever, we need UNCTAD and its global platform for dialogue, a forum where rich and poor countries can come together to engage on how to address the imbalances of the global economy, level the playing field and make sure that developing countries do not forever remain on the margins of the global economy, but also partake in the benefits of global trade.”

Francis Gurry
Director-General
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

“Our capacity to improve health outcomes, especially in relation to new threats, depends on innovation in drugs and treatments. Our ability to ensure food security will depend on innovation in new plant varieties with higher yields and better characteristics of drought- and pest-resistance. And our capacity to move to a greener economy and to overcome the threat of climate change will depend on innovation in clean energy and a host of other new or improved technologies.”

LI Yong
Director-General
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

“The good news is that in today’s world producing without polluting, producing without wasting natural resources and energy, makes businesses sense: while being more environmentally sustainable, businesses become more profitable and societies more resilient. For this to happen, we should stimulate knowledge and technology transfer and foster investments.”

Houlin Zhao
Secretary-General
International
Telecommunication Union
(ITU)

“It is clear that information and communication technologies have been and will continue to be an essential enabler and accelerator for sustainable growth and development for everyone.”

**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**



Rolf Heuer
Former Director-General
European Organization for
Nuclear Research (CERN)

“In a world such as this, the ethical dimension of scientific progress comes to the fore, and scientific governance becomes key.”

Mogens Lykketoft
President of the Seventieth General Assembly
United Nations

“Clearly industrialization alone is not the objective – what we need is industrialization that is compatible with a flourishing environment, that delivers decent jobs and that reduces inequality.”

Bill Gates
Co-Chair
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

“People who say they don’t see the acceleration of innovation is a willful blindness. We are innovating at a wonderful speed for the basic things we think everyone should get.”

Bill Clinton
Founder
The Clinton Foundation,
Former United States President

“It turns out that advancing equal opportunity and economic empowerment is both morally right and good economics, because discrimination, poverty and ignorance restrict growth, while investments in education, infrastructure and scientific and technological research increase it, creating more good jobs and new wealth for all of us.”

Amina Mohammed

*Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning
United Nations*

"Inequality is one of the key challenges of our time. Income inequality specifically is one of the most visible aspects of a broader and more complex issue, one that entails inequality of opportunity and extends to gender, ethnicity, disability, and age, among others... In developed and developing countries alike, the poorest half of the population often controls less than 10 percent of its wealth."

William Lacy Swing

*Director-General
International Organization for Migration
(IOM)*

"One billion people are migrants. No longer can we merely count them; we must protect their rights."

Scott Weber

*Director-General
Interpeace*

"We need to stop seeing young people as a threat and make them part of the solution. That starts with engagement. We need to listen to their hopes and fears and make their voices audible in the debate on the present and the future."

Winnie Byanyima

*Executive Director
Oxfam International*

"It is staggering that in the 21st Century, half of the world's population – that's 3.5 billion people – own no more than a tiny elite, whose numbers could all fit comfortably on a double-decker bus."

**10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES**



Ban-Ki Moon

*Secretary-General
United Nations*

"Far too many have fled violent extremists only to be victimized by xenophobia, discrimination and abuse. We must collectively challenge all those who stoke unfounded fears. Helping the vulnerable elevates us all."

Guy Ryder

*Executive-Director
International Labour Organization (ILO)*

"Slavery is a fundamental abuse of human rights and a major obstacle to social justice. It is an affront to our humanity and it has no place in the 21st Century. And yet, 21 million women, men and children are still trapped in forced labour all over the world, generating USD 150 billion in illicit profits for those who exploit them."

Bineta Diop

*President
Femmes Africa Solidarité*

"Women are not recognized because they are not killing; women are mobilizing in the street, that is all they can do. If you are clever, you understand the continent will not develop unless women occupy the right place."

Joan Clos*Executive Director**United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)*

“Urbanization is accelerating and it has the potential to be the major driver of sustainable development in the next thirty years. However, without good – or, if you allow me, better – urbanization, sustainable development will not be possible. Urbanization is not a passive outcome of development but a source of development.”

Ban-Ki Moon*Secretary-General**United Nations*

“The emerging picture of the 21st century city fits many descriptions. Some are centers of rapid industrial growth and wealth creation, often accompanied by harmful waste and pollution. Others are characterized by stagnation, urban decay and rising social exclusion and intolerance. Both scenarios point to the urgent need for new, more sustainable approaches to urban development. Both argue for greener, more resilient and inclusive towns and cities which can help combat climate change and resolve age-old urban inequalities.”

Rachel Kyte*Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change
World Bank Group*

“In the next 30 years another two billion people will move into cities, and so we have to find a way to help cities get the financing necessary to become livable, green, clean, competitive, job-rich cities.”

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES****William Lacy Swing***Director-General
International Organization
for Migration (IOM)*

“Cities rarely shrink to greatness. They get better by growing and to grow they must welcome migrants. In other words migrants don't threaten our cities. They rescue them.”

Christian Friis Bach*Executive Secretary**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

The major challenge for our countries today is granting citizens a decent quality of life, while at the same time managing the pressures coming from urbanization, environmental, climate and demographic changes. These (UNECE/ITU Smart Sustainable Cities) indicators are a practical tool which will support cities' efforts to address their urban development challenges and boost their performance.”

Rosa Kornfeld-Matte*Independent Expert**United Nations Human Rights Council
OHCHR*

“We need to re-think our cities. Over 900 million older persons will be living in cities across the world by 2050, but our cities are not fit for this global demographic revolution.”

Rachel Kyte

*Vice President and Special Envoy for
Climate Change
World Bank Group*

“Today we are seeing best practices in action. We know that, if scaled up with speed, these approaches could increase food production and improve livelihoods without damaging the environment. We need to create conditions for innovation and then invest so that innovation moves from the lab to the farmer’s fields.”

Ertharin Cousin

*Executive-Director
United Nations World Food Program (WFP)*

“To establish a new sustainable and durable vision for family farms—one that enhances global food supply and protects the Earth’s resources—we must address one universal problem: gender inequity. Because achieving the potential of family farming requires an end to the inequality endured by millions of rural women, which results in massive, widespread and avoidable inefficiencies and losses.”

Helen Clark

*Administrator
United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)*

“Adopting and promoting sustainable production practices require concerted effort, something which in practice is too often missing or insufficient. Making this shift at the scale required demands forward-looking leadership in the public and private sectors alike.”

Wangari Maathai

*2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
and Environmental Activist*

“When resources are degraded, we start competing for them, whether it is at the local level in Kenya, where we had tribal clashes over land and water, or at the global level, where we are fighting over water, oil, and minerals. So one way to promote peace is to promote sustainable management and equitable distribution of resources.”

Marc Van Ameringen

*Executive-Director
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)*

“Providing everyone with a healthy and sustainable diet will require innovative approaches and, crucially, the rapid advance of new technologies. Low and middle-income countries leapfrogged straight to mobile phone technologies, bypassing the growth of landlines in high-income countries. Many are now asking whether we can do the same with food system innovations.”

Hilal Elver

*Special Rapporteur
United Nations Human Rights Council
(OHCHR)*

“There is a need for a major shift from industrial agriculture to transformative systems such as agro-ecology that support the local food movement, protect small holder farmers, respect human rights, food democracy and cultural traditions, and at the same time maintain environmental sustainability and facilitate a healthy diet.”

Kanayo Nwanze

*President
International Fund for
Agricultural Development
(IFAD)*

“Successful small farms lead to more vibrant rural economies. These, in turn, result in higher demand for locally produced goods and services, and this spurs the growth of non-farm employment in services, agro-processing and small-scale manufacturing.”

**12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION**



Leonardo DiCaprio
Messenger of Peace
United Nations

“Every week, we are seeing new and undeniable climate events, evidence that accelerated climate change is here now. We know that droughts are intensifying, our oceans are warming and acidifying, with methane plumes rising up from beneath the ocean floor. We are seeing extreme weather events, increased temperatures, and the West Antarctic and Greenland ice-sheets melting at unprecedented rates, decades ahead of scientific projections. None of this is rhetoric, and none of this is hysteria. It is fact.”

Achim Steiner
Executive-Director
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

“The Paris Agreement is probably the most important international agreement in history. Nations of the world have underlined that climate change is a threat to the security and prosperity of all societies, and can only be addressed through unity of purpose. A sustainable future benefits all of humanity.”

Al Gore
Chairman
The Climate Reality Project,
Former United States Vice
President

“Our world faces a true planetary emergency.”

Desmond Tutu
Executive-Director
Archbishop Emeritus,
1984 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

“People of conscience need to break their ties with corporations financing the injustice of climate change.”

Christiana Figueres
Executive-Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change (UNFCC)

“Climate change increasingly poses one of the biggest long-term threats to investments.”

Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

“Climate change will have increasingly negative impacts for at least the next five decades. This emphasizes the need to invest in adaptation besides mitigation. It is important to strengthen the capability of countries to provide better disaster early warnings to minimize human and economic losses. Climate change increases the risk of weather related disasters, which are an obstacle to sustainable development.”



Christine Lagarde
Managing-Director
International Monetary Fund
(IMF)

“It’s a collective endeavor, it’s collective accountability and it may not be too late.”

Ban-Ki Moon
Secretary-General
United Nations

“We are the first generation that can end poverty and the last generation that can take steps to avoid the worst impact of climate change. Future generations will judge us harshly if we fail to uphold our moral and historical responsibilities.”

Mary Robinson
Former United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights

“If you come to the issues from a perspective of equity and justice, the impacts of climate are on the poorest countries.”

Achim Steiner

*Executive-Director
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*

“Our collective impact today is changing the atmosphere of this planet, as well as the biosphere. We have developed our capacity to exploit the world’s oceans to a point where the fisheries we have relied on over millennia are now threatened in terms of the sustainability of fish stocks and even our future dependency on them.”

Kumi Naidoo

*Former Executive-Director
Greenpeace International*

“From the deepest oceans to the icy waters of the Arctic, governments and corporations are racing to exploit the last living resource, the last drop of oil, the last minerals hidden in the seabed. All while climate change and rising carbon-dioxide emissions are pushing ocean ecosystems further toward the brink of destruction.”

Irina Bokova

*Director-General
United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO)*

“Whether landlocked or coastal, every country and every form of life depends on the health and function of the world ocean.”



Marco Lambertini

*Director-General
World Wildlife Fund
(WWF)*

“Overfishing, destruction of marine habitats and climate change have dire consequences for the entire human population, with the poorest communities that rely on the sea getting hit fastest and hardest.”

Jacques Cousteau

Explorer and 1977 Winner of the United Nations International Environmental Prize

“No aquarium, no tank in a marine land, however spacious it may be, can begin to duplicate the conditions of the sea. And no dolphin who inhabits one of those aquariums or one of those marine lands can be considered normal.”

Wu Hongbo

*Under-Secretary-General
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)*

“A key priority for SIDS [Small Island Developing States] is oceans and seas, along with coastal areas. Indeed, oceans and seas are intrinsically tied with SIDS...the people of SIDS are ocean people. They depend on oceans and seas for their livelihoods; their culture and history are deeply interwoven with oceans and seas. Healthy, productive and resilient oceans are critical to the survival and prosperity of SIDS.”

Achim Steiner
Executive-Director
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

“The responsible management of our planet’s biodiversity is motivated not only by a shared sense of responsibility to future generations. The factors prompting policy makers to safeguard biodiversity are increasingly economic in nature. Without healthy biodiversity, livelihoods, ecosystem services, habitats and food security will be compromised.”

Monique Barbut
Executive-Secretary
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

“Climate change and land degradation taken together are threat amplifiers. Populations living on degraded land are the most exposed to climate change, food insecurity, poverty and conflict. It is clear that the impact, of land degradation and climate-related extremes, on society is directly related to how prepared we are.”

Jane Goodall
Messenger for Peace
United Nations

“How is it possible that the most intellectual creature that has ever walked the planet is destroying its only home?”

Wangari Maathai
2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Environmental Activist

“We owe it to ourselves and to the next generation to conserve the environment, so that we can bequeath our children a sustainable world that benefits all.”

Michel Jarraud
Former Secretary-General
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

“We can’t see CO2. It is an invisible threat, but a very real one. It means hotter global temperatures, more extreme weather events like heatwaves and floods, melting ice, rising sea levels and increased acidity of the oceans. This is happening now and we are moving into uncharted territory at a frightening speed.”

Vandana Shiva
Environmental Activist,
Recipient of the Global 500 Award of the United Nations Environment Programme

“The primary threat to nature and people today comes from centralizing and monopolizing power and control. Not until diversity is made the logic of production, will there be a chance for sustainability, justice and peace. Cultivating and conserving diversity is no luxury in our times: it is a survival imperative.”

Barbara Ryan
Secretariat Director
Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

“We’ve talked a lot about the importance of environmental governance. I think so many of our existing structures are just failing. We used to talk about some institutions moving glacially. But now the glaciers are moving faster than the institutions.”

Inger Andersen
Director-General
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

“We cherish Nature for its intrinsic value – for Nature’s sake – because it is the ethical thing to do. Because valuing and treasuring Nature is part of the belief system of all religions and value.”



Alan Doss

*Executive-Director
Kofi Annan Foundation*

“Yet, even if democracy has its faults, it remains the least bad system of government that has been invented until now, as it allows the people to be heard and forces governments to listen to its needs.”

Navi Pillay

Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights marked a crucial turning point in human history as the first international agreement setting out freedoms, rights and entitlements for all humanity to claim. It affirmed that the force of shared ideas and a common vision of respectful and peaceful coexistence can prevail over brutality, hatred and destruction. Since then, the world may have changed a great deal, but the recognition of our inherent kinship in rights, of our common claim to a life of dignity, of our right to count and be counted irrespective of ancestry, gender and colour, status and religion applies to today’s realities as much as it did in 1948.”

Peter Maurer

*President
International Committee of
Red Cross (ICRC)*

“International humanitarian law establishes limits in war. Wars without limits are wars without end. And wars without end mean endless suffering.”



Jan Eliasson

*Deputy Secretary-General
United Nations*

“There can be no peace without development, no development without peace, and no lasting peace or sustainable development without respect for human rights and the rule of law.”

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

*United Nations Under-Secretary-General,
Executive Director
UN Women*

“Our hopes for a more just, safe, and peaceful world can only be achieved when there is universal respect for the inherent dignity and equal rights of all members of the human family.”

Michael Møller

*Director-General
United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)*

“Peace is more than the absence of war...Peace is deeply personal. It is not easily defined, nor explained. For some, peace is the freedom of movement, to attend football matches, concerts, and moments of pleasure without fear. For others, it is access to quality education, decent work, and effective justice systems. Or, it can be committing to a sustainable and safe planet for future generations.”

Amina Mohammed

*Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning
United Nations*

"Now is the time to step up our efforts, strengthen the necessary partnerships and collectively confront the persistent challenges people and the planet have been facing. Only in this way will we be able to build a more secure, resilient, just and sustainable future for all."

Helen Clark

*Administrator
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

"The role of civil society is crucial for the success of the SDGs. We need open, vibrant, and safe civic spaces within which civil society actors, including always women and youth, can contribute effectively to building more peaceful, just, and inclusive societies."

Ban-Ki Moon

*Secretary-General
United Nations*

"It's not only government. Government cannot do it alone. The United Nations cannot do it alone. There should be full partnership... then we should have civil society coming together. Even one normal citizen – they have a role to play."



Mark Dybul

*Executive-Director
Global Fund to Fight AIDS,
Tuberculosis and Malaria*

"To reach the most vulnerable people, to keep them in health programs once they start, and to make sure they get appropriate services, greater engagement is needed by partners in civil society including community and faith-based groups that meet people where they are."

Tadateru Konoé

*President
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)*

"The causes and consequences of humanitarian crises are interlinked, and, in the absence of meaningful political solutions and a unified response from the international community, many of them will only worsen."

Park Soo-Gil

*President
World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)*

"As we move forward to implement the new sustainable development framework, the need to establish effective and efficient multi-faceted partnerships involving governments, civil society actors, private sector and all other relevant stakeholders, becomes imperative. The new SDGs framework reinforces the nexus between development, human rights and peace and security, it is our hope that civil society organizations are effectively and safely involved in all aspects of the work of the United Nations."